

= Subway Hero =

" Subway Hero " is the twelfth episode of the second season of 30 Rock and thirty @-@ third episode of the series . It was written by Jack Burditt , one of the series ' co @-@ executive producers , and executive producer Robert Carlock . It was directed by Don Scardino . It aired on April 17 , 2008 on the NBC network in the United States . Guest stars in this episode include Michael Bloomberg , Tim Conway and Dean Winters . The Lord Stanley Cup is also jokingly listed as a guest star . Dennis Duffy 's actions in this episode were modeled after real New York City Subway Hero Wesley Autrey .

The episode revolves around Liz 's former boyfriend , Dennis Duffy (Dean Winters) , becoming a local celebrity when he saves somebody 's life at a subway station . Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) is looking for a celebrity to be the face of the Republican Party and Kenneth Parcell (Jack McBrayer) meets one of his idols , Bucky Bright (Tim Conway) .

= = Plot = =

When invited to Jack 's office , Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) is asked whether or not she would mind having her former boyfriend , Dennis , appear on TGS with Tracy Jordan , a fictional sketch comedy series . Since they last met , Dennis saved somebody 's life at a subway station and has become a local celebrity . Liz and Dennis meet up where she agrees to let him appear on the show . Jenna Maroney (Jane Krakowski) is wary and warns Liz not to let herself fall in love with Dennis again . When Liz realizes she does still have feelings for him , an excuse to get rid of him is presented when Dennis ' " 15 minutes of fame " are up and Liz revokes her invitation . Liz later follows him to 47th ? 50th Streets ? Rockefeller Center subway station where he tries to regain his subway hero title by throwing her onto the tracks of an oncoming train .

Jack is looking for a famous face to represent the Republican political party . After struggling to find somebody , he selects Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) for the position . One of Jack 's failed candidates , Bucky Bright , befriends Kenneth during a tour of 30 Rockefeller Plaza ; Bucky shares a number of horrifying backstage stories about the early days of television that wind up traumatizing Kenneth .

= = Production = =

Some scenes of " Subway Hero " were filmed on March 10 , 2008 . This episode was originally expected to air on April 10 , 2008 but was rescheduled to air on April 17 . The episode " MILF Island " aired on April 10 instead . On the newspaper shown to Liz by Jenna , the front page article states that Kay Cannon wrote the article . Kay Cannon is a writer of various episodes of 30 Rock . Upon working with Mayor Michael Bloomberg , Dean Winters described Bloomberg as " fun " and that " he was cool . And he 's a natural . " The scene that takes place at the Rockefeller Center Subway Station was actually filmed on the 42nd Street Shuttle platform at the Grand Central Subway Station , with prop signs reading " 47 ? 50 Sts ? Rockefeller Center " placed over the original signage , and a shuttle train relabelled as a D train .

= = Reception = =

" Subway Hero " brought in an average of 6 @.@ 4 million viewers . This was the highest @-@ rated episode since the episode " Somebody To Love " which aired on November 15 , 2007 . The episode also achieved a 2 @.@ 8 / 8 in the key 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ old demographic . The 2 @.@ 8 refers to 2 @.@ 8 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds in the U.S. and the 8 refers to 8 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast , in the U.S. This episode built by 0 @.@ 2 points , in the 18 ? 49 demographic , from the episode of My Name Is Earl , named " No Heads And A Duffel Bag , " which aired prior to it .

Claire Zulkey of The Los Angeles Times wrote that " In some ways the episode almost felt too

comfortable , with the familiar story lines and even the obligatory fantasy featuring Baldwin as a former president . The show , thus far post @-@ strike , hasn 't seemed like it has distinguished itself too much from Season 1 . But is that really so bad ? " Ann Oldenburg of USA Today said that " As always , [this episode of] 30 Rock was filled with fast one @-@ liners . " Jeff Labrecque of Entertainment Weekly thought that " Even for the always politically astute 30 Rock , last night 's episode was unusually so . " Bob Sassone of AOL 's TV Squad said that " [This] episode of 30 Rock had more jokes and one @-@ liners - the kind where you actually smile and laugh out loud " and that " There 's no other comedy that 's running on all cylinders like 30 Rock is right now . " Matt Webb Mitovich of TV Guide said that " [the episode] was filled not with just great laughs , but also some heart . Damn the roller coaster that is the crazy Dennis @-@ and @-@ Liz on @-@ again / off @-@ again thing ! "

Robert Canning of IGN wrote that " this is why 30 Rock is still a show you can 't miss . Even the weaker episodes can be damn funny . " Canning rated the episode 7 @.@ 7 out of 10 . The Daily Herald 's Ted Cox wrote that " [he has] to insist that it sure seems to me that not just Fey and Liz , but most of all viewers at home deserve better . " Alan Sepinwall of The Star @-@ Ledger said that " I saw " Subway Hero " a while back , and as I wrote in my column last week , my reaction to it was roughly the same as it was to " MILF Island " : a number of very funny individual moments , but an episode that was less than the sum of its parts . " David Hinckley of The New York Daily News said that there were " a lot of former @-@ boyfriend gags that are , once again , well @-@ formulated " in this episode and that " They work . " Hinckley also wrote that " the real reason [" Subway Hero "] is must @-@ see TV is a guest spot by Tim Conway as an old @-@ time television star whose deadpan recollections of the " good old days " keep getting weirder and funnier . He darn near steals the show . "

Conway won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actor in a Comedy Series for this episode .