

= Ron & Tammy : Part Two =

" Ron & Tammy : Part Two " (sometimes referred to as " Ron and Tammy II ") is the fourth episode of the third season of the American comedy television series Parks and Recreation , and the 34th overall episode of the series . It originally aired on NBC in the United States on February 10 , 2011 . In the episode , Tom tries to make Ron jealous by dating Ron 's ex @-@ wife Tammy , causing the two to resume their unhealthy relationship . Meanwhile , Leslie and Ben ask the police to provide security for the harvest festival , and April is assigned to be Chris 's secretary .

Written by Emily Kapnek and directed by Tucker Gates , the episode is considered a sequel to the second season episode " Ron and Tammy " . Megan Mullally , the real @-@ life wife of actor Nick Offerman , reprises her role as Tammy . Mullally and Offerman were permitted a great deal of improvisation during their scenes . " Ron & Tammy : Part Two " also features guest appearances by Eric Pierpoint as Pawnee Police Chief Trumple and Jama Williamson in the last of several guest performances as Tom 's ex @-@ wife , Wendy .

When the episode first broadcast , NBC ran a commercial advertising " April and Andy 's wedding registry " on the official Parks and Recreation website . Although apparently a mistake intended to refer to Ron and Tammy 's registry , some commentators suggested it could be indicative of future events in the series . According to Nielsen Media Research , " Ron & Tammy : Part Two " was seen by 5 @.@ 03 million household viewers , a slight increase from the previous episode , " Time Capsule " . It received critical acclaim , with several commentators praising the repairing of Ron and Tammy , as well as Nick Offerman 's performance .

= = Plot = =

Ron 's (Nick Offerman) ex @-@ wife Tammy (Megan Mullally) continues her efforts to sabotage his life , but the normally susceptible Ron easily resists her seductions because he is now in a solid relationship with Tom 's (Aziz Ansari) ex @-@ wife Wendy (Jama Williamson) , much to Tom 's jealousy . Later , however , Wendy and Ron break up after she announces she is moving back to Canada . Meanwhile , Leslie (Amy Poehler) and the parks department throw a party for the Pawnee police department , where they hope to ask them to provide security for the upcoming Harvest Festival . During the party , Ben (Adam Scott) awkwardly fails to get Chief Trumple 's (Eric Pierpoint) favor . Tom , unaware of Ron and Wendy 's breakup , arrives at the party with Tammy to make him jealous . After bickering loudly , Ron and Tammy both decide to leave the party together to talk and try to make amends . However , a night filled with drunken sex and mayhem ensues , ending with the two getting remarried and ending up in jail .

After getting Ron released , the parks department holds an intervention for him about Tammy , even playing a previously recorded tape of Ron warning himself to stay away from her . Ron ignores the warnings and prepares to take Tammy to his cabin for a sex @-@ filled honeymoon after her bridal shower . Leslie blames Tom for the dilemma and , although he initially claims to be unfazed , Tom later arrives at the bridal shower to stop Ron from going on the honeymoon . He reveals the whole marriage is a ploy by Tammy to once again make him miserable . Tammy attacks and mercilessly beats Tom , prompting Ron to remember what a monster she truly is and dump her . He literally carries Tom away , and the two later make amends . Despite the bad impression he made the day before , Ben asks Trumple for the Harvest Festival favor . The chief unconditionally agrees out of respect for Leslie , who he said always helps everyone , and because Leslie once dated his friend Dave (Louis C.K.) . Ben seems relieved Leslie and Dave are no longer together , and he later asks Leslie out to eat .

In the B story , April (Aubrey Plaza) is working as Chris ' (Rob Lowe) assistant until he goes back to Indianapolis . April 's cynical personality clashes with Chris ' relentless optimism and happiness . In an attempt to get fired , April purposely neglects to tell Ann (Rashida Jones) that Chris cannot make a lunch date . When Ann arrives to confront Chris , she quickly realizes April 's ploy . Ann reveals she is very happy dating Chris , and would even probably move with him to Indianapolis if asked . Andy (Chris Pratt) , who is still trying to win back April 's affections , gives Chris an

obviously forged letter from the FBI claiming April must immediately return to the parks department . Chris sees through the ruse and tells April she can go back , but that remaining his assistant may provide her career opportunities . He invites her to return with him to Indianapolis and she seems interested , leaving both Ann and Andy stunned and jealous .

= = Production = =

" Ron & Tammy : Part Two " , sometimes informally referred to as " Ron and Tammy II " , was written by Parks consulting producer Emily Kapnek and directed by Tucker Gates , who has previously directed episodes of The Office , another comedy series created by Parks co @-@ creator Greg Daniels . Like all of the first six third season episodes , it was written and filmed almost immediately after the second season ended as part of an early shooting schedule needed to accommodate Amy Poehler 's pregnancy . However , although finished early in anticipation of a September 2010 release date , Parks was ultimately placed on hiatus until early 2011 , many months after production on " Ron & Tammy : Part Two " was finished . The episode is considered a sequel to the second season episode " Ron and Tammy " , which introduced the character of Ron Swanson 's ex @-@ wife , Tammy , and their unhealthy relationship with each other . Megan Mullally , the real @-@ life wife of actor Nick Offerman , reprises her role as Tammy . " Ron and Tammy " was one of the most well @-@ received episodes of the second season , so the writers immediately started contemplating ways to bring the character back .

Offerman said he worked well with Mullally , and that the two both enjoy " pushing the envelope and testing our boundaries , both of physical ability and good taste " . He jokingly said of filming the episode :

" They tell me it 's quite something . I honestly don 't remember much of what took place during the filming of that episode because it was like a crazy peyote fever dream . I remember there was lots of howling , and I came away very sore and scarred . Parts of my anatomy were alarmingly chafed . They say it turned out well . I 'm excited to see it . "

Offerman and Mullally were allowed to improvise a great deal during filming . The episode features a montage of various clips showing how Ron and Tammy gradually go from fighting with each other to getting married over the course of a particularly wild night . Long sequences of footage were shot ? including Ron and Tammy loudly arguing on the sidewalk and the two making out atop a police car ? but little more than a few seconds ultimately made the final episode . Offerman said it took about a half hour for the hair department to give him his cornrows haircut . He said he enjoyed the process , saying it " felt like a stiff head massage " .

Mullally said Tammy is expected to appear again in future episodes : " It seems like it 's sort of a once a season @-@ ish kind of event . When Tammy shows up , it pretty much brings Ron to a screeching halt . " Mullally and Parks co @-@ star Adam Scott also starred together in the Starz comedy series Party Down . " Ron & Tammy : Part Two " featured the last of several guest performances of Jama Williamson as Wendy , who revealed she was returning to her home country of Canada to care for her aging parents . Pawnee Police Chief Trumple was portrayed by Eric Pierpoint , who has played several police officers throughout his career , including an alien police officer in the science fiction series Alien Nation and a police chief in the superhero drama series The Cape .

Immediately after " Ron & Tammy : Part Two " first aired on February 10 , 2011 , NBC ran a commercial advertising " April and Andy 's wedding registry " on the official Parks and Recreation website . This seemed inconsistent with the show 's storyline because , although April and Andy had previously expressed romantic interest in each other , the two had separated and were not yet reconciled at the time of the episode . Shortly after the episode aired , HitFix television reviewer Alan Sepinwall wrote that the commercial mistakenly used the wrong names and was actually referring to Ron and Tammy 's wedding registry , which was mentioned in " Ron & Tammy : Part Two " and was indeed featured on the Parks and Recreation website . However , while images of both April and Andy were featured in the commercial , Tammy herself was not , and some commentators suggested the error could be indicative of future events in the series . Andy and April eventually did

marry in the episode " Andy and April 's Fancy Party " . Afterward , Parks co @-@ creator Michael Schur admitted the commercial was intended to run with that episode , but ran with " Ron & Tammy : Part Two " due to an error by NBC employees :

" In an effort to undo the spoiler , we publicly stated , in a number of interviews , that NBC had just accidentally gotten the character names wrong , and that there was no upcoming Andy @-@ April wedding . We sincerely hope that fans of the show are cool with us gently lying to them , in an effort to maintain the surprise nuptials as much as we could . Now if you 'll excuse us , we have to go shoot the season finale surprise Jerry @-@ Donna wedding scene . "

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original American broadcast , " Ron & Tammy : Part Two " was seen by an estimated 5 @.@ 03 million household viewers , according to Nielsen Media Research , with an overall 3 @.@ 0 rating / 5 share , and a 2 @.@ 5 rating / 7 share among viewers between ages 18 and 49 . It marked a slight increase in viewership compared to the previous episode , " Time Capsule " . The night " Ron & Tammy : Part Two " was broadcast , Parks and Recreation was outperformed in its timeslot by the CBS crime drama series CSI : Crime Scene Investigation , which was seen by 12 @.@ 78 million households ; the ABC medical drama series Grey 's Anatomy , which was seen by 10 @.@ 4 million household viewers ; and the Fox comedy @-@ drama series Bones , which was seen by 9 @.@ 5 million households .

= = = Reviews = = =

" Ron & Tammy : Part Two " received highly positive reviews , with several commentators praising the repairing of Ron and Tammy , Nick Offerman 's performance and , in particular , the line in which Ron explains how part of his mustache became shaved off : " It rubbed off ... from friction . " Entertainment Weekly writer Hillary Busis said she feared Megan Mullally could not live up to her performance in " Ron and Tammy " , but she said the follow @-@ up episode " gave Parks and Rec fans everything they could hope for and more " . Busis also praised the pairing of the enthusiastic Chris and the apathetic April . Alan Sepinwall of HitFix enjoyed that the script did not simply rehash the original " Ron and Tammy " story , but instead played it well off the Tom , Wendy and Ron love triangle . Sepinwall also praised the Chris / April pairing and the fact that Adam Scott got to do more than play his usual straight man role . He added that he hoped each season would have a Ron and Tammy @-@ centric episode , but limit it to once a year in the style of Cheers Bar Wars episodes .

The A.V. Club writer Steve Heisler said the episode was " just about as good as it gets " , with several great moments revolving around Nick Offerman 's deadpan comedic delivery . Heisler also said making the police department part of the script was a good way to better flesh out Pawnee and its townspeople . New York magazine writer Steve Kandell praised the performances of Offerman and Aubrey Plaza , and referred to Tammy as Pawnee 's equivalent of Sideshow Bob in The Simpsons ' Springfield . Kandell also liked that the episode " had heart " because the Tammy subplot was resolved by Ron standing up for Tom . TV Squad writer Joel Keller said the episode did not reach the level of the original " Ron and Tammy " , but that " it still had more than enough funny , cringeworthy and downright gross moments to be very satisfying " . He declared Mullally " one of the best sitcom creations this side of Colonel Flagg on M * A * S * H " . The Atlantic writer Scott Meslow praised Ron Swanson as the show 's " breakout character " , and said " Ron & Tammy : Part Two " was so good that he hoped for another sequel episode in the next season .

Rick Porter of Zap2it said the episode featured several great scenes between Ron and Tammy and called it a " tour de force " for Nick Offerman , but also appreciated that the episode featured strong moments outside that main plotline . He called it the best comedic showcase for Adam Scott so far in the season , and praised both the pairing of April and Chris , and the way that subplot led to Ann

's confusion about her future with Chris . Eric Sundermann of Hollywood.com said the subplot with April and Chris demonstrated how Parks often succeeds in pairing two characters that often seem to have little connection to each other . Sundermann also enjoyed how Ben 's awkwardness around the police chief illustrated how " the show is becoming more and more clear on who understands and fits in Pawnee , versus who doesn 't " . TV Fanatic writer Matt Richenthal said the dynamic between Ron and Tammy worked well not only due to their real @-@ life relationship , but also because of the balance between " the couple 's over @-@ the @-@ top antics and the heart it showed in other areas " . Richenthal also complimented the performance of Chris Pratt as the " sweet , well @-@ intentioned , air @-@ headed Andy " .