

= The Fighting Irish =

" The Fighting Irish " is the seventeenth episode of NBC 's first season of 30 Rock . It was written by one of the season 's co @-@ executive producers , Jack Burditt and it was directed by Dennie Gordon . It aired on March 8 , 2007 in the United States . Guest stars who appeared in this episode were Dan Bakkedahl , Katrina Bowden , Henry Boyle , Anna Chlumsky , Siobhan Fallon Hogan , Chris Hoch , Alice Kremelberg , Nathan Lane , Boris McGiver , John F Mooney , Brian Murray , Maulik Pancholy , Lonny Ross , Molly Shannon , Jason Sudeikis and Kristen Sudeikis .

The episode features the appearance of Jack Donaghy 's (played by Alec Baldwin) brother , Eddie Donaghy (Nathan Lane) , who visits Jack claiming that their father (Brian Murray) is dead . Jack also tells Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) that she has to fire ten percent of her staff . Liz struggles with this task until she meets Floyd 's (Jason Sudeikis) girlfriend , Liz Lemler (Anna Chlumsky) , who works in the accounting department at TGS with Tracy Jordan , a fictional sketch comedy series for which Liz is the head writer .

= = Plot = =

Jack 's down @-@ and @-@ out brother , Eddie , pays him a visit claiming that their father is dead . Jack and Eddie , after feuding , later bond and they even decide to invite their sisters (Molly Shannon and Siobhan Fallon Hogan) and brother @-@ in @-@ law (Boris McGiver) to 30 Rock for an impromptu family reunion . As his family are about to watch a taping of TGS , Jack 's supposedly dead father visits Jack in his office , claiming that Eddie is dead . This eventually leads to an argument on the TGS stage and Liz getting beaten up by one of Jack 's sisters , Katherine Catherine .

Meanwhile , Liz has been told by Jack that she has to fire ten percent of her staff . While the staff try their best to keep their jobs , Liz struggles with making a decision of whom to fire . Liz 's problem is solved when Floyd , for whom Liz has romantic feelings , tells her that his girlfriend works in accounting at TGS . After Liz fires Floyd 's girlfriend , she goes on a rampage around 30 Rock firing people , including her producer Pete Hornberger (Scott Adsit) , who disagrees with her decision to fire Floyd 's girlfriend for her own personal gain . Jack later tells her that he hired all the fired people back , but he is transferring Floyd 's girlfriend to General Electric headquarters in Fairfield , Connecticut .

Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) has been told by his lawyer that he should join a religion . He asks advice of people including Liz and Jack , going as far as attending church with Kenneth Parcell (Jack McBrayer) . When Eddie explains Irish Catholicism to Tracy , he decides that this is the religion he was looking for and joins .

= = Production = =

Jason Sudeikis , Molly Shannon and Siobhan Fallon Hogan , who played Floyd , Katherine Catherine and Patrica in this episode , have all appeared in the main cast of Saturday Night Live , a weekly sketch comedy series which airs on NBC in the United States .

Kristen Sudeikis , the sister of Jason Sudeikis , appeared in this episode as an " advanced hip @-@ hop groove " gym class instructor . Kristen Sudeikis is a professional choreographer .

Judah Friedlander , who portrays Frank Rossitano in 30 Rock , is known for his trademark trucker hats which he wears in and out of the Frank character . The hats normally have short words or phrases glued onto them . Friedlander has stated that he makes the hats himself . He has also said that " some are in @-@ jokes , and some are just flat out jokes . " The idea came from Friedlander 's stand @-@ up persona in which his hats are all printed with " world champion " in different languages in different appearances . In this episode , Frank wears an " extra @-@ flashy ' Liz Rocks ' hat " to try and persuade Liz not to fire him .

This episode is the third episode written by Jack Burditt after " Jack Meets Dennis " and " The Baby Show " . Also , this is the first episode directed by Dennie Gordon .

= = Reception = =

In the U.S. , this episode was viewed by 5 @. @ 2 million viewers and received a rating of 2 @. @ 5 / 6 in the key adults 18 ? 49 demographic according to the Nielsen ratings system . The 2 @. @ 5 refers to 2 @. @ 5 % of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds , and the 6 refers to 6 % of all 18- to 49 @- @ year @- @ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast .

Robert Canning of IGN wrote that " while the episode was fun , there just weren 't as many of the laugh @- @ out @- @ loud moments that have made recent episode so memorable . " Matt Webb Mitovich of TV Guide wrote that " something about this week 's episode , in which Liz claimed power , Jack found family and Tracy sought religion (a subplot deserving of far greater screen time) , just wasn 't clicking for [him] . " Julia Ward of AOL 's TV Squad thought that " this episode didn 't reach the farcical highs of ' Black Tie ' . It was more standard sitcom fare than goofy bliss , but it wasn 't bad . "