

= Whale Whores =

" Whale Whores " is the eleventh episode of the thirteenth season of the American animated television series South Park . The 192nd overall episode of the series , it aired on Comedy Central in the United States on October 28 , 2009 . In the episode , Stan joins an anti @-@ whaling crew in order to save dolphins and whales from Japanese whalers .

The episode was written and directed by series co @-@ creator Trey Parker , and was rated TV @-@ MA LV in the United States . " Whale Whores " addressed the topic of Japanese whaling , condemning both the whalers themselves and the activists who fight against them . The episode is particularly critical of the reality television series Whale Wars and its star Paul Watson , an environmental activist who is prominently featured in " Whale Whores " .

In a response to the episode , Paul Watson said he was not offended by the portrayal , and was glad the show brought the issue of illegal whaling to a large audience . The episode also featured references to the show Deadliest Catch and a rendition of the Lady Gaga song " Poker Face " sung by Eric Cartman on the game Rock Band . A downloadable version of the song was released for the game in March . " Whale Whores " was released on DVD and Blu @-@ ray along with the rest of the thirteenth season on March 16 , 2010 . The episode was nominated for a Genesis Award , but lost to the Family Guy episode " Dog Gone " .

= = Plot = =

The Marsh family is spending Stan 's ninth birthday at a public aquarium in Denver . As the Marshes enjoy interacting with the trained bottlenose dolphins , Japanese armed with spears suddenly storm the dolphinarium and kill all the dolphins . The Japanese perform similar attacks at several other aquariums , and at an NFL game , where they kill members of the Miami Dolphins football team . Stan asks his friends Kyle , Cartman , and Kenny to help him take on the cause of saving the dolphins and whales from the Japanese . Kyle declines , feeling they can 't change Japan 's views on the issue . Cartman and Kenny are much more interested in playing the video game Rock Band , professing they " don 't give two shits about stupid @-@ ass whales " . Eventually , Butters informs Stan about the television show Whale Wars , stating that they can take volunteers to help them . Seeing this as his chance , Stan takes Butters ' advice and joins host Paul Watson and his crew aboard the Sea Shepherd , but is underwhelmed by their method of throwing " stinky butter " at Japanese whalers in an effort to deter them . After the Japanese whalers kill Watson with a harpoon , Stan destroys their ship by igniting their fuel barrels with a flare gun . Stan becomes the new captain and leads a more successful campaign in impeding the Japanese whaling effort by employing more aggressive methods . The crew ends up getting interviewed by Larry King , who describes Paul Watson as an " incompetent media whore " and questions Stan on his intentions of increasing ratings with violence . Stan dismisses the charge and contends he is only interested in saving the whales , not ratings .

Wanting to be on television , Cartman and Kenny join the ship 's crew under false pretenses of wanting to save the whales . After a brief run @-@ in with Captain Sig Hansen and his crew from the show Deadliest Catch , Japanese pilots launch kamikaze attacks on the Sea Shepherd . The suicidal planes kill the Whale Wars crew except for Stan , Cartman and Kenny . The trio are captured and brought to Japan , where Emperor Akihito tells them retaliation for the bombing of Hiroshima is the primary motive for Japan 's whaling efforts . He shows them a doctored photograph ? given to Japan by the United States after the bombing ? of the Enola Gay piloted by a dolphin and a killer whale . According to him , Japan was so grateful the Americans gave the Japanese these photos they declared peace . Knowing the picture is a fake , Stan decides to reveal the truth about the bombing , but Cartman reminds him that the Japanese seek to drive the entire species of the perpetrators to extinction . Claiming the U.S. government has authorized him to show the " original " photo , Stan presents Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and other Japanese officials with a new doctored photo showing a cow and chicken in the Enola Gay (created by Kyle , who Stan managed to phone beforehand) . The Japanese become infuriated , now believing cows and chickens had

modified the original photo to frame the innocent whales and dolphins . The Japanese agree to cease their whaling efforts and start slaughtering cows and chickens , storming farms full of the animals . The episode ends as Randy congratulates Stan for making the Japanese " normal , like us . "

= = Theme = =

" Whale Whores " addresses the controversies surrounding Japanese whaling , which had been a subject of considerable media attention around the time the South Park episode first aired . The episode is equally condemning of all sides involved in the matter , including the Japanese whalers themselves and the activists who fight against them . By having the Japanese attack the dolphins at the Denver Aquarium in the middle of a dolphin riding demonstration , it has been suggested the episode highlights the link between visiting dolphins at marine parks and the reality of how aquatic wildlife are captured and slaughtered . " Whale Whores " is critical of the practice of whaling , as it displays primitive characteristics of the whalers . In the final scene , the show also draws parallel between Japanese whaling industry and generally accepted meat and poultry industries .

However , the episode prominently features and mocks the animal rights and environmental activist Paul Watson and his Animal Planet reality series , Whale Wars . Watson has received wide criticism for his method of disrupting whale hunts by at times attacking and sinking Japanese and Norwegian whaling ships . " Whale Whores " presents Watson and his show in a way that mocks his attempts to garner media attention by simply lying rather than doing anything productive . The episode mocks Whale Wars and its attempts to present mundane ship @-@ board activities as dramatic television . This is particularly illustrated in newspaper headlines after Stan takes over Watson 's ship : " New Captain Turns Vegan Pussies Into Real Pirates " and " Whale Wars Gets Better : Things Actually Happen ! " Watson himself is also portrayed in a physically unflattering way , with his stomach too fat to be entirely covered by his shirt . " Whale Whores " also refers to the criticisms that Watson bends the truth in order to further his popularity . This is particularly reflected through the fictional interview with Larry King , who calls Watson " an unorganized , incompetent media whore who thought lying to everyone was OK as long as it served his cause . " The fact that Whale Wars gets better ratings after Stan takes over and employs more violent tactics is a satire of the tendency in Whale Wars , and television in general , to exploit violence for money and viewership .

= = Cultural references = =

The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are identified as the cause of Japanese whaling . The two Japanese cities were destroyed by atomic weapons during the final stages of World War II under orders by U.S. President Harry Truman , which killed about 220 @,@ 000 people . In " Whale Whores " , the Japanese are presented with a doctored picture of the Enola Gay , the B @-@ 29 Superfortress bomber that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima . The picture shows a dolphin and a whale piloting the plane to bomb the city . The Miami Dolphins , a National Football League professional football team , are killed along with real dolphins by the whalers in " Whale Whores " . Near the end of the episode , Stan and the crew of the MY Steve Irwin encounter fishing ship captain Sig Hansen and his crew from the Discovery Channel reality series , Deadliest Catch . The scene with Paul Watson 's crew throwing " stinky butter " at the whalers refers to Watson and his crew 's practice of throwing stink bombs containing butyric acid , an acid found in rancid butter and cheese , at Japanese whaling vessels , including the factory vessel , the Nisshin Maru .

An Entertainment Weekly magazine cover is shown with the headline , " We ? re STILL Remembering Michael Jackson " , a reference to the extremely large amount of media coverage surrounding the then @-@ recent death of pop singer Michael Jackson . During one scene , Stan frightens off a group of Japanese whalers by uncovering a large statue of Godzilla , the famous Japanese movie monster . During the episode Kyle , Kenny and Cartman are shown performing Lady Gaga 's song " Poker Face " on the video game Rock Band . On March 16 , 2010 , Rock Band developer Harmonix released this version of the song (along with the original version) as

downloadable content for the game .

= = Reception = =

" Whale Whores " received generally mixed reviews . Ken Tucker of Entertainment Weekly described the criticism of the save @-@ the @-@ whales conservationists as a " delightfully savage ridicule " . Brian Jacks of MTV complimented the show 's focus on whale conservation , writing , " Leave it to the hard @-@ hitting folks at South Park to do more for conservationism than fifteen cable reality shows put together . " Josh Modell of The A.V. Club 's said the episode was unfunny and mocked a television series that was " culturally insignificant " and not particularly well @-@ known . Modell wrote , " The show 's star , Paul Watson , seems to have really pissed off South Park 's creators Parker and Stone [...] Fine , but could you make me laugh a few times while you beat me over the head with information about a guy that I couldn 't care less about ? "

Ramsey Isler of IGN called " Whale Whores " an entertaining episode , but said the episode could have provided more meaningful satire and did not explain the whaling issue very well , especially considering the show 's target audience was probably unfamiliar with it . Isler praised some of the individual jokes revolving around the Japanese attacks , and called Cartman 's " Poker Face " rendition a classic South Park moment , but dismissed the Enola Gay twist as " stupid " . Carlos Delgado of iF Magazine said " South Park swung and missed " with " Whale Whores " . Delgado said many of the jokes were random and " weird " , particularly the Enola Gay twist and the Japanese kamikaze attacks .

Paul Watson said he was not offended by his portrayal in the episode , and was glad " Whale Whores " brought the issue of dolphin and whale slaughter to a large audience , as well as the role of the Japanese in the deaths . Watson said , " It 's a tough situation we are in . We can 't hurt the whalers and we have to stay within the boundaries of the law in opposing illegal whaling operations . If that makes us pussies , so be it . It 's better than being portrayed as killers . " Watson said the episode failed to portray that his actions have hurt Japanese profits from whaling , but that the episode demonstrated how successful Whale Wars and the Sea Shepherd has been .

In February 2010 , " Whale Whores " was nominated for a Genesis Award in the television comedy category . The Genesis Awards pay tribute to news and entertainment media for outstanding work that raise public understanding of animal issues . " Whale Whores " ultimately lost to the Family Guy episode " Dog Gone " .

= = Home release = =

" Whale Whores " , along with the thirteen other episodes from South Park 's thirteenth season , were released on a three @-@ disc DVD set and two @-@ disc Blu @-@ ray set in the United States on March 16 , 2010 . The sets included brief audio commentaries by Parker and Stone for each episode , a collection of deleted scenes , and a special mini @-@ feature Inside Xbox : A Behind @-@ the @-@ Scenes Tour of South Park Studios , which discussed the process behind animating the show with Inside Xbox host Major Nelson .