

= Kill the Alligator and Run =

" Kill the Alligator and Run " is the nineteenth episode of the eleventh season of the American animated television sitcom The Simpsons . It originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on April 30 , 2000 . In the episode , Homer suffers from a nervous breakdown after taking a quiz that reveals he only has three years left to live . To calm himself down , he and the rest of the Simpson family go to Florida for vacation . There , they end up in the middle of a raucous spring break . Homer joins in on the party and ends up getting himself and his family in trouble for killing the state 's beloved mascot ? an alligator named Captain Jack . The Simpsons run from the law and take jobs at a small restaurant while hiding from the police .

Diedrich Bader guest starred in " Kill the Alligator and Run " as a sheriff that tries to arrest the Simpson family , while Robert Evans and Charlie Rose guest starred in a scene in which Homer watches the two in an interview on television . Kid Rock and Joe C. also made guest appearances as themselves in the episode , performing at a concert in Florida that Homer attends . The episode was written by John Swartzwelder and directed by Jen Kamerman . According to The Simpsons showrunner Mike Scully , it is despised by many fans of the show particularly for having an outlandish plotline . The reception of " Kill the Alligator and Run " by critics has been negative . Around 7 @. @ 46 million American homes tuned in to watch the episode during its original airing . In 2008 , it was released on DVD along with the rest of the episodes of the eleventh season .

= = Plot = =

Homer gets a magazine loaded with personality tests and quizzes his friends and family with them . Later on , he takes his own test which reveals that has only three years left to live . Terrified of his supposedly impending death , he develops insomnia and goes insane . Homer visits the Springfield Nuclear Power Plant 's psychiatrist , who suggests that he take a long vacation . The Simpsons go on a trip to Florida and find themselves in the middle of a raucous spring break when they get there . Marge wants Homer to stay in his hotel room , but he escapes to party and attends a concert featuring Joe C. and Kid Rock . Homer becomes the life of spring break until it ends and the wild college students return to their studies .

Homer , who still wants to party , rents an airboat and forces his family to come with him . He races through a swamp , accidentally killing the state 's most famous resident and reptile ? an alligator named Captain Jack , whom Marge , Maggie , Lisa , and Bart saw on a tour earlier while Homer made a fool of himself at the concert . A sheriff quickly arrives on the scene and despite the fact that Homer is the sole guilty culprit , the entire family is charged for killing the alligator . The family members flee from the sheriff and during a car chase they are hit by a train that pushes their car on the rail for several miles . When the Simpsons get off of the rail , they escape to a restaurant where they are given employment . They live in a nearby trailer and progressively turn into hillbillies . The sheriff eventually tracks them down and kidnaps them while they are sleeping . For their crimes (and Homer 's foolish attempt at defending himself in court) , the family is put into forced labor . One night when they are working at a party held by a judge in front of the capitol , tending to the guests (and failing to escape) , Captain Jack strolls out of the capitol 's doors . It turns out that he was never dead but rather knocked out . The family is acquitted , though they are banned from entering the state of Florida again (and several other states , excluding Arizona and North Dakota) .

= = Production = =

" Kill the Alligator and Run " was written by John Swartzwelder and directed by Jen Kamerman as part of the eleventh season of The Simpsons (1999 ? 2000) . When the animation department finished its work on the episode , it had ended up being about four minutes too long and the staff of the show was forced to make some difficult cuts . One scene that was cut saw Captain Jack lying in state at the capitol in Florida , with Kid Rock being one of the people present to pay their respects to the alligator . The Simpsons showrunner Mike Scully has expressed regret for cutting this scene out

because it " hurts the logic " later in the episode when Captain Jack crawls out of the capitol and reveals himself to everyone , without any explanation to how he got there .

Actor Diedrich Bader guest starred in the episode as the sheriff . The Simpsons producer Ian Maxtone @-@ Graham directed Bader during his recording session , telling the guest star to do a Southern accent . The episode also features guest appearances from talk show host Charlie Rose and film producer Robert Evans as themselves . Evans and Rose appear in a scene at the beginning of the episode , when Homer stays up late and watches television because of his fear that he might die in his sleep . Rose is seen interviewing Evans on the television , and as they are talking about Evan 's film Love Story , Rose says : " And the critics loved it , too . I remember Vincent Canby said , [turns to the camera] ' I 'm going to kill you , Homer . You are so dead . ' " The last part is imagined by Homer , who has become incredibly sleepy . Later in the interview , when talking about his unsuccessful film The Two Jakes , Evans says : " I said to myself , ' Evans , you forgot Hollywood Rule No. 1 : [turns to the camera] Kill Homer Simpson . ' "

Musicians Kid Rock and Joe C. guest starred in the episode as themselves , performing at the annual spring break concert that Homer sneaks out to attend . When Joe C. makes his first appearance on stage in the episode , Homer mistakes him for a child that has lost his parents . After performing his song " Bawitdaba " , Kid Rock tells the audience that he is going to pour out forty gallons of malt liquor on the curb as a way of showing respect to his homies that could not make it to the concert . When Homer hears this he starts to drink the malt liquor . Just as Kid Rock and Joe C. are about to stop him by hurling Joe C. (now wearing a spiked helmet) at him with a slingshot , the sheriff arrives and settles the situation . Scully said in an interview with the Detroit Free Press that the staff of the show chose Kid Rock and Joe C. for the episode because the two " have a lot of stage presence " and visually are " a funny combination , " and because the staff thought " they would be funny playing off Homer . " According to Scully , the two musicians " had a great sense of humor [...] about themselves , " with Kid Rock asking if " he could add a couple of his own lines . He wanted to introduce himself as ' the pimp of the nation . ' We kept that in the show . It 's quite a title . " Kid Rock recorded some of his dialog over the phone , but also paid a 45 @-@ minute visit to the Simpsons studio in Los Angeles to record lines . Scully thought it looked like the singer enjoyed the experience and was surprised to see that he arrived on time . " My first reaction to that was , ' What kind of rock star is this ? ' , " Scully jokingly told the Detroit Free Press . All of Joe C. ' s lines were recorded over the phone .

= = Release = =

The episode originally aired on the Fox network in the United States on April 30 , 2000 . It was viewed in approximately 7 @.@ 46 million households that night . With a Nielsen rating of 7 @.@ 4 , the episode finished 46th in the ratings for the week of April 23 ? 30 , 2000 . It was the third highest @-@ rated broadcast on Fox that week , following an episode of Malcolm in the Middle (which received an 8 @.@ 2 rating) and an episode of The X @-@ Files (which received a 7 @.@ 7 rating) . On October 7 , 2008 , " Kill the Alligator and Run " was released on DVD as part of the box set The Simpsons ? The Complete Eleventh Season . Staff members Mike Scully , Ian Maxtone @-@ Graham , George Meyer , Matt Selman , Julie Thacker , and Steven Dean Moore , as well as cast member Dan Castellaneta and guest star Diedrich Bader , participated in the DVD audio commentary for the episode . Deleted scenes from the episode were also included in the box set .

According to Scully , " Kill the Alligator and Run " is often cited by fans of The Simpsons as one of the worst episodes ever because of its structure and outlandish nature . Scully has said that the episode is " kind of three stories in one . " Meyer , a writer and producer on the show , said in the DVD audio commentary that the fans thought it was " kind of a frenetic and crazy , chaotic episode , " adding : " I can 't disagree . But we had a lot of fun writing it , and we stand by it . " While reviewing the eleventh season of The Simpsons , DVD Movie Guide 's Colin Jacobson commented on the episode , writing : " Wow ? this may be the most jumbled Simpsons to date ! The episode seems to suffer from ADD as it can ? t focus on any topic for very long . It flits from one gag to another with abandon and rarely makes much sense ? or produces many laughs . Yeah , it has a few amusing

moments , but it ? s too scattershot to succeed . " Annie Alleman of The Herald News , on the other hand , named " Kill the Alligator and Run " her eighth favorite Simpsons episode . Nancy Basile of About.com thought the best scene of the episode is the one where the Simpsons have become hillbillies and are sitting on their porch , and Bart says " I 'm getting used to this country life . Teacher says I 'm whittling at a tenth @-@ grade level . " Corey Deiterman of the Houston Press listed Kid Rock at number one in his list of the top five worst musical guests in Simpsons history .