

= Larry King (30 Rock) =

" Larry King " is the twelfth episode of the third season of the American television comedy series 30 Rock , and the 48th overall episode of the series . It was written by supervising producer Matt Hubbard and directed by Constantine Makris . The episode originally aired on the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) in the United States on February 26 , 2009 . Salma Hayek , Ajay Naidu , Brian Stack , and Rip Torn guest star in " Larry King " , and there are cameo appearances by Larry King and Meredith Vieira .

In the episode , Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) considers taking the next step in his relationship with his girlfriend Elisa Pedrera (Salma Hayek) . Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) appears on Larry King Live and inadvertently triggers mayhem in New York City when responding to questions about the economy . In addition , Tracy 's interview sends the crew members of the fictitious show TGS with Tracy Jordan ? Pete Hornberger (Scott Adsit) , Frank Rossitano (Judah Friedlander) , James " Toofer " Spurlock (Keith Powell) , and J. D. Lutz (John Lutz) ? on a search of the 30 Rock building for a treasure . At the same time , Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) loses her cellphone and must go with NBC page Kenneth Parcell (Jack McBrayer) to Queens to recover it where it is being held for ransom by a taxi driver (Naidu) .

" Larry King " has received generally positive reviews from television critics . According to the Nielsen Media Research , the episode was watched by 6 @. @ 4 million households during its original broadcast , and received a 2 @. @ 9 rating / 7 share among viewers in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

= = Plot = =

Tracy Jordan (Tracy Morgan) appears on Larry King Live . During his appearance on the program , a breaking story interrupts his interview with show host Larry King ? it is being reported that the Asian stocks are falling . Larry King asks Tracy 's opinion on this story , which results in Tracy giving chaos @- @ inducing views , including , " New York as we know it will no longer exist tomorrow " and he calls for panic , sending the people of New York into madness . At the NBC studios , the TGS with Tracy Jordan staff , Pete Hornberger (Scott Adsit) , Frank Rossitano (Judah Friedlander) , James " Toofer " Spurlock (Keith Powell) , and J. D. Lutz (John Lutz) , try looking for money that Tracy has hidden in the building after revealing this on Larry King Live . Pete calls the program asking Tracy where he stores the money . Tracy reveals that the safest place he has it hidden has " a hard top and soft bottom , no matter where it moves , the cash stays in the same place . " This clue is of no help to Pete , Frank , Toofer , and Lutz .

Meanwhile , NBC page Kenneth Parcell (Jack McBrayer) escorts Liz Lemon (Tina Fey) to Queens to retrieve the cellphone she left in a cab . The taxi driver , Asif (Ajay Naidu) , finds an adult picture of her and threatens to send it to everyone in her address book unless she pays him \$ 2 @, @ 000 . While on their way to get the phone , chaos is happening around them , which prompts Kenneth to want to turn back . Trying to change his mind , Liz lies to Kenneth , telling him that her phone has sentimental value , although she later tells Kenneth the real reasons she wants her phone back . Feeling betrayed by Liz , Kenneth abandons her and returns to 30 Rock . Liz arrives at the taxi depot and tells Asif that she does not have the money to pay him because rioting children took her handbag . Then Kenneth shows up and they watch Tracy reveal his secret to the whereabouts of his money , prompting Kenneth to realize that the money is stored in his page blazer . Kenneth pays Asif and Liz 's phone is returned .

Finally , Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) decides to be committed to his girlfriend , Elisa Pedrera (Salma Hayek) , as Elisa wants to take their relationship to the next level . Jack persuades Elisa to cancel her annual trip to Puerto Rico so that the two can spend time together . As a result , Jack devotes a whole week to Elisa at exactly the same time as the economic crisis unfolds , forcing Jack to steer General Electric (GE) through the Asian market crash . After a video tape of GE CEO Don Geiss (Rip Torn) surfaces ? taped in the event of a financial meltdown ? Geiss says " it is the end , and love is all that matters " , which makes Jack realize his love for Elisa . He proposes marriage to

her , which she accepts . The day after , Elisa leaves Jack for Puerto Rico .

= = Production = =

" Larry King " was written by 30 Rock supervising producer Matt Hubbard , and directed by Constantine Makris . This was Hubbard 's sixth writing credit , and Makris ' first directed episode . " Larry King " originally aired in the United States on February 26 , 2009 on NBC as the twelfth episode of the show 's third season and the 48th overall episode of the series .

In November 2008 , it was reported that television talk show host Larry King had " quietly filmed an appearance " as himself on 30 Rock . This episode was actress Salma Hayek 's fifth appearance as Elisa on the show . She first appeared in the episode " Señor Macho Solo " as a nurse for Jack Donaghy 's mother and love interest for Jack . She made appearances in the episodes " Flu Shot " , " Generalissimo " , and " St. Valentine 's Day " . Her last guest spot was in the episode " The Ones " in which Elisa and Jack end their relationship . Actor Rip Torn made his seventh appearance on the series as GE CEO Don Geiss . " Larry King " would become Torn 's final appearance on the show , as it is revealed in the fourth season episode " Future Husband " that his character has died . Comedian actor Brian Stack made his third appearance as Howard Jorgensen , a GE executive and associate of Jack 's . Stack previously appeared in the episodes " Jack Meets Dennis " and " Succession " . Actor Ajay Naidu played Asif , the taxi driver holding Liz 's phone for ransom in " Larry King " . " Larry King " was Today show co @-@ host Meredith Vieira 's second guest appearance as herself , having appeared in the November 8 , 2007 , episode " Greenzo " that aired during the show 's second season . In the episode , the night after the economic crisis unfolded , Tracy appears on The Today Show . There , Vieira tells him that he is to blame for the panic that ensued around the city . She asks Tracy 's opinion on the matter , only for Tracy to advertise TGS , the show he stars in , when and what time it airs .

= = Cultural references = =

" I 'm new to this country . Is that a real thing ? " , asks Asif , after Liz tells him that she would pay him on Opposite Day . While on Larry King Live , Tracy recounts the entire plot of the film Teen Wolf (1985) . Tracy reveals that he was to appear in the movie Rush Hour , but was replaced by Hong Kong actor Jackie Chan . Liz lies to Kenneth that her phone has a recording of her deceased grandmother singing a lullaby , to which later Kenneth makes her sing the song and his realization that she was singing the song " 99 Luftballons " , a protest song from German singer Nena .

When Pete calls in on Larry King Live , Tracy believes Pete is Peter Frampton , a British musician . When Jack realizes his true feelings for Elisa , he decides to stop her from going to Puerto Rico , but when he sees her outside the 30 Rock building , he tells her , " I was about to do the whole run to the airport thing , like Ross did on Friends and Liz Lemon did in real life " , a reference to the Friends television character Ross Geller doing this in the series finale episode " The Last One " , and as Liz similarly does in the season two episode " Sandwich Day " , where she heads to the airport to make things right with her ex @-@ boyfriend , Floyd DeBarber (Jason Sudeikis) .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " Larry King " was watched by 6 @.@ 4 million households , according to the Nielsen Media Research . This episode earned a 2 @.@ 9 rating / 7 share in the 18 and 49 demographic , meaning that 2 @.@ 9 percent of all people in that group , and 7 percent of all people from that group watching television at the time , watched the episode . This was a decrease from the previous episode , " St. Valentine 's Day " , which was watched by 7 @.@ 6 million American viewers . Nonetheless , 30 Rock ranked number 7 among all primetime programs ? during the original broadcasting of this episode ? in adults aged between 18 and 34 , averaging a 3 @.@ 4 rating / 10 share in that demographic .

Since airing , " Larry King " has received generally positive reviews from television critics . Bob

Sassone of AOL 's TV Squad wrote that " Larry King " was the " best of the season so far " , saying that there was a " really nice balance " in the episode 's plots . Sassone said that Hayek was " fine " , but much preferred the Jack character single . Alan Sepinwall , television columnist for The Star @-@ Ledger , complimented the episode , reporting that it was " much better " and perhaps the first episode he enjoyed " unreservedly . " He added that the entire cast was used " well " and that it " gave us a Jack story that balanced comedy with some genuine emotion , got some good mileage out of a rare Liz / Kenneth story ... and employed the guest stars as well as they have all season . " IGN contributor Robert Canning admitted in his recap that he was " thrilled " after reading the synopsis of the episode , regarding to Tracy causing mayhem in New York , but after the airing , " I was a bit disappointed " as it " wasn 't as over @-@ the @-@ top " , but overall , " this was still a fun and funny episode . " Canning gave the episode an 8 out of 10 rating . Time contributor James Poniewozik enjoyed Liz and Kenneth 's story as it " felt more emotionally real " and " allowed Kenneth to get to show a bit more spine than usual , standing up to Liz on their journey to darkest Queens " . Poniewozik noted that it was " nice " to see the Pete character back , as Scott Adsit had not appeared on 30 Rock for quite some time .

Not all reviews were positive . Matt Mitovich from TV Guide wrote that " Larry King " was " pretty blah . Something about it just seemed drab and lifeless , as if the writers and cast were in a mad dash to break for Christmas . " The A.V. Club 's Scott Tobias believed that the episode was not up to " 30 Rock 's high standards " and commented that a " big problem " was Jack and Elisa 's storyline . " The concept of rich , superficial , commitment @-@ phobic workaholic Jack falling for his exact opposite isn 't a bad one , but Hayek 's run has been more or less a wash . " Tobias further added that Alec Baldwin and Salma Hayek " are an odd couple " citing that they do not have much chemistry together .