

= Gay Witch Hunt =

" Gay Witch Hunt " is the third season premiere of the American comedy television series The Office , and the show 's twenty @-@ ninth episode overall . Written by executive producer and show runner Greg Daniels and directed by Ken Kwapis , the episode first aired in the United States on September 21 , 2006 on NBC .

The series depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In the episode , Michael Scott (Steve Carell) discovers that Oscar Martinez (Oscar Nunez) is gay . Michael tries to show Oscar that he is accepting of his sexual orientation , but only ends up insulting him . It is also revealed that after kissing Pam Beesley (Jenna Fischer) , Jim Halpert (John Krasinski) went through with transferring to Stamford . In addition , Pam called off her engagement with Roy Anderson (David Denman) .

The episode features a kiss between Michael and Oscar . This scene was not scripted , and was an improvised moment courtesy of Carell . An estimated 9 @.@ 1 million viewers watched the episode , a 23 percent increase from the previous season premiere " The Dundies " . " Gay Witch Hunt " received positive reviews from television critics .

= = Plot = =

After calling Oscar Martinez (Oscar Nunez) " faggy " , Michael Scott (Steve Carell) learns that Oscar finds the word offensive because he is homosexual . Michael inadvertently outs Oscar to the entire office . Jan Levenson (Melora Hardin) berates Michael for his behavior , after Michael 's seminar on homosexuality is a disaster . When Oscar threatens to quit , Michael attempts to reconcile with Oscar , first by hugging him , and then kissing him on the lips . Oscar is given three months paid vacation and use of a company car in exchange for not suing Dunder Mifflin .

It is revealed that after their kiss , Pam Beesly (Jenna Fischer) confirmed to Jim Halpert (John Krasinski) her intention to marry Roy Anderson (David Denman) . However , a few days before the wedding , Pam got cold feet and decided to call it off . She moved into her own apartment and began taking art classes . Pam 's rejection sent Roy into a downward spiral , hitting rock bottom with a drunk driving arrest . When being interviewed by the camera crew , Roy makes a vow to win Pam back .

Jim has transferred to Dunder Mifflin 's Stamford branch and settles into his new office . He befriends smug co @-@ worker Andy Bernard (Ed Helms) who brags about his wild college days at Cornell University . Meanwhile , sales representative Karen Filippelli (Rashida Jones) is disconcerted by Jim 's constant smirks to the camera . Mr. Brown (Larry Wilmore) is briefly seen giving the Stamford branch a diversity day seminar due to " more problems at the Scranton branch . "

Dwight had contacted Jim in Stamford regarding a " gaydar " device . In the final moments , Dwight opens a package from Jim , a novelty " gaydar " machine fashioned from a metal detector and lettered with the prefixes " Homo " and " Hetero " . He confirms the device on Oscar , but is dumbfounded when the device goes off as he inadvertently swipes it across his own belt buckle . Pam is then seen smiling to herself .

= = Production = =

" Gay Witch Hunt " was the eighth episode of the series directed by Ken Kwapis . Kwapis had previously directed " Pilot " , " Diversity Day " , " Sexual Harassment " , " The Fire " , " The Fight " , " Booze Cruise " , and " Casino Night " . " Gay Witch Hunt " was written by executive producer and show runner Greg Daniels .

The kiss between Michael and Oscar in the conference room was not scripted . The scene had been shot a couple of times with Steve Carell not kissing Oscar Nunez . Then on one take , Oscar saw " [Carell 's] lips coming closer and closer " . Nunez recalled " I 'm like , ' Dear God , he 's going to kiss me . ' And sure enough , he planted one on my face . " The other cast members were

laughing during the kiss but because the camera stays focused on Carell and Nunez , the scene was still usable .

At Paleyfest in early 2007 , Steve Carell later recalled that he enjoyed the episode " because it spoke to the fact that Michael is not a homophobe ; he just doesn 't understand the world . They are two very different things . It 's not that he 's intrinsically racist or homophobic or sexist , he just doesn 't have a frame of reference . He 's not capable of understanding . And once he does glean some understanding he misinterprets it into something altogether . But I think at least the way I feel about the character is he 's a decent heart , a decent person and he 's just trying his best . "

The third season DVD contains a number of deleted scenes from this episode , including Karen pulling a prank on Jim by setting his dial tone to call Hong Kong , Andy comparing his jumping skills to Michael Jordan to Jim , Michael asking Pam how she is holding up since the wedding broke off , and Jan being furious at Michael .

= = Reception = =

" Gay Witch Hunt " first aired on NBC on September 21 , 2006 . The Nielsen ratings for " Gay Witch Hunt " indicated that it was watched by approximately 9 @.@ 1 million viewers , a 23 percent increase from the second season premiere " The Dundies " . During its timeslot , " Gay Witch Hunt " ranked second among men ages 18 ? 49 and 24 ? 54 , and first among men ages 18 ? 34 .

" Gay Witch Hunt " generally received praise from critics . TV Guide 's Matt Roush admitted that he " loved Oscar 's self @-@ deprecating reaction to his newfound notoriety " . Roush said that when watching Michael " you can 't help but forgive the idiot , while wondering how in the world he manages to keep his job , " and that the kiss between Michael and Oscar was " horrifically funny " . Brian Zoromski of IGN rated the episode with a 9 out of 10 , an indication of an " amazing " episode . He observed that the episode 's best scenes " show the impact of Jim and Pam being in different offices , " and thought Andy 's reactions made the audience appreciate Dwight more .

Steve West of Cinemablend stated that " the balance between laughing at Michael ? s ineptitude and the discomfit of Oscar was handled so deftly that it ? s a wonder the show became successful when similarly great writing in Arrested Development did nothing to garner viewers . " For his work on this episode , Greg Daniels won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Writing for a Comedy Series . Ken Kwapis also received a Primetime Emmy Award nomination for Outstanding Directing for a Comedy Series for his work on this episode as well , but lost to Ugly Betty 's Richard Shepard for his work on the pilot episode .