

= New Boss =

" New Boss " is the twentieth episode of the fifth season of the television series The Office , and the 92nd overall episode of the series . It originally aired on NBC in the United States on March 19 , 2009 . In the episode , Michael Scott is disturbed by the arrival of his new no @-@ nonsense superior Charles Miner , played by The Wire star Idris Elba , making his first of six slated guest appearances with The Office . Meanwhile , Jim struggles to make a good impression on Charles , and Angela and Kelly both develop crushes on their new boss .

The episode was written by Lee Eisenberg and Gene Stupnitsky , and directed by Paul Feig . It received generally positive reviews from television critics , particularly for the twist of Michael 's resignation , which multiple reviewers said added a fresh new change to the series . According to Nielsen ratings , " New Boss " was watched by 7 @.@ 95 million overall viewers in its original airing .

= = Plot = =

Michael (Steve Carell) wants to throw a party to celebrate his fifteenth anniversary working at Dunder Mifflin . He becomes unnerved when Charles Miner (Idris Elba) , the new company vice president , exhibits a no @-@ nonsense attitude towards him , making Michael not feel like his own boss . Charles seems to establish a good relationship with the rest of the staff ; he buys everyone lunch and reveals the truth about their 401 (k) plans and the possibility of layoffs , which Michael withheld so as not to worry the staff . Taking advice from Chief Financial Officer David Wallace (Andrew Buckley) , Michael tries to become better acquainted with Charles , but is unsuccessful . Michael attempts to contact Wallace on the phone , one attempt leading to getting transferred to Charles . When Charles catches the Party Planning Committee planning Michael 's party during office hours , he dissolves the committee and cancels Michael 's party . Michael decides to drive to New York to talk to Wallace .

Meanwhile , Jim (John Krasinski) arrives at work wearing a tuxedo in response to a memo written by Dwight (Rainn Wilson) , about " professionalism in the workplace " . This leads to an awkward first encounter with Charles as Jim has to explain why he wore a tuxedo . This does not amuse Charles , who seems to lack a sense of humor . Jim 's activity throughout the day is scrutinized by Charles , more so when Charles notes Jim 's idea of a " two @-@ way petting zoo " for Michael 's party . When Jim tries to smooth things over with Charles , Charles condescends to Jim , questioning the necessity of Jim 's position as Assistant Regional Manager , referring to it as made @-@ up . When Charles leaves , Jim tries to say goodbye , with no response . Jim jokes that his career could be over .

Angela (Angela Kinsey) and Kelly (Mindy Kaling) develop crushes on Charles . They flirt with him , leaving him uncomfortable . At the end of the day Kelly puts on more makeup to tempt Charles into asking her out , but he has already left . Kelly runs out to the parking lot where she finds Angela holding Charles 's scarf and starts chasing her . Angela mentions that Charles deserves better than Kelly .

In New York , Michael manages to talk to Wallace , who has seemingly been avoiding him , and complains that it is unfair that he has to drive to New York in order to talk to him instead of on the phone , and that he deserves more respect after being at Dunder Mifflin for fifteen years . David agrees to fund an anniversary party for him and attend , but Michael abruptly announces his resignation from the company and walks out .

= = Production = =

" New Boss " was written by Lee Eisenberg and Gene Stupnitsky and directed by Paul Feig . Executive story editor Charlie Grandy conceived the idea of Michael leaving Dunder Mifflin . " New Boss " was the first of six episodes Idris Elba was set to guest star in as Charles , Michael 's new Dunder Mifflin superior . It was his first role in a comedy and his first television appearance since

leaving his regular role on HBO 's The Wire , where he played the character Stringer Bell . Elba , a fan of The Office , said , " The creators of the show called me , said they wanted to put me in as this new character , that I ? d be perfect for it , and I was honored , so I said yeah . [...] I ? m still playing the straight guy , but he ? s kind of got a bit of a quirk to him . " The writing staff for The Office are fans of The Wire , and have referred to the show in previous episodes . Of the six episodes Elba appeared in , he said " New Boss " was the only one he watched immediately after they aired because , " I 'm hypercritical about my work , so I try not to torture myself . " Elba is the second actor from The Wire to appear on The Office , after actress Amy Ryan , who played Michael 's love interest Holly Flax . Paul Lieberstein , the Office producer who also plays Toby , said Elba 's work on The Wire made him " a really interesting and great foil for Michael " . John Krasinski said Elba was initially an intimidating presence on the set , due to the ruthless character he plays on The Wire . However , Krasinski said Elba proved to be " incredibly nice and incredibly funny " .

The official The Office website included three cut scenes from " New Boss " within a week of the episode 's original release . One clip includes Andy , Creed , Oscar and Meredith gossiping about Charles ; Andy says , " I 'm telling you , when corporate sends somebody it is big trouble , or really good news , and then again sometimes it just means business as usual . " Another clip features Jim expressing his worries to Pam about Charles 's apparent distaste for him , as Pam playfully makes fun of Jim . The video ends with Pam asking Jim to leave her workspace because , " I don 't want him to keep seeing us together . "

In what some reporters described as a continuity error , Charles Miner refers to Jim 's second @-@ in @-@ command position as " made up " , but the position is real and Jim was officially hired for it in the third season episode " Branch Closing " . When asked by a fan about the apparent inconsistency , The Office writer Aaron Shure said he believed it was because " Charles is clearly not great at reading people and he 's headstrong " , and the fact that Jim does not normally care about titles , so he was not used to having to defend himself in such a way . However , Shure admitted he was " (trying) to wiggle out of this one " with his answer .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast on March 19 , 2009 , " New Boss " was watched by 7 @.@ 95 million overall viewers and received a Nielsen rating of 3 @.@ 9 among adults aged between 18 and 49 , and 4 @.@ 4 among ages 18 to 34 . The episode received generally positive reviews . Marc Hirsh of National Public Radio said the addition of the no @-@ nonsense Charles Miner character infused a sense of reality into The Office , which he said was growing increasingly wacky and out of control : " [The episode] may , in fact , have been one of the most important episodes of the entire series , acting as a corrective to the show 's increasing flirtations with ridiculousness . The characters of The Office have lived in a bubble for long enough . " Travis Fickett of IGN said " New Boss " brought a badly needed change to the series , which he said had been in a " stagnant state " over the last several episodes . Fickett said Steve Carell gave " a tour de force " as Michael saw his power slip away , and he called the final scene when Michael quit as one of the show 's biggest moments . He said , " Watching Miner work like a monkey wrench thrown into the works is the most fun I 've had watching this show in a long time . " Shahzad Abbas of TV Guide said , " Overall , this was a terrific episode , tightly structured , some nice laugh @-@ out loud moments , and a genuine shocker at the end that was completely consistent with Michael 's personality . "

Alan Sepinwall , television critic for The Star @-@ Ledger , said the episode was satisfying , although he felt it was short on laughs , except for Jim 's antics with the tuxedo and the episode 's documentary @-@ style interviews . Sepinwall particularly praised the twist of Michael quitting and said he looked forward to seeing where the subplot went . Jeff Labrecque said " watching Jim flail for approval (was) one of the episode 's most awkward delights " , but he said the episode was really about " the type of man Michael Scott really is " . Labrecque also said he looked forward to seeing how Michael regained his job , and raised the suggestion that the reason Michael clashed so much with Charles was because he was intimidated by the man 's race . Brian Howard of The Journal News said , " For 22 minutes of not much fun and only some funny , ' New Boss ' was a

pretty good episode . " He particularly liked the ending , which he said he did not see coming and served as a kind of redemption for Michael ; Howard also liked Pam 's documentary interviews and Jim 's failed efforts to make a good impression to Charles . Several reviewers particularly praised the line about the " two @-@ way petting zoo " , a zoo in which people pet the animals and the animals pet back .

Joshua Alston of Newsweek criticized the episode and the introduction of the Charles character . Although Alston said Elba 's acting was fine , he said the character " sucked the funny out of every scene he was in " and created an awkwardness inappropriate for the show . During the week following the episode 's original broadcast , many fans theorized on the Internet that Michael said " I acquit " rather than " I quit " , and that Michael 's supposed resignation was something of a prank . Jenna Fischer , who plays Pam on The Office , addressed this issue on her MySpace blog , saying , " He said ' I quit ' . And he meant it . You will see how it all plays out this week on the show . "

The introduction of Charles Miner ranked number 3 in phillyBurbs.com 's top ten moments from the fifth season of The Office .