

= Dwight Christmas =

" Dwight Christmas " is the ninth episode of the ninth season of the American comedy television series The Office . The episode was written by Robert Padnick and directed by Charles McDougall . It originally aired on NBC on December 6 , 2012 . The episode guest stars Robert R. Shafer as Bob Vance and Mark Proksch as Nate .

The series depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In this episode , Dwight Schrute ( Rainn Wilson ) gets everyone to celebrate with a traditional Schrute Pennsylvania Dutch Christmas . Darryl Philbin ( Craig Robinson ) fears that Jim Halpert ( John Krasinski ) has forgotten to include him in the new job in Philadelphia . Pete ( Jake Lacy ) teaches Erin Hannon ( Ellie Kemper ) about his favorite movie , Die Hard .

" Dwight Christmas " received generally positive reviews from television critics , with many noting that it resembled past Christmas episodes of The Office . The episode was also viewed by 4 @. @ 16 million viewers and received a 2 @. @ 1 / 6 percent rating among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 , ranking fourth in its timeslot . The episode , however , ultimately ranked as the highest @- @ rated NBC series of the night .

= = Plot = =

The party planning committee drops the ball on the annual Christmas party , and on the behest of Jim Halpert ( John Krasinski ) , Dwight Schrute ( Rainn Wilson ) gets everyone to celebrate with a traditional Schrute Pennsylvania Dutch Christmas . He dresses up as the traditional winter Christmas gift @- @ bringer figure Belsnickel , cooks German food , and plays a game similar to " Naughty or Nice " . The festivities cause displeasure among all the employees save Jim and Pam , who are amused by Dwight 's antics . Jim , however , announces he is leaving the party early to arrive in Philadelphia for his sports marketing job . In response , Dwight repeatedly hits Jim with his switch . When Meredith Palmer requests that Dwight use the switch on her buttocks , he ends the festivities in disgust , and a " normal " Christmas party is started . Although Pam Halpert ( Jenna Fischer ) tries to cheer him up , she too is saddened by Jim 's absence . Jim returns later , having found that there is a 5 a.m. bus the next morning , and both Dwight and Pam are delighted by his return . During the party , Darryl Philbin ( Craig Robinson ) fears that Jim has forgotten to include him in the new job in Philadelphia , and gets extremely drunk . When he goes to confront Jim , Jim ? not knowing that Darryl was upset ? excitedly tells him that he has arranged an interview for him . Darryl , appeased , turns around but passes out and crashes down on the catering table .

Meanwhile , Pete Miller ( Jake Lacy ) teaches Erin Hannon ( Ellie Kemper ) about his favorite movie , Die Hard , and attempts to recite all the dialogue from memory while an impressed Erin checks his accuracy using an online transcript . Andy Bernard ( Ed Helms ) , who is still away in the Caribbean after sailing his family 's boat , emails Erin and says that he is going to stay for a few weeks . Hurt , Erin decides to watch Die Hard with Pete rather than just hear him quote it . While watching the movie , Erin begins to cry and Pete tries to comfort her by placing his arm around her . In the meantime , Toby Flenderson ( Paul Lieberstein ) tells Nellie Bertram ( Catherine Tate ) about the Scranton Strangler case he was on . After boring her for what is implied to be several hours , she hushes him , before gently kissing him . Toby then whips off his glasses and kisses her back .

= = Production = =

" Dwight Christmas " was written by executive story editor Robert Padnick , marking his fourth writing credit for the series after joining the writing staff in the seventh season . It was directed by Charles McDougall , his first directing credit for the season . McDougal 's first job for the series was directing its first Christmas episode during the show 's second season . The basic plot of the episode , involving Belsnickel , had originally been conceived during the writing for fourth season and was going to air as that year 's Christmas installment . However , the 2007 ? 08 Writers Guild of

America strike halted production , and the unfinished script was never used . According to executive producer and showrunner Greg Daniels , the writing staff wanted to use the premise for many years , but could never find a right time to implement it , until an opportunity during the show 's last season presented itself . Before the episode aired , Kemper , in an interview with TV Guide said that " I feel like I might be expected to say this because it is the last one , but I truly love this episode so much " and that she " specifically love [ s ] Dwight 's storyline " because " he brings in his family Christmas traditions . I 've always held Dwight as one of my favorite characters and now ' Dwight Christmas ' just takes it to a new level . " Fischer said that filming the last Christmas episode was " emotional " and regretted not being able to have Mindy Kaling , who portrayed Kelly Kapoor on the series , film a karaoke scene . This is the second episode of season nine to not feature Andy or Clark . Ed Helms , who portrayed Andy , left the show temporarily in the season 's sixth episode " The Boat " in order to film The Hangover Part III , whereas Clark Duke , who portrayed Clark , left for a few episodes to film Kick @-@ Ass 2 .

= = Cultural references = =

Dwight , who dresses up as Belsnickel , has one of the warehouse workers , Nate , dress up as Belsnickel 's assistant , Zwarte Piet , before the office vetoes the idea , feeling that it is racist . Dwight presents the camera with a picture of he and his brother celebrating Christmas , and a version of the same photo decorated in the style of the 1999 science fiction film The Matrix . When Jim is trying to convince the office to do Dwight 's idea , he mispronounces one of the German character 's names , calling him " Hufflepuff " , one of the four houses of the magical school Hogwarts from the book series Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling . Creed Bratton ( a fictionalized version of the actual Creed Bratton ) mentions that , for this years party , he wants a " Tapas Swiss Miss " -themed party , which is a combination of Spanish tapas and Swiss Miss hot cocoa . Andy , via email , tells Erin that he saw the 2012 movie Life of Pi , an adaptation of the book of the same name . He also notes that he wants to see the first part of Peter Jackson 's 2012 film The Hobbit : An Unexpected Journey . Pete and Kevin make several references to the film Die Hard by quoting lines from the movie , with Erin and Pete eventually watching the movie .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Dwight Christmas " aired on NBC on December 6 , 2012 . In its original American broadcast , the episode was viewed by 4 @.@ 16 million viewers and received a 2 @.@ 1 rating / 6 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 2 @.@ 1 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 6 percent of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . The Office ranked fourth in its timeslot , being beaten by an episode of the ABC series Grey 's Anatomy which received a 3 @.@ 0 / 8 % rating , an entry of the CBS series Person of Interest which received a 2 @.@ 9 / 8 % , and an installment of the Fox program Glee , which earned a 2 @.@ 2 / 6 % rating . In addition , The Office was the highest @-@ rated NBC television program . The episode ranked number one in its timeslot for men aged 18 ? 34 .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The episode received largely positive reviews from television critics . Andrea Reiher of Zap2it named " Dwight Christmas " the best comedy TV episode of 2012 . She wrote that the episode " was not only funny but had a huge nostalgia factor " , and continued the show 's trend of strong holiday episodes . Reiher also praised the episode 's two subplots , writing that " drunk Darryl and Die Hard " helped produce " a classic episode of The Office that brought back the warm and fuzzy

feelings of the early seasons of the show . "

Bonnie Stiernberg of Paste awarded the episode an 8 out of 10 . Although she noted that Erin and Pete 's subplot " could 've easily been ripped from the season two Jim @-@ Pam @-@ Roy storyline " , she concluded that " The Office successfully found a way to make its final Christmas count . " Damon Houx of Screen Crush called the episode " a really good Christmas episode " that " got [ the ] central three characters absolutely right " . Although he wrote that the show was missing several cast members , like Helms and Duke , it was " as good as the post @-@ Carell Office has been " . Cindy White of IGN awarded the episode a 9 out of 10 , denoting an " amazing episode " . She wrote that it " harkens back to forgotten holiday traditions of old , like good Christmas episodes of The Office " . She also concluded that " the nostalgia swirling around Dwight Christmas was particularly noticeable " which she deduced was probably " a conscious effort here on the part of the writers to recapture that old Office magic and make this one to remember , and I think that effort paid off . "

Brett Davinger of the California Literary Review wrote that , while the episode 's plot was " not particularly notable " on the surface , it manages to work " because of Rainn Wilson 's commitment to it " . Furthermore , he wrote that the episode concluded the first half of the season in a " respectable and respectful " manner . Dan Forcella of TV Fanatic awarded the episode four @-@ and @-@ a @-@ half stars out of five and called it " a worthy extension of [ The Office Christmas ] tradition " and " definitely one of the best episodes of this final season " . He praised Dwight 's antics as well as Kevin 's humorous lines . Michael Tedder Vulture awarded the episode four stars out of five and wrote that " part of the charm of this episode was that the writers didn 't try to stuff it with too much plot " . One of the very few mixed reviews was written by Caroline Framke of The A.V. Club , who awarded the episode a " B ? " and argued that " Dwight Christmas " was trying too hard to replicate the humor of the second season episode " Christmas Party " . She concluded that the episode " ranks as more impish than admirable . "