

= Cleveland (30 Rock) =

" Cleveland " is the twentieth episode of the first season of 30 Rock . It was written by one of the season 's co @-@ executive producers , Jack Burditt , and one of the season 's executive producers , Robert Carlock . It was directed by Paul Feig . It first aired on April 19 , 2007 on the NBC network in the United States . Guest stars in this episode included Jennifer Bassey , Kevin Brown , Grizz Chapman , Eric Dysart , Ramsey Faragallah , Lori Hammel , Lester Holt , Traci Hovel , Gregory Korostishevsky , Jenelle Marlborough , Anthony Mazza , Raymond McAnally , Jack Moran , Emily Mortimer , Maulik Pancholy , Brian Patrick Russell , Mitch Poulos , Justin Smith , Jason Sudeikis , Gary Tacon , Mira Tzur and Julian Walker .

In this episode , Liz Lemon (played by Tina Fey) and Floyd (Jason Sudeikis) visit Cleveland , Ohio when Floyd says he wishes that he could live there . Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) goes on the run from The Black Crusaders . Liz discovers that Jack Donaghy 's (Alec Baldwin) fiancée , Phoebe (Emily Mortimer) , is keeping some deceiving secrets .

= = Plot = =

When Floyd (Jason Sudeikis) loses out on a possible job promotion to Alan Garkel (Eric Dysart) ? an African @-@ American candidate in a wheelchair ? he informs Liz Lemon of his aspirations to move back home to Cleveland . After Floyd asks Liz about her own future in New York , she begins to notice all the problems she has with the city and so they plan a visit to Floyd 's hometown .

Meanwhile , Jack returns from a weekend in Paris with Phoebe , his new fiancée , and insists that Liz should get to know Phoebe better . He tells her to take Phoebe and Jenna Maroney (Jane Krakowski) on a girls ' day out . As their day progresses Liz senses Phoebe is not who she claims to be . Liz 's suspicions are confirmed when she covertly follows Phoebe to a restaurant and spies her holding hands with an older gentleman . This is alarming for two reasons : first , Phoebe is already engaged to Jack , and secondly , she has previously claimed to be afflicted by " Avian Bone Syndrome , " a result of which is that her purportedly brittle bones would not be able to stand such intense physical contact . Even though Liz tries to remain inconspicuous at the restaurant , Phoebe notices her . Knowing that Liz is on to her deceptions , Phoebe confronts Liz , who is not interested in Phoebe 's excuses and tells her that she has a choice : tell Jack about her cheating or Liz will do so herself . Phoebe becomes angry and then shocks Liz when she drops her British accent . Liz tries to tell Jack about her suspicions , but he is immediately offended by her seemingly unfounded and slanderous comments about his fiancée , which puts a heavy strain on their working relationship .

Finally , Tracy has somehow become entangled in a character assassination plot . When Frank Rossitano (Judah Friedlander) tells Tracy that he read in a magazine that Bill Cosby hates him , Tracy realizes that The Black Crusaders , a cabal of powerful African Americans (a reference to the 2006 conspiracy theory hoax regarding a similar group called the Dark Crusaders driving Dave Chappelle off his Comedy Central show) , are out to destroy his career . The Black Crusaders have managed to put a stop to all productions featuring Tracy . Fearing for his life , Tracy goes on the run to Cleveland and , from there , into Needmore , Pennsylvania .

= = Production = =

This episode was the fourth episode written by Jack Burditt and also the fourth episode written by Robert Carlock . It was the first episode directed by Paul Feig . The scenes set in Cleveland , Ohio were actually filmed in Battery Park City , Manhattan . Similarly , the scenes in the town of Needmore , Pennsylvania in the following episode , " Hiatus " , were filmed in Douglaston , Queens . Jason Sudeikis sings the montage when touring Cleveland .

Jason Sudeikis , who played Floyd in this episode , has appeared in the main cast of Saturday Night Live , a weekly sketch comedy series which airs on NBC in the United States . Tina Fey was the head writer on Saturday Night Live from 1999 until 2006 . Various other cast members of

Saturday Night Live have appeared on 30 Rock . These cast members include : Rachel Dratch , Fred Armisen , Kristen Wiig , Will Forte , Chris Parnell and Molly Shannon . Tina Fey and Tracy Morgan have both been part of the main cast of Saturday Night Live . Alec Baldwin has also hosted Saturday Night Live sixteen times , the highest number of episodes of any host of the series.He has hosted Saturday Night Live 16 times through the season @-@ 37 premiere on September 24 , 2011 , and holds the record for most times hosting the show .

= = Reception = =

" Cleveland " brought in an average of 5 @.@ 2 million viewers upon its original broadcast in the United States . It also achieved a 2 @.@ 5 / 7 in the key 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ old demographic . The 2 @.@ 5 refers to 2 @.@ 5 % of all people of ages 18 ? 49 years old in the U.S. , and the 7 refers to 7 % of all people of ages 18 ? 49 years old watching television at the time of the broadcast in the U.S ..

Robert Canning of IGN thought that this episode " was by far the funniest , laugh @-@ out @-@ loud , near genius episode of 30 Rock this season . " He wrote that " there wasn 't a moment wasted in the entire half hour , which not only gave us plenty of laughs , but it continued the ongoing storylines with fantastic pacing and ease . " Canning stated that " the best part of this episode by far was Tracy 's paranoia over The Black Crusaders " and he rated the episode 9 @.@ 7 out of 10 . Matt Webb Mitovich of TV Guide wrote regarding Emily Mortimer 's guest appearance that " she 's not the first thought for most sitcoms looking to fill a vacancy . But here , she 's obviously relishing (as Isabella Rossellini did) the chance to go a bit bonkers . When she lapsed out of the accent , what fun . " Anna Johns of AOL 's TV Squad wrote that she " didn 't find ' Cleveland ' nearly as funny as the super @-@ sized ' Fireworks ' episode two weeks ago , but it was still pretty good . The best sources of humor in this show are Kenneth the Page and Tracy Jordan , neither of which had a very prominent role this week . "