

= The Show Where Sam Shows Up =

" The Show Where Sam Shows Up " is the 16th episode of the second season of the American sitcom Frasier . This episode originally aired on Tuesday , February 21 , 1995 , on NBC , intended as part of a February ratings sweep by the network . It features a central guest appearance of Ted Danson as Sam Malone , a recovering sex addict , bartender and ex @-@ baseball player . In this episode Sam arrives to Seattle to see his old friend Frasier , and then is introduced to Frasier 's family at a dinner in Frasier 's home . During the visit , it 's discovered that Sam was to get married to a woman named Sheila , who previously had a one @-@ night stand with Frasier . Then Sam finds out about Sheila 's dalliance with other men rather than with Frasier , much to Frasier 's relief , which ends Sam 's relationship with her . Danson 's appearance in this episode has received mixed reviews , and the positive highlight about it is his interaction with the cast of Frasier .

= = Plot = =

= = = Act One = = =

Bartender and ex @-@ baseball player Sam Malone (Ted Danson) from Cheers arrives in Seattle to see his psychiatrist friend Frasier Crane at the KACL @-@ FM radio station , and then Frasier becomes very happy and overjoyed by his arrival . According to Sam , after the 1993 Cheers finale , " One for the Road " , lives have changed since Frasier left Boston . Former bar manager of Cheers , Rebecca Howe , was dumped by her plumber husband Don Santry , who became rich after a successful plumbing invention , and then she settled her life back into the bar without intent to work there again . Bartender Woody Boyd and his wife , Kelly Gaines @-@ Boyd , have a son , who is smarter than his parents . A bar regular patron and postman Cliff Clavin still lives with his mother , stops attending the bar , and has not left home after he read information about a flesh @-@ eating bacteria .

= = = " Martin Rises from the Dead " = = =

Then Frasier brings Sam home for dinner and introduces him to his family : his father Martin (John Mahoney) who is an ex @-@ cop and a baseball fan of Sam Malone , his brother Niles (David Hyde Pierce) who is also a psychiatrist , and his housekeeper Daphne Moon (Jane Leeves) . During the family introduction , Sam explains that , as mentioned in Cheers , Frasier 's father was supposed to be a dead scientist and that Frasier is supposed to be the only child , much to dismay of Frasier 's family . Frasier explains the inconsistency , indicating that he had an argument with Martin , which motivated him into making up the " dead scientist father " story .

Then Daphne becomes charmed by Sam 's flirts on her , as well , which enrages Niles , who has a secret crush on Daphne . Frasier tells Niles that Sam has a sexual addiction and assures Niles that Sam still attends group meetings of sexual addicts , recommended by Frasier in the Cheers episode " The Guy Can 't Help It " (1993) . Meanwhile , Sam and Martin enjoy their conversation together , and Frasier learns that Sam was supposed to marry a woman named Sheila " yesterday " .

After joyous family gathering , with Frasier and Sam alone in the living room , Sam confesses to Frasier that he has a relationship with Sheila for six months and that Sam left her at the wedding altar . Frasier assures Sam that Sam has wedding jitters and that Sam is ready to leave his old empty sex life behind in favor of a committed relationship . Frasier advises him to continue this relationship and to be always honest to her , especially about leaving her at the altar .

= = = " A Dirty Little Secret " = = =

At the café , Sam introduces his fiancée Sheila (Téa Leoni) to Frasier . After short conversation , Frasier realizes that Sheila is the woman with whom he slept three months ago . Then Frasier goes

to the hotel room , at where she and Sam are staying . Sheila explains that she is also a sex addict , like Sam , and that Sam and she met for the first time at one of group meetings of sexual addicts . Frasier begs her not to tell Sam about their short @-@ time affair . Suddenly , Sam arrives into the room and then , in order to be honest to her , confesses to Sheila that , at the day of their engagement , Sam slept with another woman twice . Then Sheila confesses that she slept with other two regular patrons : Paul (" short , bald , fat ") and then Cliff Clavin . Though he forgives her dalliance with Paul , Sam is disgusted to learn about Cliff and breaks off his relationship with Sheila . (When she turns to Frasier for help , he is equally disgusted about Cliff .)

At Frasier 's car , Sam , at Frasier 's relief and hesistance to confess , still does not find out about his fling with Sheila , yet Sam is bothered that Cliff and she made a fling together , and is relieved to go back to Boston . Frasier assures Sam that Sam has proven himself to be competent for a " meaningful " committed relationship , even if Sheila is " not the one " . However , Frasier begins to frown by Sam 's plans to pursue a cocktail waitress at an airport bar .

= = Reception = =

This episode originally aired on NBC on Tuesday , February 21 , 1995 , at 9 : 00 pm (Eastern) / 8 : 00 pm (Central) as part of the February ratings sweep , rivaling against ABC 's Home Improvement , CBS 's television movie Falling for You , and Fox 's broadcast of the 1992 film Housesitter , and landed on No. 6 with an 18 @.@ 8 rating and a 27 share .

Mike Drew from Milwaukee Journal Sentinel rated this episode three and a half stars out of four and praised Cheers character Sam Malone 's guest appearance in this episode , even if he disdained Sam 's sexual escapades . John Martin , a syndicate writer from The New York Times , found Sam 's interaction with characters of Frasier brilliant , especially Daphne Moon . Ginny Holbert from Chicago Sun @-@ Times rated this episode , three and a half stars out of four , as well , and called it a must for Cheers fans and trivia buffs who wanted inconsistencies of Frasier 's family background " [cleared] up " . Dusty Saunders from Rocky Mountain News was marveled by the comparison between " the macho Sam and the unathletic Niles " and presented blend of " the macho , rakish spirit of Cheers and the neurotic , off @-@ the @-@ wall style of Frasier . " Rick Kushman from The Sacramento Bee praised a reunion between two friends , Sam Malone and Frasier Crane , even when they are different from each other .

On the other hand , Donna Callea from The Daytona Beach News @-@ Journal found this episode disappointing , called Ted Danson 's guest reprisal as Sam Malone a ratings ploy , considered Danson 's performance apathetic and uncomfortable , and saw a reunion between Sam and Frasier Crane not well @-@ executed . Frazier Moore from The Associated Press called Sam 's appearance a ratings ploy , as well , but a must @-@ see for a Cheers fan and any other viewer who lacks interest on the show Frasier . Elaine Liner from Corpus Christi Caller @-@ Times found Sam Malone " sheepish " in this episode . Scott D. Pierce from Deseret News found this episode not as good as previous Frasier episodes that featured Frasier 's ex @-@ wife , Lilith Sternin (Bebe Neuwirth) , Sam " old and [tiring] " in Frasier , and Danson 's performance " lethargic " , but Sam D. Pierce found some of its moments funny , especially from " fresh " Niles . Reviews from Frasier Online , a fan dedication website for the show Frasier , were mixed . Some liked Sam 's interaction with Frasier 's family but found a romantic story and its scenes between Ted Danson and Téa Leoni poorly executed . One found Cheers references not suitable for viewers not familiar with the show 's predecessor Cheers , especially ones used for humor .