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South Park episode postponed after creators miss deadline

Power cut prevents South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone from finishing an episode for the first time in the show's history

By Horatia Harrod 9:13AM BST 17 Oct 2013

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/culturenews/10384828/South-Park-episode-postponed-after-creators-miss-deadline.html>



For the first time in South Park's 240-episode history, its creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone were unable to finish an episode on deadline. The animated television programme, which has been running since 1997, runs to an unusually tight schedule. Rather than being created months in advance, each episode is written, animated and recorded from scratch six days before it's aired.

On Tuesday, South Park Studios lost power for three hours. Comedy Central, which airs the programme in the United States released a statement saying: "From animation to rendering to editing and sound, all of their computers were down for hours and they were unable to finish episode 1704, 'Goth Kids 3: Dawn Of The Posers' in time for air tonight [Wednesday]." Trey Parker added: "It sucks to miss an air date but after all these years of tempting fate by delivering the show last minute, I guess it was bound to happen."

South Park is famous for its up-to-the-minute choice of subjects. In 2003, an episode featured the capture of Saddam Hussein, three days after it had happened in real life; and in 2008, less than 24 hours after he won the US presidential election, a version of Barack Obama appeared in an episode, his dialogue drawn from his real victory speech.

In an interview with 60 Minutes, South Park's producer Anne Garefino explained Parker and Stone's working process: "I think one of the reasons they do South Park at the last minute, which I've fought them for for 15 years, is that they're always thinking that they're going to find something funnier, if they just don't put it down until the very last minute, they'll get the best, the funniest, the smartest thing in there."

In place of the unfinished episode, Comedy Central aired "Scott Tenorman Must Die", an episode from the fifth series of South Park, which involves the consumption of pubic hair and Cartman tricking a schoolmate into eating his own parents