

= Moving On ( The Office ) =

" Moving On " is the sixteenth episode of the ninth season of the American comedy television series The Office and the 192nd episode overall . The episode was written by Graham Wagner . It was directed by Jon Favreau . It originally aired on NBC on February 14 , 2013 . The episode guest stars Bob Odenkirk , Mary Gillis , Collette Wolfe , and Andy Buckley . The episode also features the return of former series regular Zach Woods as Gabe Lewis .

The series ? presented as if it were a real documentary ? depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania , branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In this episode , Pam Halpert ( Jenna Fischer ) interviews for a job in Philadelphia , but her potential manager Mark ( Bob Odenkirk ) reminds her of her former boss , Michael Scott . Dwight Schrute ( Rainn Wilson ) acquires the help of Angela Lipton ( Angela Kinsey ) in order to give his elderly Aunt Shirley ( Mary Gillis ) a bath . Meanwhile , Andy Bernard ( Ed Helms ) attempts to make Pete Miller ( Jake Lacy ) and Erin ( Ellie Kemper ) feel uncomfortable by hiring their ex @-@ lovers .

On February 8 , 2013 , NBC announced that the episode would be expanded to fill a one @-@ hour television block , although it still counts as one official episode . The episode received largely positive reviews , although many were critical of the episode 's extended length , which they argued felt padded . The episode was viewed by 4 @.@ 06 million viewers and received a 2 / 6 percent rating among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . The episode ranked third in its timeslot , and it was the highest @-@ rated NBC series of the night .

= = Plot = =

Andy Bernard ( Ed Helms ) learns that Pete Miller ( Jake Lacy ) and Erin Hannon ( Ellie Kemper ) are dating each other , which they 've been holding in secrecy from him in order to make his breakup with Erin easier . Andy attempts to fire Pete , but Toby Flenderson ( Paul Lieberstein ) points out that he can 't do this since Pete and Erin already disclosed their relationship . Erin and Pete then both lecture Andy about moving on , claiming that working alongside one 's ex @-@ lover doesn 't have to be awkward . To refute this claim , Andy hires both Pete 's ex @-@ girlfriend Alice ( Collette Wolfe ) and Erin 's ex @-@ boyfriend Gabe Lewis ( Zach Woods ) . After giving Pete and Erin time to appreciate how uncomfortable this is , he holds a meeting with them and their ex @-@ lovers , leading the two couples to argue with each other . Andy tells the camera that seeing Erin and Pete unhappy has made him feel better .

Pam Halpert ( Jenna Fischer ) interviews for a job in Philadelphia , where she finds her potential manager , Mark ( Bob Odenkirk ) , is remarkably like her former Dunder Mifflin regional manager Michael Scott . While this initially amuses her , Pam gradually realizes that the prospect of working under another Michael Scott is abhorrent , and her horror increases when Mark reveals that she is interviewing for a glorified receptionist 's job . During a romantic dinner , Pam finally admits to Jim Halpert ( John Krasinski ) that even had the prospective job and boss been perfect she would not have wanted to take it , since she does not really want to move to Philadelphia , despite Jim having started his own business there .

Dwight Schrute ( Rainn Wilson ) requests the help of Angela Lipton ( Angela Kinsey ) in caring for his ailing Aunt Shirley . Angela initially refuses , but gives in when Dwight begins describing her ailments in grotesque detail . At the house , Angela is horrified by Dwight 's treatment of his Aunt : he consistently speaks to her in a condescending tone , proposes to cut off her worn @-@ out clothing with a utility knife , and " bathes " her by spraying her with a high @-@ pressure water hose like a cow . After subduing Dwight by spraying him with the hose , Angela insists on washing and grooming Shirley in a more dignified manner . Through the process , Dwight and Angela begin to remember their feelings for each other . At the end of the day , Angela and Dwight begin kissing , but Angela reminds Dwight that she is married and says she won 't leave her husband even though he does not care for her . Dwight admits that he 'd want that same blind loyalty from her if she were his wife .

Toby had been discussing the details of the Scranton Strangler case with Nellie Bertram ( Catherine

Tate ) for some time . Having grown weary of the subject , she snaps at him that he should do something about it , or stop talking . Toby accordingly goes to the local prison to talk to the person convicted of being the notorious local murderer and tell him he believes he is innocent . The convict begins strangling Toby for his part in the conviction . However , he does have his spirits lifted after Nellie gives him a lift from the hospital and commends him for his bravery .

Oscar Martinez ( Oscar Nunez ) queues up a television show on his computer , and while the ad loads , he does gravity boot sit @-@ ups . While he is struggling to get down , the camera zooms in on an upcoming television guide on Oscar 's computer screen that reveals that the in @-@ series documentary ? called *The Office : An American Workplace* ? will air in May .

= = Production = =

" Moving On " was written by series producer Graham Wagner , making it his second episode for the series after the earlier ninth season episode " The Target " . The episode was directed by filmmaker Jon Favreau , marking his first directing credit for the series and the first time he has directed for a television comedy since Fox 's *Undeclared* . Fischer noted that , because Favreau got his start as an actor in " quiet , character based comedies " , his directing of *The Office* was a " return to that " type of comedy . On February 8 , 2013 , NBC announced that the episode would be expanded to fill a one @-@ hour television block , although it still counts as one official episode .

The episode guest stars Bob Odenkirk ? who had previously been considered for the role of Michael Scott ? as Pam 's potential employer , Mary Gillis as Aunt Shirley , and Andy Buckley as David Wallace . The episode also features the return of former series regular Zach Woods as Gabe Lewis . Woods was introduced in the sixth season episode " Sabre " and was added to the series as a regular with the premiere of the seventh season . Woods 's contract was not renewed at the beginning of the ninth season , but series showrunner Greg Daniels revealed that Woods would be returning ; he noted " It ? s kind of a neat story turn [ ... ] He ? s going to come back and we ? re all excited to see him back " .

= = Cultural references = =

When he is being yelled at by Wallace , Andy references American rapper Vanilla Ice and musician Jon Bon Jovi . Andy gives Clark ( Clark Duke ) various nicknames , including Clarker Posey ( a reference to American actress Parker Posey ) , Clarkwork Orange ( a reference to the novel *A Clockwork Orange* and the film of the same name ) , and Zero Clark Thirty ( a reference to the film *Zero Dark Thirty* ) . At the Philadelphia office , Mark alludes to pop culture , with references to the 2011 film *Horrible Bosses* and the 2012 film *Django Unchained* . He also sings the K @-@ pop hit " Gangnam Style " by Psy , and reads Pam 's resume as if he were Bob Dylan . Mark also makes a reference to the Spanish Inquisition sketch from Monty Python , but misattributes it to the Canadian sketch comedy group The Kids in the Hall . Near the end of Pam 's interview , Mark questions her on whether she enjoys the HBO series *Curb Your Enthusiasm* . The title of the in @-@ series documentary , *The Office : An American Workplace* , is the name given to the series itself when it was broadcast in the UK to differentiate it from the British version of the show .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Moving On " originally aired on NBC on February 14 , 2013 . In its original American broadcast , the episode was viewed by an estimated 4 @.@ 06 million viewers and received a 2 @.@ 0 rating / 6 percent share . This means that it was seen by 2 @.@ 0 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 6 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . This marked a slight decrease in the ratings from the previous episode , " Vandalism " .

The Office ranked third in its timeslot , being beaten by an episode of the CBS police procedural Person of Interest which received a 3 @. @ 0 / 8 percent rating , and an entry of the ABC series Grey 's Anatomy which received a 2 @. @ 8 / 8 percent rating . The ratings for " Moving On " were the best for NBC in the 9 @-@ 10 pm Thursday timeslot since November 8 , 2012 .

= = = Reviews = = =

Jeff Alexander of Television Without Pity awarded the episode an " A ? " . Damon Houx of Screen Crush called the episode the " highlight " of the season . In particular , he was pleased with the way Pam and Jim 's strife was portrayed ; he wrote that " tonight the [ ... ] drama felt earned in a way it hadn 't previous " and that " Jim and Pam were used well " . Houx was also extremely pleased with Odenkirk 's performance , writing that , " Even if Odenkirk is doing an impression of Steve Carell 's character , not only is it great for the non @-@ comedy comedy , but you can totally see a parallel universe where Odenkirk played Michael Scott and nailed it as well as Carell did . " He concluded that , with Odenkirk 's presences , " In about twenty seconds this became the best episode of the season . " Kelly West of Cinema Blend gave a moderately positive review , noting that the entry " dealt with some of the ongoing issues among the staff of Dunder Mifflin . With the exception of a pretty great guest appearance by Breaking Bad 's Bob Odenkirk ( Better call Saul ! ) and some interesting developments in the relationship department for some of the characters , the episode was fairly standard . And then came the very end , which offered an interesting reveal and a teaser of something big . "

IGN writer Roth Cornet awarded the episode a 6 @. @ 9 , denoting a " okay " episode . She called the episode " the real beginning of the end " . Cornet , however , was critical of the episode 's length , specifically pin @-@ pointing the Philadelphia scenes , noting that they " went on too long " . She concluded that " I feel for the writers , who I honestly believe were forced to stretch their content this season " , as well as for the episode . Nick Campbell of TV.com was unhappy that the episode did not show or comment on Pam and Jim 's fight in the previous episode . He felt that the beginning of the dinner scene was nice , due to the two 's banter . However , he felt that the end pretended as if they had not discussed the move in any previous episodes . Campbell felt that Odenkirk was used in a good way , but that was " a waste of amazing talent at the real estate office " . He also felt that Dwight and Angela 's kiss was a good progression for their story .

Erik Adams of The A.V. Club awarded the episode " C ? " , and criticized its extended nature . He said that it was " both brimming with narrative yet straining to fill its allotted time . " Adams argued that elements , like Toby 's visit to the prison , seemed like tacked on codas intended to increase the length of the show . He also felt that Odenkirk 's performance was humorous , but dragged on too long and played the joke too far . Adams , however , was complimentary towards Angela and Dwight 's subplot , calling it the most " daring " of the episode 's various subplots , and saying it provided momentum for the episode . Alan Sepinwall of HitFix called the episode " unpleasant " , largely due to Andy 's presence ; he felt that the character " continues to dominate the action and crush all the goodwill generated earlier in the season " . However , he was very pleased with Odenkirk 's performance , calling his acting " a pretty spot @-@ on recreation of the early years [ of The Office ] " . Bob Odenkirk 's performance was later submitted by the producers of The Office for an " Outstanding Guest Actor in Comedy Series " Emmy consideration .