

= Ricardio the Heart Guy =

" Ricardio the Heart Guy " is the seventh episode of the first season of the American animated television series Adventure Time . The episode was written and storyboarded by Bert Youn and Sean Jimenez , from a story by Merriwether Williams , Tim McKeon , and Adam Muto . It originally aired on Cartoon Network on April 26 , 2010 . The episode guest stars George Takei as the title character , Ricardio .

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 believes that Princess Bubblegum 's (voiced by Hynden Walch) new friend , a heart named Ricardio , is evil , and is proven right after learning that Ricardio is the heart of the Ice King (voiced by Tom Kenny) . Ricardio reveals that he wants to " make out " with Bubblegum 's heart , but he is defeated by Finn and Jake .

Ricardio would become a minor recurring villain , reappearing in the fourth season entry " Lady & Peebles " . After the episode aired , series composer Casey James Basichis posted a video explaining his inspiration and the method in which he produced the music featured in the episode . Basichis largely scored the episode with opera music , because he felt the genre suited Ricardio . " Ricardio the Heart Guy " was watched by 1 @.@ 91 million people and received largely positive critical attention , with many reviews praising Takei 's voice work .

= = Plot = =

After the Ice King captures Princess Bubblegum , Finn and Jake manage to save her . Bubblegum is so happy that she decides to throw a party for Finn as a thank you . Finn makes a Paper Crane for Bubblegum as a gift , but Jake says that Finn has a crush on her , which Finn denies . When they arrive at the party , however , no one notices them ; everyone , including Bubblegum , is too preoccupied with a heart @-@ shaped man named Ricardio . He and Bubblegum begin discussing scientific topics on the dance floor , which leaves Finn feeling jealous .

Finn begins to think that Ricardio is a villain , but Jake just notes that Finn is jealous . However , the two spy on Ricardio to see if he is evil or not . They see Ricardio going into a dumpster and acquiring a rope and broken bottles . Then they see him throwing the Ice King into the dumpster , so they decide to question Ricardio about being a super @-@ villain . Finn punches Ricardio right when Bubblegum comes . Mad and upset , she takes Ricardio away . However , the Ice King soon crawls toward Finn and Jake , looking sickly . He reveals that Ricardio is actually his own heart , which gained sentience after the Ice King performed a failed love spell . Ricardio desires to cut out Bubblegum 's heart and make it his bride .

Finn and Jake race to Bubblegum 's castle and find her tied to a chair , with Ricardio about to rip her heart out . Finn and Jake then fight Ricardio and manage to beat him up . The Ice King crawls into the castle and places Ricardio back into his chest . Later during dinner , Bubblegum tells Finn that he does not need to be jealous anymore , but Finn denies that he was jealous in the first place .

= = Production = =

" Ricardio the Heart Guy " was written and storyboarded by Bert Youn and Sean Jimenez , from a story by Merriwether Williams , Tim McKeon , and Adam Muto . Directed by Larry Leichliter , the episode introduces the recurring villain Ricardio , played by George Takei , a character that Tom Kenny later called " the valentine from Hell " . Takei later reprised the role in the season four episode " Lady and Peebles " . Initial drafts of the character featured him looking more like an anthropomorphic heart , complete with arteries and ventricles . Ricardio is one of the few individuals in the Adventure Time universe to have a highly detailed face ; during the commentary for the episode , his design was compared to that of the face on the moon in the 1902 French silent film *Le Voyage dans la Lune* , based on H.G. Wells 's 1901 novel *The First Men in the Moon* .

After the episode aired , series composer Casey Basichis posted a video explaining his inspiration and method of producing the music featured in the episode . According to the video , Basichis created a " skeleton " of the score in his shower using his voice and a ukulele ; the audio was captured on a phone . Originally , the score was going to have a " New York City , taxi , and jazz " feel , but Basichis was unhappy with the genre choice , and changed the feel . For the music that played while the Ice King interacted with Ricardio , Basichis was inspired by the score from the original seven @-@ minute short . In addition , opera singer Karen Vuong lent her voice to the episode . According to Basichis , Vuong was able to record her vocals successfully in one take . Basichis chose opera because he knew it had a reputation for being " sickeningly intellectual " and " preoccupied with murder " , traits that he felt suited Ricardio .

= = Reception = =

" Ricardio the Heart Guy " first aired on Cartoon Network on April 26 , 2010 . The episode was watched by 1 @.@ 91 million viewers , and scored a 1 @.@ 3 / 2 percent Nielsen household rating , meaning that it was seen by 1 @.@ 3 percent of all households and 2 percent of all households watching television at the time of the episode 's airing . The episode first saw physical release as part of the 2011 Adventure Time : My Two Favorite People DVD , which included 12 episodes from the series ' first two seasons . It was later re @-@ released as part of the complete first season DVD in July 2012 ; commentary for the episode was also included on the DVD .

The episode garnered mostly positive reviews from critics . Matt Fowler of IGN , in a review of the My Two Favorite People DVD , noted that while " the idea of a walking , talking heart named Ricardio [?] who plans to cut out Princess Bubblegum 's heart is potent nightmare fuel " , the show nevertheless " finds a way to make that grim idea accessible and fun . "

Takei 's appearance as Ricardio gained critical favor . Charlie Anders of io9 named Takei 's appearance in the episode as one of his " greatest moments " , noting , " how could we have missed that Takei did the voice for this sleazy science @-@ talking heart on Adventure Time , our new favorite show ? " Tyler Foster of DVD Talk called Ricardio one of the highlights of the season . The A.V. Club reviewer Oliver Sava , in a review for " Lady & Peebles " , wrote that Ricardio is " always welcome on this series , largely due to Takei ? s delightful voice work . " Furthermore , he praised the way that Takei delivered his lines , noting that " there ? s a theatrical smarminess to his vocals that is a stark contrast to the Ice King ? s nasality " , and that " Takei always sounds like he ? s having a great time reading the ridiculous lines that are written for him . "