

= Hot to the Touch =

" Hot to the Touch " is the first episode of the fourth season of the American animated television series Adventure Time . The episode was written and storyboarded by Cole Sanchez and Rebecca Sugar , from a story by Patrick McHale , Kent Osborne , and Pendleton Ward . It originally aired on Cartoon Network on April 2 , 2012 . The episode serves as a direct continuation of the third season episode " Incendium " .

The series follows the adventures of Finn (voiced by Jeremy Shada) , a human boy , and his best friend and adoptive brother Jake (voiced by John DiMaggio) , a dog with magical powers to change shape and grow and shrink at will . In this episode , Finn develops a crush on Flame Princess (voiced by Jessica DiCicco) and tries to get to know her , which proves difficult due to her destructive and uncontrollable power .

The episode was the first to be storyboarded by Sanchez and Sugar ; Sugar 's previous storyboard partner , Adam Muto , helped clean up the episode 's drawings . Sugar wrote a short rap for the episode , rapped by Andy Milonakis . Originally , Sugar wanted Milonakis to write his own , but he felt the song was of quality and he wanted to rap Sugar 's version . " Hot to the Touch " was seen by 2 @. @ 655 million viewers and marked a significant increase in ratings for the series . It received largely positive critical reviews , with reviewers from both The A.V. Club and Slate applauding the episode 's emotional range .

= = Plot = =

Finn pursues Flame Princess (voiced by Jessica DiCicco) , trying to explain to her that he does not want to hurt her . However , Flame Princess , confused by Finn 's aversion to fire , assumes that he merely wants to taunt her . She ventures to the Goblin Kingdom , intent on turning it into her new domain . Finn and Jake , meanwhile , return to the tree fort and , with the help of N.E.P.T.R. (voiced by Andy Milonakis) , build flame @-@ retardant battle robots .

The two heroes descend on the Goblin Kingdom , and begin putting out the fire ; this , in turn , hurts Flame Princess , both emotionally and physically , judging from her shedding of a single tear . Finn , horrified at the pain he has caused the object of his affections , exits his robot and calls for Flame Princess 's attention , before crying . The tears alert Flame Princess that Finn is a " water elemental " , and that the two will only hurt each other , due to the opposition of their natural states .

= = Production = =

" Hot to the Touch " was written and storyboarded by Cole Sanchez and Rebecca Sugar , from a story developed by series creator Pendleton Ward , Patrick McHale , and Kent Osborne . This was the first episode that Sugar and Sanchez worked on together ; Sugar 's previous partner Adam Muto served as the episode 's creative director , and also helped clean up the episode 's storyboards . Sugar was excited to get a chance to show how Flame Princess interacted in the Land of Ooo , because in " Incendium " , she was only shown inside of her lantern . The line about Finn wanting to play BMO with Flame Princess was based on Sanchez 's experiences with his high school girlfriend ; he reasoned that , since Finn was younger , his ultimate idea of love would be to sit next to his love interest and play video games .

The episode features Andy Milonakis reprising his role as N.E.P.T.R. , a character that was last seen in the first season episode " What is Life ? " The short rap " Working for the Master " that is sung by N.E.P.T.R. was written by Sugar . She had originally planned for her demo version to merely be a filler track , as she expected Milonakis to want to write his own rap . To her surprise , however , Milonakis enjoyed her version and wanted to perform it the way it was written . Sugar 's father , Rob , later released her demo version on his YouTube channel . Series composer Tim Kiefer produced the song 's instrumental . Inspired by Wu @-@ Tang Clan 's penchant for sampling , Kiefer took his music from the season one episode " What is Life ? " and edited it substantially , creating the " clattery bumpin ' beat " featured in the episode .

= = Reception = =

" Hot to the Touch " aired on Cartoon Network on April 2 , 2012 . The episode was seen by 2 @. @ 655 million viewers . The episode also ranked as the number one telecast for all children demographics , according to Nielsen ratings . It also marked a 96 percent increase in ratings , when the numbers for " Hot to the Touch " were compared to the ratings for the same time period in 2011 . The episode first saw physical release as part of the 2014 DVD , Princess Day , which included 16 episodes from the series ' second through sixth seasons . It was later re @-@ released as part of the complete fourth season DVD in October 2014 .

Oliver Sava of The A.V. Club gave the episode a largely positive review , noting that " in the episode ' s 10 minutes , the writers create an apt metaphor for pubescent dating , as Finn and FP struggle to make a relationship work . " He noted the symbolism inherent in making Flame Princess a fire elemental , writing that " fire is the perfect element for a hormonal teenage princess , and FP can ' t control her emotions , burning everything in her path as she reacts to Finn ' s advances . " Sava also complimented the return of N.E.P.T.R. , as well as his short rap , which Sava called " a perfect little musical interlude at the midway point of the episode . "

Mike Lechevaillier of Slate magazine , in a review of the fourth season , wrote that " it 's frequently astonishing to observe the confidence and wide @-@ ranging appeal with which Adventure Time unswervingly depicts the many stages of infatuation . " The reviewer highlighted " Hot to the Touch " as an example of such an example , noting that Flame Princess represents " an uncomplicated yet vastly pertinent metaphor for the hypothesis that the closer you cherish someone , the likelier they are to singe your soft exterior and the easier it is for them to affectionately melt your exposed heart . " Marc Snetiker of Entertainment Weekly awarded the episode a " B " , noting that " the season four premiere of this inspired ' toon about a boy and his precocious dog is as colorful , clever , and unpredictably funny as ever . "