

= Blue Harvest =

" Blue Harvest " is the hour @-@ long premiere of the sixth season of the animated comedy series Family Guy and the first part of the series ' trilogy Laugh It Up , Fuzzball . It originally aired on Fox in the United States on September 23 , 2007 . The episode is a retelling and parody of the 1977 blockbuster film , Star Wars , recasting the show 's characters into Star Wars roles . The plot follows Peter as he retells the story of Star Wars while the electricity is out in their house .

It was written by Alec Sulkin and directed by Dominic Polcino . To produce the installment the staff asked Lucasfilm , the company who owns the rights to the Star Wars franchise , for permission . Blue Harvest guest starred Chevy Chase , Beverly D 'Angelo , Mick Hucknall , Leslie Nielsen , and Rush Limbaugh . The episode also included recurring voice actors Lori Alan , Adam West , Ralph Garman , Danny Smith , John Viener , Steve Callaghan , Kirker Butler , Mark Hentemann , Johnny Brennan , Jon Benjamin , Phil LaMarr , and Wally Wingert . The episode contains various references to popular culture , specifically the Star Wars film series . It was viewed by 10 @.@ 86 million viewers on its original broadcast and received generally positive reviews from critics .

= = Plot = =

While the Griffins are watching television , the power goes out and they are left with no other form of entertainment . While they wait for the power to return , Peter decides to retell the story of Star Wars beginning with " Part IV . "

A Rebel ship is captured by a Star Destroyer . On the ship are the droids C @-@ 3PO (Quagmire) , R2 @-@ D2 (Cleveland) and the rebel leader Princess Leia (Lois) . While the ship is boarded by Stormtroopers , Leia tries to send an MPEG to Obi @-@ Wan Kenobi through R2 , but encounters so many complications that R2 offers to deliver the message himself . Leia is captured by Darth Vader (Stewie) while R2 and 3PO flee to Tatooine in an escape pod , where they are captured by Jawas .

The droids are sold to a family of moisture farmers , whose nephew Luke Skywalker (Chris) wishes to join the Rebellion and fight the Empire . While cleaning the droids , Luke stumbles upon Leia 's message inside R2 , who later decides to leave the farm . Luke and C @-@ 3PO pursue him but are attacked by Sand People . Luke is knocked out by one of them (Opie) and is found by Obi @-@ Wan Kenobi (Herbert) , who takes them to his hut . Leia 's message explains that R2 contains the plans to the Death Star , which must be sent to her father on her home planet of Alderaan and asks Obi @-@ Wan to help . Obi @-@ Wan tells Luke that he must learn the ways of The Force and accompany him to Alderaan , and gives him his own lightsaber . Realizing that the Empire must be looking for the droids , Luke returns home to discover that his home has been destroyed and his aunt and uncle killed .

Luke , Obi @-@ Wan , and the droids travel to Mos Eisley to find a pilot to take them to Alderaan . At a local cantina they hire smuggler Han Solo (Peter) and his Wookiee co @-@ pilot Chewbacca (Brian) , who agree to take them with their ship , the Millennium Falcon . The group is soon spotted by stormtroopers and they flee into space , evading the pursuing Star Destroyers before jumping into hyperspace . Leia is imprisoned on the Death Star , where commanding officer Grand Moff Tarkin (Adam West) has Alderaan destroyed . The Millennium Falcon exits hyperspace and is captured by the Death Star 's tractor beam and brought into its hangar bay . Disguising themselves as stormtroopers , Han and Luke along with Chewbacca set off to rescue the captive Princess while Obi @-@ Wan goes to shut off the tractor beam and R2 and C3PO stay behind . Han , Luke and Chewie rescue Leia , and the four dive into a garbage chute to escape stormtroopers and find a couch . As they flee the Death Star , Obi @-@ Wan turns off the tractor beam before being confronted by Darth Vader in a lightsaber duel . Vader strikes Obi @-@ Wan down as the others board the Falcon , taking the couch with them .

The Falcon journeys to the Rebel base at Yavin IV , where the Rebels analyze the Death Star plans and find a weakness . Luke joins the assault team while Han collects his reward for the rescue and prepares to leave . The Rebel fighters attack the Death Star but suffer heavy losses during the

assault . During his run , Luke hears Obi @-@ Wan 's voice telling him to use the Force , and he turns off his targeting computer . Vader appears with his own group of fighters , and is about to fire at Luke 's starfighter when Han arrives in the Falcon and attacks Vader and his men , sending Vader 's ship off into space . Guided by the Force , Luke fires into the port , destroying the Death Star , and he returns to the Rebel base with his friends to celebrate their victory .

Back at the Griffins ' home , Peter wraps up the story as the power comes back on . Everyone thanks Peter for keeping them entertained , although Chris points out that Robot Chicken already told that story .

= = Production = =

" Blue Harvest " originally aired on September 23 , 2007 , as the premiere for the sixth season of Family Guy . The episode was written by Alec Sulkin , who has been with the show since the fourth season . It was directed by series veteran Dominic Polcino , who has been directing for the series since its first season . Series regulars Peter Shin and James Purdum served as supervising directors . The episode 's music was composed by Walter Murphy .

Family Guy creator Seth MacFarlane explained that the reason they made a parody of Star Wars in particular was because the show 's staff members were huge fans of the films . Another reason they chose Star Wars was because Lucasfilm allowed it . MacFarlane stated that creating parodies based on Raiders of the Lost Ark or Star Trek II : The Wrath of Khan was originally considered , but they assumed they would be unable to gain permission from the owners of those properties (in this case Paramount Pictures) . Lucasfilm only gave the show 's staff one condition , which was that the characters had to look exactly like they do in the movies .

Clips of the episode were shown to audience members at Star Wars Celebration IV , where a panel was hosted by MacFarlane , Sulkin and Polcino , and executive producer David A. Goodman . The episode was also previewed at the 2007 Comic @-@ Con International .

In addition to the regular cast , actors Chevy Chase and Beverly D 'Angelo , musician Mick Hucknall , singer Helen Reddy , and political commentator Rush Limbaugh made guest appearances . Recurring guest voice actors Phil LaMarr , Johnny Brennan , John Benjamin , Lori Alan , Adam West , Ralph Garman , writer Danny Smith , writer John Viener , executive producer Steve Callaghan , Kirker Butler , executive producer Mark Hentemann writer Wally Wingert and Alec Sulkin also made minor appearances in the episode .

= = Cultural references = =

" Blue Harvest " contains many references to popular culture , particularly to the Star Wars film series . Most of the episode itself is a retelling of George Lucas ' film Star Wars . The episode 's name is a reference to the fake working title for the production of Return of the Jedi .

One of the band members that plays at the cantina asks for any song request and then he subtly responds to his own question by saying " play that same song , " a reference to the fact that the song being played in the film scene lasts a long time .

When Peter is about to begin telling the story he says that it is about " love and loss , father and son and the foresight to retain international merchandising rights " , a reference to the fact that 20th Century Fox gave those rights to Lucasfilm . During the text scrawl actress Angelina Jolie , her film Gia , and the television channel HBO are mentioned .

One of the Star Destroyers displays a bumper sticker reading " Bush ? Cheney " a reference to United States President George W. Bush and Dick Cheney 's 2004 re @-@ election campaign . When the Millennium Falcon enters hyperspace , the visual effect is replaced with the intro sequence from Doctor Who , using the version of that sequence from the Tom Baker era . Once Leia is captured , Vader asks her where she hid the Death Star plans , leading her to respond that they are in one of twenty @-@ six briefcases , a reference to the game show Deal or No Deal .

When Luke is watching the sunset , he breaks the fourth wall by introducing Star Wars composer John Williams and the London Symphony Orchestra , who have been scoring the scene , in a

parody of a scene from *Blazing Saddles* featuring Count Basie and his orchestra . Luke then asks the orchestra to play the theme of *The People's Court* . Later in the episode when Luke finds his uncle and aunt murdered , he also finds that Williams and the entire orchestra have been killed as well ; this saddens Luke , since the episode will now have to be scored by composer Danny Elfman . A political commentator on the radio is heard saying that the " liberal galactic media is saying that the planet Hoth is melting " , this commentator is voiced by Rush Limbaugh , who also runs a political radio program in which he criticizes what he perceives as the " liberal media " .

Obi @-@ Wan sings a rendition of " (I 've Had) The Time of My Life " from the film *Dirty Dancing* , in case he never sees Luke again . In a fight with a group of TIE fighters , Luke asks the origins behind their name ; the following scene then shows that the pilots are from Thailand . Leslie Nielsen 's character from the movie *Airplane !* wishes Han good luck during their encounter with the TIE fighters . When seeking how to destroy the Death Star , the rebels look at an instructional video hosted by basketball player Magic Johnson . Chevy Chase and Beverly D 'Angelo 's characters from the *National Lampoon 's Vacation* films appear driving by the Death Star . Chris , who is voiced by Seth Green , points out that Robot Chicken already did a *Star Wars* parody (Green is the creator of *Robot Chicken*) .

It is also noted Han Solo 's reward doesn 't consist of money but rather various novelties including a Netflix gift card , Cracker Barrel cheese , a bottle of jellybeans , a mini teddy bear and a lightsaber cheese knife .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast on September 23 , 2007 , " *Blue Harvest* " was viewed by 10 @.@ 86 million viewers . The episode acquired a 5 @.@ 5 Nielsen rating , the audience measurement systems developed to determine the audience size and composition of television programming in the United States , in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

Reviews of this episode were generally positive . Common Sense Media gave the episode three out of five stars , calling it a " ribald but often hilarious satire of fantasy favorite " . Brad Trechak of *TV Squad* also praised " *Blue Harvest* " , stating that it " was a fun episode to watch " ; he thought that " MacFarlane kept to the story pretty well , and there were enough corny jokes to make it amusing " . Ahsan Haque from *IGN* gave it a score of seven out of ten , criticizing the selection of Herbert as Obi @-@ Wan , but did say that the other choices were " spot @-@ on " ; he ended his review by stating , " as a tribute to *Star Wars* , this episode succeeds , but you can 't help but wish that there was a bit more to it , considering the nature of the source material " . In a later review of the season as a whole , Haque said that the episode was " generally entertaining , but certainly wasn 't as great as it could have been " . Daniel Fienberg of *Zap2it* also gave it a positive review although he stated that it was released soon after *Robot Chicken 's Star Wars* special and it fared worse because of it .

Newsday 's Diane Werts rendered a more mixed verdict , saying the episode " veer [s] wildly from bull 's @-@ eye satire to gotta @-@ fill @-@ time @-@ now exposition " , and was not as enjoyable for non @-@ *Star Wars* fans . Robin Pierson of *The TV Critic* also gave it a mixed review , criticizing the writers for using the character of Herbert and the episode 's musical moment which he called an " un @-@ amusing waste of time " , although he did praise the way that the episode satirized the *Star Wars* universe ; he ended his review by saying that " Chances are the more you like *Star Wars* , the more you will enjoy this . For those of us who know *Family Guy* better than *Star Wars* , there is plenty of bad material here to remind us that nothing much has changed " . He gave the episode sixty @-@ five out of a possible one @-@ hundred .

The Parents Television Council , a group that has been a frequent critic of *Family Guy* , criticized the episode for a perceived frequent use of sexual dialogue , enough for the episode to have an " S " content descriptor for sexual content (the episode was rated TV @-@ 14 @-@ DLV on Fox) .

In 2009 , *TV Guide* ranked " *Blue Harvest* " # 99 on its list of the 100 Greatest Episodes .

= = DVD release = =

The episode was released on January 15 , 2008 for DVD and on August 7 , 2012 for Blu @-@ ray in Region 1 . It was issued on January 21 , 2008 for DVD in Region 2 , and on February 6 , 2008 DVD and on August 24 , 2011 for Blu @-@ ray in Region 4 . " Blue Harvest " was also released as part of the " Laugh It Up , Fuzzball : The Family Guy Trilogy " which was released on December 21 , 2010 for DVD and on December 21 , 2010 for Blu @-@ ray in Region 1 . It was issued on December 27 , 2010 for both DVD and Blu @-@ ray in Region 2 . Its release date in Region 4 was December 22 , 2010 for DVD and January 12 , 2011 for Blu @-@ ray .

= = Sequels = =

" Something , Something , Something , Dark Side " , which parodies The Empire Strikes Back , and " It 's a Trap ! " , which parodies Return of the Jedi , originally were released direct @-@ to @-@ video on December 22 , 2009 and December 21 , 2010 then later aired on Fox May 23 , 2010 (season eight , episode 20) and May 22 , 2011 (season nine , episode 18) respectively .