

= Welcome Back , Carter =

" Welcome Back , Carter " is the third episode of the ninth season of the animated comedy series Family Guy . It originally aired on Fox in the United States on October 10 , 2010 . The episode follows Peter after he discovers his father @-@ in @-@ law , Carter Pewterschmidt , having an affair with another woman . Deciding to blackmail him , Peter begins taking advantage of his father @-@ in @-@ law 's enormous wealth , before accidentally spilling the beans to Carter 's wife , Barbara , who divorces him soon after . Peter then becomes Carter 's wingman , and helps him in rediscovering his bachelorhood , as he begins navigating through the dating scene .

The episode was written by Wellesley Wild and directed by Cyndi Tang @-@ Loveland . It received mixed reviews from critics for its storyline and many cultural references . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 7 @.@ 02 million homes in its original airing . The episode featured guest performances by Max Burkholder , Christine Lakin and Rachael MacFarlane , along with several recurring guest voice actors for the series . " Welcome Back , Carter " was released on DVD along with three other episodes from the season on December 13 , 2011 .

= = Plot = =

After deciding to visit her parents , Carter and Barbara Pewterschmidt , Lois , along with her husband , Peter , discover an old photo album showcasing Barbara and Carter 's love for each other , as well as Barbara 's short @-@ lived affair during the " Great War with Alaska " , during which , after returning home from combat , Carter reclaims his wife , and the two 's love is shown to have lasted ever since . Becoming bored , Peter decides to call his father @-@ in @-@ law to dinner , and soon discovers Carter in his yacht , having sex with another woman of Japanese descent . Questioning his father @-@ in @-@ law 's judgment , he eventually promises to keep the affair a secret from Barbara . The next day , at the Drunken Clam , Peter begins discussing the affair with Quagmire and Joe , who suggest Peter blackmail Carter as revenge for his constant mistreatment .

Visiting his wife 's parents during the middle of the night , Peter informs Carter that he is now his personal slave , and must perform any task he wishes , including having a limousine joust and writing witty catchphrases . Noticing Peter and Carter spending time together , Barbara and Lois soon witness the two taking a high @-@ definition television out of the house . Peter then accidentally spills the beans to Barbara about the affair , who runs out of the room sobbing instantly . At the Griffin family home , Carter announces that he and Barbara are getting a divorce , causing Peter to suggest he meet other people . Taking him to the local club , Peter introduces Carter to the dating scene , where he soon meets Paula , an attractive blonde . Going on to demand an African American patron fetch him a drink , Carter is accused of being a racist by Paula , who leaves him . Continuing to desire Barbara , Carter decides to take a bouquet of roses to his former wife . While there , he discovers that Barbara has begun dating the man she had an affair with during the war ( who sings to her in the tune of ' The Miners Mother ' ) . Announcing he has something important to say to Barbara , Carter confesses his love for her , and apologizes . Barbara then allows Carter to earn her trust by letting him move back in , and the two ultimately embrace in a passionate kiss .

= = Production and development = =

The episode was written by series regular Wellesley Wild and directed by series regular Cyndi Tang @-@ Loveland shortly after the conclusion of the eighth production season . Series veterans Peter Shin and James Purdum , both of whom having previously served as animation directors , served as supervising directors for the episode , with Andrew Goldberg , Alex Carter , Elaine Ko , Spencer Porter and Aaron Blitzstein serving as staff writers for the episode . Composer Ron Jones , who has worked on the series since its inception , returned to compose the music for " Welcome Back , Carter " . Series creator and executive producer Seth MacFarlane reprised his role as Carter Pewterschmidt , with main cast member and former series writer Alex Borstein providing the voice of Carter 's wife , Barbara Pewterschmidt .

" Welcome Back , Carter " , along with the two other episodes from Family Guy 's ninth season , was released on a three @-@ disc DVD set in the United States on December 13 , 2011 . The sets include brief audio commentaries by various crew and cast members for several episodes , a collection of deleted scenes and animatics , a special mini @-@ feature which discussed the process behind animating " And Then There Were Fewer " , a mini @-@ feature entitled " The Comical Adventures of Family Guy ? Brian & Stewie : The Lost Phone Call " , and footage of the Family Guy panel at the 2010 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International .

In addition to the regular cast , child actor Max Burkholder , actress Christine Lakin , and voice actress Rachael MacFarlane guest starred in the episode . Recurring guest voice actress Alexandra Breckenridge , actor Ralph Garman , and writers Patrick Meighan , Danny Smith , Alec Sulkin and John Viener also made minor appearances . Actor Patrick Warburton appeared in the episode as well .

= = Cultural references = =

In the opening scene of the episode , Peter notices a painting of a ship in his mother @-@ in @-@ law 's living room , and questions whether or not he can change the channel . Lois goes on to instruct Peter that it is not a television , with Barbara interrupting and telling him it is actually the television channel PBS . Peter then interjects his hatred of PBS , after viewing a nine @-@ part series on traffic signs by director and producer Ken Burns , the fourth of which on the yield sign . Later , after returning to dinner , Peter becomes an embarrassment to Lois , who recalls having dinner with Paul McCartney 's ex @-@ wife , Heather Mills , during which Peter began playing footsie with Mills , whose prosthetic leg ultimately falls off .

In an attempt to make Barbara love Carter again , Peter instructs him that he must befriend a cute child in order to win her over . Peter then invites child actor Jonathan Lipnicki to the Griffin family home , but he is immediately shocked by his change in appearance .

= = Reception = =

" Welcome Back , Carter " was broadcast on October 10 , 2010 , as a part of an animated television night on Fox , and was preceded by The Simpsons , and Family Guy creator and executive producer Seth MacFarlane 's spin @-@ off , The Cleveland Show , and followed by an episode of American Dad ! . It was watched by 7 @. @ 02 million viewers , according to Nielsen ratings , despite airing simultaneously with Desperate Housewives on ABC , The Amazing Race on CBS and Sunday Night Football on NBC , and falling only 15 % from the previous week 's broadcast . The episode also acquired a 3 @. @ 4 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , beating The Simpsons , American Dad ! and The Cleveland Show in addition to significantly edging out all three shows in total viewership .

Television critics reacted mostly mixed to " Welcome Back , Carter " , calling the storyline " hit @-@ or @-@ miss . " In a simultaneous review of the episodes of The Simpsons and The Cleveland Show that preceded the show , and the broadcast of American Dad ! that followed it , The A.V. Club 's Rowan Kaiser noted the apparent lack of guest stars in the episode , adding , " I can 't help but feel [ it ] is a good thing in for Family Guy . " In the conclusion of his review Kaiser praised the " shock humor " in the limousine jousting scene , but compared Carter 's catchphrases to " the kind of groan @-@ inducing meta @-@ humor that [ ... ] The Cleveland Show aims for . " He ultimately gave the episode a C rating , the second best rating of the night , beating The Cleveland Show episode " How Cleveland Got His Groove Back " and tying with the American Dad ! episode " Son of Stan " . In a slightly more neutral review of the episode , Jason Hughes of TV Squad praised the episode 's cutaways , stating that they " came back with a vengeance this week . " Hughes went on to comment negatively on the scene involving Carter being woken up and hinting at incest with his daughter , noting , " It 's weird that while the pedophile character of Herbert doesn 't bother me at all , this potential admission really does . Maybe because it adds an element of incest , or seemed more genuine than Herbert 's over @-@ the @-@ top antics . But really , it 's just another throwaway gag in the world of Seth MacFarlane . " Actor Jonathan Lipnicki , who was parodied in

the episode , responded to his portrayal by stating , " I don 't feel bad about what they said on Family Guy . It was all in good fun , I 've worked on that show [ before ] . "