

= Succession ( 30 Rock ) =

" Succession " is the thirteenth episode of NBC 's second season of 30 Rock and the thirty @-@ fourth episode overall . It was written by Andrew Guest and one of the seasons ' co @-@ executive producers , John Riggi ; it was directed by Gail Mancuso . It first aired on April 24 , 2008 in the United States . Guest stars in this episode include Will Arnett , Marceline Hugot , Chris Parnell , Brian Stack , Tom Toner and Rip Torn .

In this episode Jack Donaghy ( Alec Baldwin ) and Devon Banks ' ( Will Arnett ) race to be the new CEO of General Electric comes to an end ; in a parody of Amadeus , Tracy Jordan ( Tracy Morgan ) gets the idea to make a pornographic video game with Frank ( Judah Friedlander ) playing Salieri to his Mozart , and Liz Lemon ( Tina Fey ) prepares to become the new Head of East Coast Television and Microwave Oven Programming . In keeping with the Amadeus parody , the music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart ( a favorite of Jeff Richmond , the show 's regular composer ) is used to score much of the episode .

= = Plot = =

Jack meets with retiring corporate head Don Geiss ( Rip Torn ) , who discloses that he has chosen Jack over his soon @-@ to @-@ be son @-@ in @-@ law Devon to run the company . Jack is overjoyed and chooses Liz to replace himself as Vice President of East Coast Television and Microwave Oven Programming . Liz accepts when she learns of the higher salary and tells her staff " Suck it monkeys , I 'm going corporate . " Meanwhile , Devon returns with intent to sabotage Jack , but Liz attempts to make Devon look bad by forcibly making out with him in front of a security camera .

At this time , Tracy begins to feel he is an embarrassment to his son . Hoping to make his family proud , Tracy searches for a legacy and decides to produce the world 's first pornographic video game . Despite Frank 's skepticism , Tracy has some success in designing the game by conquering the uncanny valley , a scale on which the strangeness of special effects are measured .

A depressed Devon becomes resigned to the fact that Jack will receive the promotion . Don Geiss , however , goes into a diabetic coma , despite the efforts of Dr. Spaceman ( Chris Parnell ) , before he can announce his decision . Devon denies knowing that Geiss had chosen Jack as his successor . The next day , Devon appears in Jack 's office , revealing he has convinced the board to put Kathy Geiss ( Marceline Hugot ) , his fiancée , in charge , with Devon acting as the power behind the throne . He then kicks Jack out of his office .

= = Production = =

Chris Parnell , who played Dr. Leo Spaceman in this episode , has appeared in the main cast of Saturday Night Live , a weekly sketch comedy series which airs on NBC in the United States . Tina Fey was the head writer on Saturday Night Live from 1999 until 2006 . Various other cast members of Saturday Night Live have appeared on 30 Rock , including Rachel Dratch , Fred Armisen , Kristen Wiig , Will Forte , Jason Sudeikis and Molly Shannon . Tina Fey and Tracy Morgan have both been part of the main cast of Saturday Night Live . Alec Baldwin has also hosted Saturday Night Live fourteen times , the second highest number of episodes of any host of the series .

= = Reception = =

" Succession " was viewed by an average of 5 @.@ 5 million American viewers upon its original broadcast . The episode also achieved a 2 @.@ 8 / 7 in the key 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ old demographic . The 2 @.@ 8 refers to 2 @.@ 8 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds , and the 7 refers to 7 % of all 18- to 49 @-@ year @-@ olds watching television at the time of the broadcast . The episode also ranked first place among males aged 18 ? 34 against episodes of CSI and Grey 's Anatomy .

The episode received some positive feedback from critics . Bob Sassone of AOL 's TV Squad described " Succession " as " a great episode " with " a lot of great lines " . Sassone compared the episode to a soap opera , and hoped that the pornographic video game storyline would be continued . Robert Canning of IGN complimented Devon 's appearances on 30 Rock , and felt that " Succession " would be the first episode in a new story arc , which was a good thing . He rated the episode an 8 out of 10 . Alan Sepinwall of The Star @-@ Ledger praised the episode as " fabulous " . Sepinwall noted that " Succession " included an " inspired riff on Amadeus " , and compared Tracy and Frank when they were working on a pornographic video game to Mozart and Salieri . Less positively , he commented on the " one @-@ note @-@ ness of Will Arnett as Devon Banks " , and did not like the Baby Mama ad that was displayed on screen during the " Mozart montage " .