

= April in Quahog =

" April in Quahog " is the 16th episode of the eighth season of the animated comedy series Family Guy . It originally aired on Fox in the United States on April 11 , 2010 . The episode features the Griffin family as they attempt to live out their last day on Earth , after hearing an announcement on the local news about a black hole that is sucking in the entire solar system . As the countdown approaches zero , Peter suddenly reveals his secret dislike of being in his children 's presence , seconds before the world is expected to end . Then it is revealed that it is all an April Fools ' joke , and Peter is left to attempt to win back his children 's respect .

The episode was written by John Viener and directed by Joseph Lee . It received mixed reviews from critics for its storyline and many cultural references . According to Nielsen ratings , it was viewed in 6 @. @ 93 million homes in its original airing . The episode featured guest performances by James Burkholder , Anne Hathaway and Jason Mraz , along with several recurring guest voice actors for the series . " April in Quahog " was released on DVD along with ten other episodes from the season on December 13 , 2011 .

= = Plot = =

The local news reports that Stephen Hawking has discovered a new black hole at the edge of the solar system , but the Griffin family pays no attention to the announcement . Peter alerts the family that he has been selected for jury duty , which he believes is an exclusive experience . After Brian informs him that everyone serves jury duty at some point , Peter tries to be kicked out of court by annoying the others , expressing fabricated prejudices , singing Surfin ' Bird , and attempting to discuss the trial outside of the courtroom . When Peter returns home that night , the local news announces that the Earth will be destroyed by the newly discovered , and continually expanding , black hole within the next 24 hours . Frantic over the news , everyone in Quahog attempts to live out the best last day possible . Herbert finally attempts to have sex with Chris , Quagmire has sex with Bonnie , and Peter finally manages to steal a lion from the zoo and say the " you @-@ know @-@ what word " in a black neighborhood (he is well respected as a result) . As the countdown reaches its final seconds , Peter confesses to Lois that while he loves her , he hates spending time with his kids . Immediately afterward , the news anchors reveal the black hole report was an April Fools ' joke .

Stunned at their father 's newly revealed hatred , Meg , Chris and Stewie avoid Peter . After realizing how angry they are , Peter tries to reconcile with his kids by spending time with each of them . However , he and his kids share no common interests and Peter only makes things worse by using the methamphetamine he had wanted to share with Chris . After a heartfelt speech does not work , Peter finally buys his kids ' love by giving them a new Xbox 360 , and they proclaim Peter " the best father ever " . At the end of the show , Peter plays Call of Duty : Modern Warfare 2 , albeit terribly , much to the other players ' fury , two of them being Quagmire and Joe who tell Peter he sucks at the game .

= = Production and development = =

As his first official episode for the series , the episode was directed by Joseph Lee , who had previously served as an assistant director and storyboard artist for the show . In addition , the episode was written by series regular John Viener , his second episode for the season , the first being " Jerome is the New Black " . In promoting the episode , an image of Stan and Francine Smith meeting and speaking with Lois and Peter , along with an image of Peter , Brian , Joe and Quagmire drinking cans of beer in front of the house from King of the Hill was released by 20th Century Fox . A press release of a purported crossover was also made public . Having released the information on April Fools ' Day , the crossover was revealed to be an April Fools ' joke after the episode aired without a crossover occurring .

" April in Quahog " , along with the eleven other episodes from Family Guy 's eighth 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 , voice actor James Burkholder , actress Anne Hathaway and singer and performer Jason Mraz guest starred in the episode . Recurring guest voice actors Lori Alan , Johnny Brennan , Chris Cox , Ralph Garman , writer and showrunner Mark Hentemann , voice actor Phil LaMarr , writer Chris Sheridan , writer Danny Smith , writer Alec Sulkin and writer John Viener also made minor appearances . Recurring guest voice actors Adam West and Patrick Warburton made guest appearances as well .

= = Cultural references = =

In the opening scene of the episode , the Griffin family is seen watching the Channel 5 News , with Tricia Takanawa then beginning an interview with Stephen Hawking . Hawking , who is paralyzed due to neuro @-@ muscular dystrophy , is seen sitting in his wheelchair . After the camera cuts , Hawking then jumps up from his chair , and admits it is just an act , before deciding to go surfing at the nearby beach .

In mentioning that he has been summoned for jury duty , and implying its exclusivity , Peter is confronted by Brian who reveals that the only reason he was selected was because he had voted in the last election . Peter goes on to state that he actually stuffed the ballot box at the Oscars , when the nominees included Grover from Sesame Street , Bluto from Popeye , and Daniel Day @-@ Lewis , among others . Actress Anne Hathaway presented the award . Going on to find out that everyone is asked to do jury duty , Peter soon seeks to be kicked out , just as he was from the rock band Coldplay once he suggested that they write a song that is " not whiny bullcrap " . Further attempting to be kicked out of jury duty , Peter begins singing the song " Surfin ' Bird " by The Trashmen , a song that was first introduced in the series in the seventh season episode " I Dream of Jesus " .

Before Peter is preparing to leave for jury duty , the family is seen watching a television sitcom entitled How Henry Kissinger Met Your Mother , a parody of the CBS sitcom How I Met Your Mother , which features Henry Kissinger , whose heavy accent makes his speech unintelligible . Once Peter is dressed for court , he explains that even the vending machines at the courthouse are out of order , with Brian then being shown dressed and laughing in a similar manner as the Hanna @-@ Barbera cartoon character Muttley .

Having learned of the impending doomsday , Mayor Adam West angrily writes an angry letter to outer space , expressing his intention of punching the constellation Orion . West then straps on a jetpack , as well as a fishbowl for his helmet , and flies into space , punching the constellation , causing the stars to form into the Orion Pictures company logo . After it is revealed by Channel 5 News that the impending doomsday was actually an April Fools ' Day joke , Brian reacts by angrily yelling , " You dicks ! " , a line uttered by Jeff Spicoli , as portrayed by Sean Penn , in the 1982 comedy film Fast Times at Ridgemont High . Unable to win over his children 's affection , Peter decides to buy them an Xbox 360 to earn the respect once more . Before the end credits , Peter is then shown playing the Xbox 360 game Call of Duty : Modern Warfare 2 (Team Deathmatch on Favela) , much to his children 's chagrin . Peter , gamertag ' pgriffin69x ' , is killed by Infinity Ward 's former Creative Strategist Robert Bowling , gamertag FOURZEROTWO .

= = Reception = =

In a slight decrease from the previous week , the episode was viewed in 6 @.@ 93 million homes in its original airing , according to Nielsen ratings . The episode also acquired a 3 @.@ 4 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , beating The Simpsons and The Cleveland Show , as well as the return

episode of American Dad ! , which had been put into a temporary hiatus , in order to accommodate Sons of Tucson . In addition , the episode significantly edged out all three shows in total viewership .

Reviews of the episode were mostly mixed , calling it a " tragedy , " but " funnier than [...] expected . " Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club noted that there are " funny lines tucked around the edges of every episode [...] but there 's nothing here that justifies the needlessly elaborate plots . " Jason Hughes of TV Squad gave the episode a more positive review , stating that Peter 's attempts to bond with his children " brought some of the most hilarious visuals . " Ramsey Isler of IGN gave the episode a much more negative review , noting that it did not " have many redeeming qualities , " and the jokes were " mediocre . " In a subsequent review of Family Guy 's eighth season , Isler listed " April in Quahog " as being " full of the lowest of the lowest @-@ common @-@ denominator ' jokes ' , with heavy reliance on toilet humor and the characteristic cutaway gags that have steadily gotten more random and less funny . "