

= The Injury =

" The Injury " is the twelfth episode of the second season of the American comedy television series The Office , and the show 's eighteenth episode overall . The episode was written by Mindy Kaling , who also acts in the show as Kelly Kapoor , and directed by Bryan Gordon . " The Injury " episode first aired in the United States on January 12 , 2006 on NBC . The episode guest starred Marcus York as Billy Merchant .

The series depicts the everyday lives of office employees in the Scranton , Pennsylvania branch of the fictional Dunder Mifflin Paper Company . In the episode , Michael Scott (Steve Carell) accidentally burns his foot on his George Foreman Grill , but insists on coming to work anyway . When none of his employees , except for Dwight Schrute (Rainn Wilson) , help him , Michael feels under @-@ appreciated . Meanwhile , Dwight starts acting strangely nice to everyone , especially Pam Beesley (Jenna Fischer) .

" The Injury " was originally conceived by Greg Daniels to be a humorous follow @-@ up to the previous episode , " Booze Cruise " . According to B. J. Novak the idea for the episode started out as an idea in the writing room that just " spun out of control " . The episode was originally going to be called " My Grilled Foot " , but it was later changed when the writers decided the name was " too weird " . " The Injury " received widespread acclaim from critics , now regarded by both critics and fans as one of the show 's greatest episodes . The episode earned a Nielsen rating of 5 @. @ 1 in the 18 ? 49 demographic and was viewed by 10 @. @ 3 million viewers , making it , at the time , the highest @-@ rated episode of the series .

= = Plot = =

Michael Scott (Steve Carell) accidentally burns his foot while grilling bacon on his George Foreman Grill , which he keeps next to his bed . After he makes a distress call to the office , Dwight Schrute (Rainn Wilson) comes to " rescue " him , but crashes his car into a pole and suffers a concussion . The injury makes Dwight more likable and much nicer to his co @-@ workers , particularly Pam Beesley (Jenna Fischer) .

Michael becomes upset with the staff 's lack of compassion towards his " disability " , and brings in Billy Merchant (Marcus A. York) , the building 's property manager who uses a wheelchair , to discuss what it is like to be disabled . Billy soon leaves after Michael makes several offensive remarks , but not before pointing out to Jim Halpert (John Krasinski) that Dwight has suffered a concussion .

Jim and Michael take Dwight to the hospital where Michael insists that his burned foot is a more serious injury than Dwight 's blunt force trauma . Before they go , Pam bids " goodbye " to the concussed Dwight , aware that she will probably never see the good @-@ natured version of Dwight Schrute ever again .

= = Production = =

This episode was the second episode of the series directed by Bryan Gordon . Gordon had previously directed the first season episode " The Alliance " . " The Injury " was written by Mindy Kaling , who also acts for the show as customer service representative Kelly Kapoor . After the character development that had occurred in the previous episode , " Booze Cruise " , Greg Daniels decided to create a more inane episode that involved " Michael 's grilled foot " . Writer and actor B. J. Novak said the idea for " Injury " started out as an idea in the writing room that just " spun out of control " . The original plan was for Michael to have fallen asleep in the sun , while having sunblock all over him , except for his foot . According to BJ Novak , the episode was originally going to be called " My Grilled Foot " , but writer Mindy Kaling thought it was " too weird for people to tune in and watch that " . Novak has described " The Injury " as one of his favorite episodes , and said of it , " I don 't think any other TV show would have made an episode from that starting point , and yet it was one of the funniest and most relatable episodes as it went on that we 've ever had . "

The episode guest starred Marcus York , as the " no @-@ nonsense " building manager for the Scranton business park . York described his character as " just trying to do his job " . York recalls being nervous during filming , and " drawing a blank " on his lines during the first ' run @-@ through ' , because of his anxiousness around the cast members , but soon Marcus " smoothed @-@ out " . John Krasinski said that the van scene was his favorite to shoot , and that it " will go down in history as one of the most fun moments I ? ve ever been a part of " . After his portrayal of the character , York received several positive fan letters , who praised his performance as the straight man in a hectic work environment .

= = Cultural references = =

Michael reveals that he burned his foot on a George Foreman Grill , a product promoted by George Foreman , a former champion boxer . The " Prism DuroSport " that Pam received from Roy as a Christmas present serves as a knock off of the popular music device , the iPod . When Michael asks the office what his foot looks like , Stanley replies , " Mail Boxes Etc . " , a reference to the name of a company absorbed by UPS in 2001 .

During Michael 's seminar on famous handicapped people , two pictures on the wall are of Tom Hanks : one from the 1994 film Forrest Gump , and one from the 1988 film Big , which Michael confuses for the 1993 film Philadelphia . During the scene , Kelly also name @-@ drops Robert Loggia . In an attempt to get Dwight into Meredith 's van , Jim tells him that they are going to Chuck E. Cheese , to which Michael replies that he is " so sick of " the restaurant .

= = Reception = =

" The Injury " originally aired on NBC in the United States on November 22 , 2005 . The episode received a 5 @. @ 1 rating / 12 % share among adults between the ages of 18 and 49 . This means that it was seen by 5 @. @ 1 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and 12 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . The episode ranked as the third half @-@ hour comedy during the week of January 16 , and the series ranked as the number fifteenth highest @-@ rated series out of 113 others , in the 18 ? 49 demographic . The episode was viewed by 10 @. @ 3 million viewers , making it the highest rated episode of The Office at the time , beating the series ' pilot , which received a Nielsen rating of only 5 @. @ 0 .

An encore presentation of the episode , on July 5 , 2006 , received a 1 @. @ 8 / 6 rating and was viewed by over 3 @. @ 9 million viewers : an increase by 29 percent of its lead @-@ in audience . Another encore presentation on August 22 , 2006 received a 2 @. @ 0 / 6 rating , was viewed by 5 @. @ 3 million viewers , retained 100 percent of its lead @-@ in " My Name is Earl " audience , and ranked as the most @-@ watched episode of The Office during the summer of 2006 .

Since its airing , " The Injury " has received critical acclaim from television critics . The scene featuring Dwight crashing his car received specific attention . IGN ranked the scene with Dwight getting in a car accident as its seventh best moment in the first two seasons , noting that " [t] he fact that this show can get such inspired and unusual comedy from what is essentially a puke joke is a testament to how clever The Office is . " Rolling Stone named the same scene as the twentieth funniest in The Office 's first three seasons . TV Squad 's Michael Sciannamea said that " The Injury " was " another solid episode " and that the " show gets better with each and every week . " M. Giant of Television Without Pity graded the episode with an " A ? " . Francis Rizzo III from DVD Talk wrote positively of the episode and praised the performance of Rainn Wilson as Dwight and wrote that " nothing he does compares " to his performance in " The Injury " . He called Wilson 's performance as Dwight " flat @-@ out strange " and noted that the episode , along with several others , " wouldn 't be nearly as entertaining " without his character . Mindy Kaling later stated in an interview that it was her favorite episode of the show that she had written . She later expanded that the entry 's " full @-@ on loopy " quality made it humorous . She noted that the episode was " so funny to me , because what happened to [Michael] is so stupid . "