

= Grampa vs. Sexual Inadequacy =

" Grampa vs. Sexual Inadequacy " is the tenth television episode of The Simpsons ' sixth season . It was first broadcast on the Fox network in the United States on December 4 , 1994 . In the episode , Homer and Marge 's sex life is struggling , but Grampa perks things up with a homemade revitalizing tonic . He and Homer go on the road to sell their elixir , and Grampa reveals that Homer 's conception was unintentional . Homer is upset with his father and decides to spend more time with his children , but his over @-@ parenting does not work that well on them . Homer goes back to the old farmhouse he grew up in for inspiration and meets back up with his father , but their loving reunion is soured when the house goes up in flames .

The episode was directed by Wes Archer and written by Bill Oakley and Josh Weinstein . After its initial airing on Fox , the episode was later released as part of a 1999 video collection : The Simpsons ? Too Hot For TV , and released again on the 2003 DVD edition of the same collection . The episode features cultural references to songs such as " Foggy Mountain Breakdown " and " Celebration " , as well as a reference to the 1963 film The Nutty Professor . " Grampa vs. Sexual Inadequacy " received positive reception from television critics , and acquired a Nielsen rating of 9 @.@ 5 .

= = Plot = =

When Homer and Marge 's marriage declines due to their fading sex life , Grampa pieces together a tonic that is guaranteed to put the sparks back into their relationship . The effectiveness of the tonic results in Homer and Abe going into business together , selling " Simpson and Son 's Revitalizing Tonic " to the public utilizing a medicine show . They travel from town to town selling the product , but after visiting the farmhouse where Homer grew up , the two get into an argument . Abe yells at Homer in the car , saying that if he had not taken the tonic years ago , Homer would not have been born , finally shouting " You were an accident ! " Homer stops the car and hisses " Get out ! " , not accepting Abe 's apology and saying in an " OUT " . Abe steps out of the car and says he hopes Homer will forgive him , but Homer drives away and leaves his father there , later telling Marge he cannot forgive what his father said and then resolves to be a better father . However , things don 't go well for either Homer or Abe : Homer 's rushed efforts to bond with Bart and Lisa lead them to note that he 's just as " half @-@ assed " at doing too much as he was at being a non @-@ presence for them , while Abe 's attempt to use Barney as the new " Son " fails instantly .

Bart attempts to figure out why all of the adults disappear after they buy the " Simpson and Son 's Tonic " . They come up with a few conspiracy theories , all of which are unrelated with the tonic . Lisa , however , sarcastically offers up the possibility of all the adults having to be home before dark due to being reverse vampires , which frightens the rest of the children more than their other ideas .

Depressed at having failed to be a good father even when he is trying , Homer goes back to the farmhouse to think . He sees old photographs , including one of himself as a child on Christmas morning , where he thinks his father was not even there on Christmas when he finally got to meet Santa Claus . Homer then realizes that it was really his father in a Santa costume , proving that Abe did actually care for him . Homer quickly reunites with Abe , who by coincidence has also gone to the farmhouse to reflect . Both of them accidentally set fire to different parts of the building , starting with Homer accidentally setting fire to the photo and Abe throwing a bottle of his tonic into a fireplace , and bump into one another on the front porch while fleeing the blaze . They both admit they are screw @-@ ups and they finally reconcile .

= = Production = =

The episode was directed by Wes Archer , and was written by Bill Oakley and Josh Weinstein . It was originally intended to deal with Homer and Marge 's problematic sex life , but later developed into a story about the relationship between Homer and Grampa . Dan Castellaneta provides the voices for both Homer and Grampa . Castellaneta therefore had to talk to himself when he recorded

the voices of the two characters in their interactions for this episode . Castellaneta says that it is hard for him to do Grampa 's voice because it is " wheezy and airy " .

Homer and Marge spend the night at an inn , called the Aphrodite Inn , to spice up their sex life . The inn was partly based on the Madonna Inn , which as in the episode features different kinds of sex @-@ oriented rooms with unusual names that are supposed to spice up your love life . The design of the old farmhouse was inspired by the house featured in the 1993 film *Flesh and Bone* . Bart 's obsession with conspiracy theories was inspired by the writers observation that children around his age go through a stage where they become " addicted " to information about UFOs and paranormal phenomena . Bill Oakley himself had gone through the same thing when he was around 10 years old .

= = Cultural references = =

Al Gore , former Vice President of the United States , is shown celebrating Lisa 's purchase of his book , *Sane Planning , Sensible Tomorrow* , by listening to " Celebration " by Kool & the Gang . " Foggy Mountain Breakdown " is played during a chase scene , reminiscent of a recurring theme of the 1967 landmark film *Bonnie and Clyde* . A parody of The X @-@ Files ' theme song is played in the background of a scene after Lisa purchases a copy of Gore 's book *Sane Planning , Sensible Tomorrow* . When Professor Frink takes the tonic , he transforms into a suave man with a deep voice , which is a reference to Jerry Lewis transforming into Buddy Love in *The Nutty Professor* . Grampa , within proper context , successfully pronounces the word pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis . Milhouse 's conspiratorial revelation and his line about being through the looking glass is quoted from the movie , *JFK* .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " Grampa vs. Sexual Inadequacy " finished 58th in the ratings for the week of November 28 to December 4 , 1994 , with a Nielsen rating of 9 @.@ 5 . The episode was the third highest rated show on the Fox network that week .

Warren Martyn and Adrian Wood , the authors of the book *I Can 't Believe It 's a Bigger and Better Updated Unofficial Simpsons Guide* , said it was " an amazing episode , in which Homer actually has an argument with someone , rather than backing down . As he and his father drift further apart , so the family are at a loss at what to do . You can 't help but feel sorry for Grampa as a piece of Simpson family history goes up in flames " . Nate Meyers at *Digitally Obsessed* praised Dan Castellaneta 's role in the episode and said : " Dan Castellaneta 's work as both Homer and Grampa Simpson in [the episode] is full of emotion and brilliant comic timing . Watch the closing scene carefully as Homer returns to his childhood home , because Castellaneta gracefully dances between a tender father @-@ son relationship and flat @-@ out comedy " . Colin Jacobson at *DVD Movie Guide* said he " didn 't remember this as a very good episode , but it actually turns out to be quite strong . The initial plot in which Homer and Marge can 't get it together offers plenty of funny moments , and the scenes in which Homer battles with his dad offer depth and much humor . It 's also hard to beat the children 's fears of the reverse vampires " .

= = Merchandise = =

" Grampa vs. Sexual Inadequacy " originally aired on Fox in the United States on December 4 , 1994 . The episode was selected for release in a 1999 video collection of selected episodes titled : *The Simpsons ? Too Hot For TV* . Other episodes included in the collection set were " The Cartridge Family " , " Natural Born Kissers " , and " Treehouse of Horror IX " . It was included in *The Simpsons* season 6 DVD set , which was released August 16 , 2005 ? *The Simpsons ? The Complete Sixth Season* . The episode was again included in the 2003 DVD release of the " Too Hot For TV " set .