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rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. We may receive a commission on purchases made from links. To say that people love "The Office" would be a bit of a dramatic understatement. The NBC
sitcom, which is based on the short-lived U.K. series of the air in 2013. Although it's been off the air for more than a decade, it remains insanely popular. So much so that it's one of the core things helping to keep Peacock afloat in the streaming wars. Like many shows, the later seasons of "The Office" are
pretty widely considered among the worst. There are many reasons for that but one core reason is that by season 9, several of the show's mainstays had departed. Steve Carell left the role of Michael Scott behind at the end of season 7, for example. But season 8 also saw core cast member Mindy Kaling, known for her portrayal as the dramatic Kelly
Kapoor, leave as well. It didn't help that B.J. Novak, who plays Ryan, followed suit. So, why did Kaling leave "The Office," exactly? For the actor/writer/producer, it was simple. She was making her own show, and there was no way she could realistically do both at the same time. In a 2012 interview with Entertainment Weekly, Kaling explained that her
series "The Mindy Project, which lasted six seasons between Fox and Hulu, took priority. She also took some of her "Office" friends with her. As she explained: "I was nervous, leaving a show after eight years, having to say goodbye to my friends and the people that made it feel like a comfy place and a hit show. So I took the ones that I thought were
available and I had great relationships with to come with me. They were people like B.J. Novak, who was an executive producer on the pilot, and Ed Helms, who plays a love interest of mine. There's a lot of crossover, so it felt seamless." In explaining her departure, the writers peppered in a plot that saw Kelly moving to Miami (the one in Ohio, not
Florida) with her future husband Ravee. That's also why Ryan left the show, as it was revealed in season 9 that he essentially followed Kelly to Ohio, even if he wasn't willing to admit that was the reason. In that same 2012 EW interview, Kaling teased her eventual return to "The Office" before it was made official. "I will do anything for [executive]
producer] Greg Daniels," she said at the time." If he wanted me to be in another couple of episodes, if it was possible. I love that group of people." Fortunately, good to her word, Kaling did return in "The Office" series finale. As did Novak. For better or worse, Ryan and Kelly finally
ran off together, bringing that chaotic relationship to a close, while offering viewers some closure for these two fan-favorite characters. It's not as though anyone who left the show had any ill will towards the cast or anyone involved with the show. Fans, understandably, were upset as Kelly was responsible for some of the funniest moments in "The
Office." It's just that, by that time, it had been nearly a decade's worth of commitment for someone whose career had taken off. It didn't leave a lot of time to explore other opportunities. Kaling, in addition to her work as Kelly, was also a writer and producer of the show. There's no way she could have launched "Mindy Project" while still doing that
job. The question now is, could we see more of Kelly Kapoor in the future? After all, "The Office" is still remarkably popular and Kaling, though busy, is no longer starring in, writing, and producing her own sitcom. Plus, "Velma," her take on the "Scooby-Doo" universe for Max, was canceled after two seasons. So her schedule is surely a bit more open,
should something come up. Peacock is currently in production on an "Office" spin-off that will take place at a dying newspaper. It's expected to feature an entirely new cast but, if the show does well, who knows? For what it's worth, Kaling spoke with Good Morning America in 2022 and shared her belief that the show does well, who knows? For what it's worth, Kaling spoke with Good Morning America in 2022 and shared her belief that the show does well, who knows? For what it's worth, Kaling spoke with Good Morning America in 2022 and shared her belief that the show does well, who knows? For what it's worth, Kaling spoke with Good Morning America in 2022 and shared her belief that the show does well, who knows? For what it's worth, Kaling spoke with Good Morning America in 2022 and shared her belief that the show does well, who knows? For what it's worth, Kaling spoke with Good Morning America in 2022 and shared her belief that the show does well, who knows? For what it's worth, Kaling spoke with Good Morning America in 2022 and shared her belief that the show does well, who knows? For what it's worth, Kaling spoke with Good Morning America in 2022 and shared her belief that the show does well, who knows? For what it's worth, Kaling spoke with Good Morning America in 2022 and shared her belief that the show does well and the shared her belief that the show does well and the shared her belief that the show does well and the shared her belief that the show does well and the shared her belief that the show does well and the shared her belief that the show does well and the shared her belief that the show does well and the shared her belief that the show does well and the shared her belief that the sh
"That show is so inappropriate now ... The writers who I'm still in touch with now, we always talk about how so much of that show we probably couldn't make now ... The reasons the show is popular, because people feel like there's
something kind of fearless about it or taboo that it talks about on the show." Kaling also said that she thinks Kelly "would have quit Dunder Mifflin to become an influencer, and then probably be canceled by now." We'll have to wait and see how the
new spin-off works out. "The Office" is streaming now on Peacock, or you can grab the complete series on DVD from Amazon. Synopsis This U.S. adaptation -- set at a paper company based in Scranton, Pa. -- has a similar documentary style to that of the Ricky Gervais-led British original. It features the Dunder-Mifflin staff, which includes characters
based on roles in the British show -- and, quite possibly, people with whom you work in your office. There's Jim, the likable employee who's a bit of an every man. Jim has a thing for receptionist-turned-sales-rep Pam -- because office romances are always a good idea! There's also Dwight, the co-worker who is successful but devoid of social skills and
common sense. Executive Producer Ben Silverman, Greg Daniels, Ricky Gervais, Stephen Merchant, Howard Klein Network NBC Rating TV-14 Genre Comedy Original Language English Release Date Mar 24, 2005 Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and
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endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply
with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation. No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the
material. It's hard to think of "The Office" without reflecting on Kelly and Ryan's tumultuous on- and off-again relationship was quite toxic, it was a central part of
both of their characters and frequently a central storyline on the nine-season show. Many fans of the series know that the actors who played this pair also worked together as writers for "The Office." However, it's less common knowledge that the real-life romance the duo developed in the writers' room served as the inspiration for their on-screen
love. B. J. Novak told Vulture that Kelly and Ryan was "an observation from the writers' room that Mindy and I were extremely close and constantly fighting." He added, "No one, including us, ever really knew, 'Is this dating? Is this not dating? We were never really dating, we were never really not dating. We didn't know. No one knew. All you'd know
for sure is that you'd always find one of us next to the other, even if we weren't getting along." Though the stars' relationship status was often ambiguous, the pair has been very clear about why they eventually ended things. During an appearance on "The Howard Stern Show," Mindy Kaling revealed that B. J. Novak was the one who broke up with her
(via SoundCloud). She told Stern that the split left her devastated, but she continued to work with Novak when it happened. The 41-year-old explained to Stern that the split left her devastated, but she continued to work with Novak when it happened. The 41-year-old explained to Stern that the split left her devastated, but she continued to work with Novak when it happened. The 41-year-old explained to Stern that the split left her devastated, but she continued to work with Novak when it happened. The 41-year-old explained to Stern that the split left her devastated, but she continued to work with Novak when it happened. The 41-year-old explained to Stern that the split left her devastated, but she continued to work with Novak when it happened. The 41-year-old explained to Stern that the split left her devastated, but she continued to work with Novak when it happened. The 41-year-old explained to Stern that the split left her devastated, but she continued to work with Novak when it happened. The 41-year-old explained to Stern that the split left her devastated, but she continued to work with Novak when it happened. The 41-year-old explained to Stern that the split left her devastated, but she continued to work with Novak when it happened.
ones that are the most important or something." Novak echoed this statement in his own interview when he said, "In real life, I think we just essentially grew up and it became more of a transition" (via Insider). Luckily, the pair was able to move past their break-up and remain in each other's lives. During a talk about his book, "The Book With No
Pictures," Novak explained what it's like being Kaling's friend. He said, "It's really fun to be her BFF. It is a fantastic relationship with a lot of shorthand. I feel so lucky that I get a brilliant text from Mindy Kaling, like, once an hour. It's like something you'd win at an auction — Mindy Kaling will blow up your phone" (via Bustle). In an interview with
"CBS Sunday Morning," Kaling shared her perspective on their tight bond. She said, "He's really part of my family now, which is great. Even though that's less of a sexy characterization of our relationship, I think it's a deeper and a closer one. It's nice. We do spend a lot of time together and it's a great blessing in my life" (via CBS News). Novak is
even the godfather to Kaling's two children, Katherine and Spencer, and remains a close presence in their lives as well (via Showbiz Cheat Sheet). When a television program begins to show signs of aging, sometimes the writing will be less compelling and sometimes a network might even cut back on episodes. However, one of the biggest ways
programs begin to show age is through the loss of staple cast members. This can, on one hand, shake things up for viewers, but can also change the dynamics within a TV show. For NBC's The Office, a program that has gone through eight seasons of inter-office politics and practical jokes, cast shake-ups are becoming a bit of a norm. Minor characters
 have left The Office over the years, but the biggest shake-up probably occurred two seasons ago when Steve Carell's Michael Scott moved away. More recently, writer and actress Mindy Kaling announced she was moving on to helm new program The Mindy Project at Fox and now it turns out her buddy B.J. Novak is moving away from the comedy,
too.TV Guide is reporting Novak has decided to end his full-time gig at The Office. This means he will no longer write or appear as a series regular on the comedy, but that does not seem to mean he is cutting ties with the show every now and
again and may still even do a little bit of writing on the program. You may like While it seems weird to sever ties with the show without actually fully severing ties, Novak's move makes since. It will be nice to keep The Office in his back pocket, but with no more fun on-again, off-again moments in the works for Novak's Howard and Kaling's Kelly
Kapoor, it's probably time to see what else the pilot world has to offer. Your Daily Blend of Entertainment News Actors who left The Office before it ended did so on good terms and went on to do other great projects, some even returned for the series finale. Steve Carell's departure from The Office in season 7 was a difficult goodbye as he had been an
important member of the show since season 1. Other actors who left early include Mindy Kaling, B.J. Novak, David Denman, Melora Hardin, Amy Ryan, Zach Woods, Rashida Jones, and James Spader. The Office launched the careers of many cast members. With a stellar ensemble cast that helped make the show such a hit, every The Office cast
member before the series finale made an impact. Although the original UK version of The Office that the US version is based on ran for only 14 episodes, the American show enjoyed a long run on television and is still considered one of the all-time greats of TV comedies and a noteworthy pioneer in the mockumentary sitcom genre. But even though
the show was so successful, some actors left before it was over. The actors who departed from The Office cast before the show had run its course had their reasons for doing so, though all parted on good terms. Likewise, many of them went on to do other great projects after leaving The Office and have continued to do so more recently. Some even
returned for The Office's series finale, making for both emotional and hysterical cameos that remained true to their characters. Related The Office season 2 opened with the memorable "The Dundies", but Steve Carell disliked a crucial part of filming that almost derailed the episode. Steve Carell (Michael Scott) Michael Left The Office In Season 7,
Episode 22 Out of every actor who left The Office, Steve Carrell's exit was the biggest. The show wouldn't be what it is without self-proclaimed "World's Best Boss," Michael Scott. But The Office season 7 sees Michael finally leave Dunder Mifflin and Scranton, PA behind to move to Colorado with his fiancé, Holly. It's one of the sitcom's most emotional
moments, and it was a difficult goodbye for the cast too, as Carell had been such an important member of the show since its original season 1 adaption. At the time, the office was that he simply felt it was time to go, and he wanted to spend more time with his family. In Andy Greene's 2020 book, The
Office: The Untold Story of the Greatest Sitcom of the 2000s, it's revealed Carell was willing to return for more seasons of the show, but executives at NBC never communicated about renewing his contract. Even when Carell had publicly indicated that season 7 might be his last, the network didn't reach out to him. Steve Carell was nominated for 6
Emmys For The Office, winning once in 2005. Customer service rep Kelly's sendoff comes in the first episode of season 9 as Mindy Kaling left The Office. Kelly announces that she's moving with her fiancé Ravi to Miami, not aware that it is Ohio and not Florida. However, she does appear in the series finale, fittingly running off with on-again, off-again
lover Ryan at Dwight and Angela's wedding, leaving Ryan's infant son Drake in the care of the unsuspecting Ravi. According to the actress, her departure from the show was quite seamless. Kaling was starting her show, The Mindy Project, and she ended up working with some of her friends from The Office on that project as well, such as B.J. Novak
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Jim and Pam's romance throughout The Office seasons 1 to 3. This is ultimately why Denman left, too. After Pam and Roy's Office breakup, the actor knew he wouldn't be on the show for much longer. Denman's original contract was rather low for seasons 1 to 3, with the caveat of becoming much more lucrative in seasons 4 and beyond. This rather
ominous setup, coupled with the writers' commitment to getting Jim and Pam together, meant that Denman wasn't destined to stick around as a series regular past season 3. His character did find redemption in The Office season 9 episode, appropriately entitled "Roy's Wedding," suggesting Roy was better off without Pam. The episode opens with Jim
and Pam somewhat awkwardly attending a lavish (and bizarrely early morning) wedding for Roy and his new bride-to-be. The reception revealed that Roy had started a successful gravel company, affording him a beautiful home. He even took piano lessons to impress his new bride, which understandably left his ex, Pam, shocked. One of The Office's
most notorious characters is Jan Levinson, who plays Michael's uptight corporate boss, domineering girlfriend, and unstable ex at different points in the series mostly dwindles by the end of season 5, though she does appear as a recurring character in season 7 as well. After Jan's breakup with Michael, Jan's role becomes
less important, which is part of why actress Melora Hardin disappeared from the show. On the podcast, An Oral History of The Office, Hardin also revealed that she never felt a true sense of belonging on set. Though there was no ill will between her and the rest of the cast, a side effect of Jan's appearance only in specific scenes, as opposed to the
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additions to the main cast. Technically a management consultant after Sabre buys up Dunder Mifflin in season 6, there's plenty about The Office's Gabe Lewis that makes no sense. The character mysteriously disappears after season 8, presumably being unceremoniously fired by David Wallace after he buys Dunder Mifflin back from Sabre. Gabe does
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Lastly, James Spader was only on The Office as a main character for season 8, in which he played Michael Scott's replacement, Robert California. This appearance was always intended as a one-off, so it came as no surprise that Spader left the show before season 9 just as planned. Nevertheless, his performance as a cunning and at times even scary
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According to B.J. Novak, his Office exit was motivated mostly by burnout. By season 9, other important The Office exit members like Carrell, and especially Kaling, whom Novak was quite close with when working on the series, had already left. Novak wasn't feeling as invested in the show as he wanted and didn't feel like he could do it anymore, even
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Foxcatcher and a solid directing career for Kransinki with A Quiet Place. Other cast members like Ed Helms, Craig Robinson, Ellie Kemper, and Mark Proksch kicked off successful television careers with their roles on the show. Fans might also forget that The Office helped launch future superstars like Amy Adams and Evan Peters in early roles. Actor
B.J. Novak has seen his talents featured in films like "Inglourious Basterds" and "The Smurfs," as well as on television shows like "The Mindy Project," but he'll always be known for "The Office." Novak wasn't just an original cast member on NBC's American adaptation of the BBC Two hit; he was also a writer. However, even as he penned some of the
series' most memorable episodes, like Season 1's "Diversity Day," his portrayal of Ryan Howard is what stands apart. Over the course of Novak's lengthy run on the show, Ryan experienced one of the wilder character arcs you'll see on TV. He began as the office temp — an everyman who acted as the audience's representative amid the craziness
unfolding around him. At the same time, he had an air of superiority that ultimately drove him to rise up the ranks, eventually landing a gig as a corporate vice president. His meteoric rise was followed in short order by an epic collapse, though, one where he eventually got hooked on drugs and later found work at a bowling alley. By year nine, Ryan
had been through it all. However, the character's run on the show ended with something of a whimper during that final season, as he appeared in just two episodes. In real life, Novak had decided to leave "The Office," which, in turn, left fans to wonder what happened. During an appearance on Dax Shepard's show, Armchair Expert, he finally
revealed the reason for that departure. During his guest spot with Shepard (via YouTube), Novak was asked why he opted out of one more go-round with "The Office." Turns out, he was going through some of the same things that many people do when they take on too much at work. "I was burnt out," he told Shepard. "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out," he told Shepard. "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out," he told Shepard. "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out," he told Shepard. "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out," he told Shepard. "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out," he told Shepard. "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out," he told Shepard. "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out," he told Shepard. "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out," he told Shepard. "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out," he told Shepard. "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out," he told Shepard. "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out," he told Shepard. "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out, "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out, "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out, "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out, "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out, "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out, "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out, "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." I was burnt out, "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work." ] was burnt out, "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [Steve on too much at work.] was burnt out, "Mindy [Kaling] had left. [
Carell had left. And they wanted a new showrunner and they asked if I would want to do that and I couldn't imagine it. And I also couldn't have the love." For his part, series co-creator and fellow writer Greg Daniels — who actually hired Novak for the show — did his
best to dissuade the actor from leaving. "How can I keep you here?" he said, as relayed by Novak, who responded, "Sometimes you just know when it's time." Although he had reached the end of the rope at the time to smell the roses
before his tenure ended. "One of my biggest regrets was not enjoying any of it as much as I should have, now that I look back," he said. "And people say, 'Wasn't that incredible?' "Like, you're never going to get that again — Steve Carell in the room, John [Krasinski], Jenna [Fischer], Rainn [Wilson], those writers — like it'll never happen again." So,
Mindy Kaling rocked up to the unveiling of her new Hollywood Star with BJ Novak (aka Ryan in The Office). He was photographed kissing her on the forehead, and now the internet is speculating wildly about what on earth is going on between them right now. It turns out there's loads of lore here. Mindy Kaling and BJ Novak did legit have an on-
again,off-again situationship while their characters Kelly and Ryan were in a really turbulent romance on The Office. And now BJ is the godfather of her kids? Here's an extremely detailed deep dive into Mindy Kaling and BJ Novak's relationship over the years. We examine all the evidence. At length. Kelly and Ryan's romance in The Office is satire of
Mindy Kaling and BJ Novak's real-life relationship The pair met back in 2005 when they were 25. They were both writers and actors on the new American (and far superior) version of The Office. In 2022, BJ Novak made an eight-minute long speech about Mindy Kaling at the Producers Guild Awards. (really). He spoke a lot about how their romance
during the show. He said: "We were in love with each other and we were reckless idiots and the two of us would argue about all of these things forever, grinding the writers' room to a halt, until we got too upset, and we'd go to our respective offices and slam the door where we could continue arguing over Instant Messenger." He continued: "When
the producers realised that our relationship as co-writers had humped every conceivable boundary and become a tumultuous romantic toxic boundaryless mess, they pulled us aside and Kelly on The Office(Image via Netflix) "There was no
way out but through. We made it work, or didn't make it work, through nearly 200 episodes of The Office, Ryan and Kelly's relationship in The Office was a thinly veiled parody of BJ Novak and Mindy Kalig's real romance. During The Office was a thinly veiled parody of BJ Novak and Mindy Kalig's relationship in The Office, Ryan and Kelly hook up, then she pressured him into making it official with her, then he dumps her, then he
convinces her to break up with her boyfriend of a year over text so they can reunite, then he dumps her again. In season seven, they drunkenly get married and divorced in the space of a week, but stay in a relationship. Until they break up in season seven, they drunkenly get married and divorced in the space of a week, but stay in a relationship. Until they break up in season seven, they drunkenly get married and divorced in the space of a week, but stay in a relationship with someone else. In the 2013 finale, they run away to
live happily ever after (for five minutes, probably). It was rumored BJ and Mindy broke up and got back together several times while filming the show. We know for certain BJ dumped her once in 2007 - around the time Ryan breaks up for Kelly for the first time. Neither of them has publicly dated anyone else for ages? Mindy Kaling was in a
relationship with the author Benjamin Nugent from 2008 until 2012. Neither she or BJ Novak are publicly known to have been in any relationship. Ryan after breaking up with Kelly three whole times(Image via Netflix) In a 2015
interview with InStyle, Mindy legit said: "I will freely admit: My relationship with BJ Novak is weird as hell. He is not my boyfriend, but he
carpet events and awards ceremonies together. BJ Novak is the godfather of Mindy Kaling's children for Mindy Kaling now has three kids - Katherine Swati, Spencer Avu, and Anne. She's never publicly revealed who the father of any of her children is. Mindy explained to the New York Times: "My feeling is that, until I speak to my daughter about
that, I'm not going to talk to anyone else about it." We know BJ Novak is definitely the godfather of Katherine and Spencer. Mindy hasn't confirmed whether be is also Anne's godfather. He seems to help look after the kids a lot, because he's been spotted out and about with them in Los Angeles. Naturally, people constantly speculate about whether BJ
is also the biological father of these kids. Mindy has reiterated several times that BJ is around her children a lot because he's their godfather. I see him every week. It isn't the thing that people sometimes think it is. He's really part of my family now, which is great. Even though that's less
of a sexy characterization of our relationship, I think it's a deeper and a closer one. We do spend a lot of time together and it's a great blessing in my life." She did also comment to Maria Claire on all the rumours in 2022. "He's the godparent to both my kids — and they have such a great relationship — and so far [the speculation hasn't] affected my
happiness at all, it hasn't affected my kids or BJ. It doesn't bother me. If that's what is going to be titillating to people, I'll take it." Mindy Kaling just gave a speech about how much she loves him (?) BJ Novak was her guest at the unveiling of her Hollywood Star. He heaped praise on her, telling the crowd she is "a brilliant and wildly successful
showrunner, an incredible mother of three, a deep and caring daughter and friend and mentor to so many". Mindy then she made a speech about how terrific he is. She said: "Fun Fact: My daughter calls BJ uncle FoFo, I have no idea why that is. But he's such an important and integral part of my family that sometimes I forget that the reason that
know him is that we worked together professionally. And I'm as starstruck by him now, at age 29, as I was when I first met you, at age 24." (N.B. this is a joke - she and BJ are both 45). She added, "I love you." But, like, platonically. For more like this look at The Office US huge cast fame and all the latest TV news, drops, quizzes and memes, like Theorem 1.
Holy Church of Netflix on Facebook. Featured image of BJ Novak and Mindy Kaling by John Salangsang/Shutterstock. Featured image of Ryan and Kelly via Netflix. Cast & crewUser reviewsTriviaFAQA mockumentary on a group of typical office workers, where the workday consists of ego clashes, inappropriate behavior, tedium and romance. A
mockumentary on a group of typical office workers, where the workday consists of ego clashes, inappropriate behavior, tedium and romance. TopTop-rated9 seasonsSee all9876543219 yearsSee
all201320122011201020092008200720062005Binging "The Office" again? Never stopped in the first place? Join us for a look at what might have been if casting had gone differently. Watch now Sign in to rate and Watchlist for personalized recommendations for a look at what might have been if casting had gone differently. Watch now Sign in to rate and Watchlist for personalized recommendations for personalized recommendations.
Company: Reveille Productions NBC Universal Television 3 Arts Entertainment Deedle-Dee Productions Universal Television Initial Release Date: Mar 24, 2005 Number of seasons: 9 Seasons Rating: TV-14 Genres: Actors who left The Office before it ended did so on good terms and went on to do other great projects,
some even returned for the series finale. Steve Carell's departure from The Office in season 7 was a difficult goodbye as he had been an important member of the show since season 1. Other actors who left early include Mindy Kaling, B.J. Novak, David Denman, Melora Hardin, Amy Ryan, Zach Woods, Rashida Jones, and James Spader. The Office
launched the careers of many cast members. With a stellar ensemble cast that helped make the show such a hit, every The Office that the US version is based on ran for only 14 episodes, the American show enjoyed a long run on television and is still
considered one of the all-time greats of TV comedies and a noteworthy pioneer in the mockumentary sitcom genre. But even though the show was so successful, some actors left before it was over. The actors who departed from The Office cast before the show had run its course had their reasons for doing so, though all parted on good terms.
Likewise, many of them went on to do other great projects after leaving The Office and have continued to do so more recently. Some even returned for The Office season 2 opened with the memorable "The Dundies", but Steven
Carell disliked a crucial part of filming that almost derailed the episode. Steve Carell (Michael Scott) Michael Scott. But The Office season 7 sees
Michael finally leave Dunder Mifflin and Scranton, PA behind to move to Colorado with his fiance, Holly. It's one of the sitcom's most emotional moments, and it was a difficult goodbye for the cast too, as Carell had been such an important member of the show since its original season 1 adaption. At the time, the official word on Steve Carell's
departure from The Office was that he simply felt it was time to go, and he wanted to spend more time with his family. In Andy Greene's 2020 book, The Office: The Untold Story of the show, but executives at NBC never communicated about renewing his
contract. Even when Carell had publicly indicated that season 7 might be his last, the network didn't reach out to him. Steve Carell was nominated for 6 Emmys For The Office, winning once in 2005. Customer service rep Kelly's sendoff comes in the first episode of season 9 as Mindy Kaling left The Office, winning once in 2005. Customer service rep Kelly's sendoff comes in the first episode of season 9 as Mindy Kaling left The Office, winning once in 2005.
fiancé Ravi to Miami, not aware that it is Ohio and not Florida. However, she does appear in the series finale, fittingly running off with on-again, off-again lover Ryan at Dwight and Angela's wedding, leaving Ryan's infant son Drake in the care of the unsuspecting Ravi. According to the actress, her departure from the show was quite seamless. Kaling
was starting her show, The Mindy Project, and she ended up working with some of her friends from The Office on that project as well, such as B.J. Novak and Ed Helms. Related The Office had several cringeworthy moments that would not fly in today's culture, but could the show still be brought back successfully? Like Mindy Kaling, B.J. Novak, who
plays Ryan on The Office, was also a writer on the show, as well as a producer. He also left right at the start of season 9, with Ryan following Kelly to Ohio but claiming that his simultaneous departure was unrelated. According to B.J. Novak, his Office exit was motivated mostly by burnout. By season 9, other important The Office cast members like
Carrell, and especially Kaling, whom Novak was quite close with when working on the series, had already left. Novak wasn't feeling as invested in the show as he wanted and didn't feel like he could do it anymore, even though he was offered a role as The Office showrunner moving forward. Before Jim and Pam's romance took off, Roy Anderson,
played by David Denman, was Pam's deadbeat fiancé/boyfriend in the show's early seasons. Inattentive and prone to violence, Roy serves mainly as an obstacle to Jim and Roy's Office breakup, the actor knew he wouldn't be on the show for
much longer. Denman's original contract was rather low for seasons 1 to 3, with the caveat of becoming much more lucrative in seasons 4 and beyond. This rather ominous setup, coupled with the writers' commitment to getting Jim and Pam together, meant that Denman wasn't destined to stick around as a series regular past season 3. His character
did find redemption in The Office season 9 episode, appropriately entitled "Roy's Wedding," suggesting Roy was better off without Pam. The episode opens with Jim and Pam somewhat awkwardly attending a lavish (and bizarrely early morning) wedding, "suggesting Roy was better off without Pam. The episode opens with Jim and Pam somewhat awkwardly attending a lavish (and bizarrely early morning) wedding, "suggesting Roy was better off without Pam. The episode opens with Jim and Pam somewhat awkwardly attending a lavish (and bizarrely early morning) wedding, "suggesting Roy was better off without Pam."
company, affording him a beautiful home. He even took piano lessons to impress his new bride, which understandably left his ex, Pam, shocked. One of The Office's most notorious characters is Jan Levinson, who plays Michael's uptight corporate boss, domineering girlfriend, and unstable ex at different points in the show. Jan's appearance in the
series mostly dwindles by the end of season 5, though she does appear as a recurring character in season 7 as well. After Jan's breakup with Michael, Jan's role becomes less important, which is part of why actress Melora Hardin disappeared from the show. On the podcast, An Oral History of The Office, Hardin also revealed that she never felt a true
sense of belonging on set. Though there was no ill will between her and the rest of the cast, a side effect of Jan's appearance only in specific scenes, as opposed to the consistent Scranton office, meant that she didn't bond as tightly as everyone else did. Another iconic flame of Michael Scott's on The Office is HR rep Holly Flax, played by Amy Ryan. In
a refreshing twist from every other woman Michael Scott dated on The Office before Holly, she is a great fit for his unique personality and quirks, and the two seem genuinely in love. Though not technically billed as a main cast member for any of the seasons she appears in, Amy Ryan is, no doubt, a critical component of The Office's storyline because
of how Holly helps shape Michael's journey. The simple reason why the actress didn't stick around until the show's final season is the fact that Holly and Michael's lives were completely intertwined after season 7, so it would have been out of place for Ryan to appear without Carell. Related Holly joined The Office during season 4 as the new Human
Resources representative, but here's her most controversial in the position explained. Gabe, played by Zach Woods, is one of The Office's odder later-season additions to the main cast. Technically a management consultant after Sabre buys up Dunder Mifflin in season 6, there's plenty about The Office's Gabe Lewis that makes no sense. The character
mysteriously disappears after season 8, presumably being unceremoniously fired by David Wallace after he buys Dunder Mifflin back from Sabre. Gabe does have a guest appearance in season 9's "Moving On" episode, however. Woods has never revealed any particular reason for leaving The Office early after being bumped up to a main cast role in
season 7, though it allowed him to star in HBO's Silicon Valley. A few other actors had one-season main roles on The Office before leaving. Like Roy, Rashida Jones's character, Karen Filippelli, wasn't meant to last on The Office since her primary role was keeping Jim and Pam apart during season 2 to add drama to their long love saga. However, Jones
left The Office to work on Parks and Recreation, leading to the theory that Parks & Rec's Ann Perkins and The Office as a main character for season 8, in which he played Michael Scott's replacement, Robert California. This appearance was always intended as a one-
off, so it came as no surprise that Spader left the show before season 9 just as planned. Nevertheless, his performance as a cunning and at times even scary corporate opportunist made Spader one of The Office for their own reasons, there are so many cast
 members who owe their careers to the show. Steve Carrell and John Krasinski are the biggest stars to come out of the original cast, with big movie careers including an Oscar nomination for Carrell in Foxcatcher and a solid directing career for Kransinki with A Quiet Place. Other cast members like Ed Helms, Craig Robinson, Ellie Kemper, and Marl
Proksch kicked off successful television careers with their roles on the show. Fans might also forget that The Office helped launch future superstars like Amy Adams and Evan Peters in early roles. Hathaway looks like she's having fun on set, even if she resisted this project in the past. By Michael Hein Walmart's Collector Con event takes place
alongside SDCC 2025 July 24th and July 25th. By Sean Fallon Photo by Santiago Felipe/Getty Images & NBCU Photo Bank By Cameron Bonomolo Images Courtesy of Hasbro and Mattel From My Little Pony to a crossover between G.I. Joe and Transformers, these are the movies based on toys that are heading our way. By Ben Hathaway Image
Courtesy of Marvel Studios Marvel Studios Marvel Studios President Kevin Feige understands the studio needs to re-evaluate its output. By Nicole Sobon Image courtesy of Acme Shark Productions. This television series made fantastic use of props from multiple franchises. By Liz Wyatt Some of these issues ended up pulped, while others would live on to go down in
infamy. By Andrew Roberts Image Courtesy of Ufotable Tanjiro vs. Akaza is a lot more than a clash between a Demon Slayer and a demon. By Tulisha Srivastava Shueisha Assassination Classroom is setting up something big for the anime's 10th anniversary By Nick Valdez TVMindy Kaling and B.J. Novak weren't in 'The Office' as much after season 8.
Find out the reason why and why their roles were so closely tied to each other. The main cast of The Office changed by the time it ended in 2013. But he wasn't the only one. Mindy Kaling, who played Kelly Kapoor, and B.J. Novak, who
played Ryan Howard, cut back on their roles. There is a reason why their roles were so closely tied to each other. Mindy Kaling as Kelly Kapoor, B.J. Novak as Ryan Howard on 'The Office' | Trae Patton/NBC/NBCU Photo Bank There were multiple actors who were also writers on The Office. That included Kaling and Novak. Their
roles of Kelly and Ryan were actually inspired by them. Novak told Vulture their character's relationship was "an observation from the writers' room that Mindy and I were extremely close and constantly fight about? "Oh anything," answered Novak. "Honestly, we would sometimes not be speaking for an hour and I couldn't
remember why. I don't think she could either. The tone in choosing which place to order lunch from. The tone that one of us would have about Thai food in general. Who knows?" The writer said their relationship wasn't clearly defined. "No one, including us, ever really knew, 'Is this dating? Is this not dating?'" he said. "We were never really dating, and their relationship wasn't clearly defined."
we were never really not dating. We didn't know. No one knew. All you'd know for sure as that you'd always find one of us next to the other, even if we weren't getting along." The actors still enjoyed working together. Novak cut back on his role on
The Office in season 9, and Kaling left so they could work on her new show, The Mindy Project. She created the show and Novak was a producer on it. Kaling talked about her feelings around the decision to Entertainment Weekly. "I was nervous, leaving a show after eight years, having to say goodbye to my friends and the people that made it feel like
a comfy place and a hit show," she said. "So I took the ones that I thought were available and I had great relationships with to come with me." She continued, "They were people like B.J. Novak, who was an executive producer on the pilot, and Ed Helms, who plays a love interest of mine. There's a lot of crossover, so it felt seamless." Kaling did say she
would return if creator, Greg Daniels asked her to and she did. The finale showed Ryan and Kaling together at Dwight (Rainn Wilson) and Angela (Angela Martin)'s wedding. The Mindy Project went on to have a successful run with it lasting until 2017. There were more stars of The Office who later appeared on it including Ellie Kemper and Paul
Liberstein. Mindy Kaling and B.J. Novak's relationship proves that exes can stay friends. The Office costars, whose off-screen relationship through the years. "Complicated," is the word Novak used to describe their relationship to PEOPLE in 2014. "A really complicated
person and a really complicated friendship, but I wouldn't trade it for anything in the working on The Office in 2004, Kaling and Novak have been vocal about their now-platonic love for each other. They've helped each other on creative projects, attended each other's red carpet premieres, and in 2017,
Novak officially became a member of Kaling's family when he became her daughter's godfather. For more on Mindy Kaling, listen below to our daily podcast PEOPLE Every Day. "It isn't the thing that people sometimes think it is," Kaling said in a 2019 interview on CBS Sunday Morning. "But he's really part of my family now, which is great. Even
though that's less of a sexy characterization of our relationship, I think it's a deeper and a closer one." From their days costarring on The Office to their many supportive comments, here's everything you need to know about Mindy Kaling and Novak met in 2004 when they began
working on the Emmy-winning NBC series The Office. As both writers and performers on the show, Kaling and Novak had a lot of creative control over their characters, Kelly Kapoor and Ryan Howard. Though it's not known exactly when Kaling and Novak started dating, they did embark on an on-again, off-again relationship in the show's early years
"No one, including us, ever really knew, 'Is this dating? Is this not dating? We were never really dating, we were never really not dating, we were never really not dating, we were never really not dating." In the "Valentine's Day" episode of
Season 2 of The Office, Kaling and Novak's characters finally got together, kickstarting their off-and-on relationship. "Sometimes viewers would ask, 'Are Ryan and Kelly together right now, not together right now, not together right now, not together?' It's not even that I wouldn't know. I thought the question was missing the point," Novak continued to Vulture. "I think it was sort of expressive of
the relationship that we were in." Christopher Polk/Getty Kaling and Novak's off-screen romance seemingly ended for good in 2007, though their friendship didn't change. "In real life, I think we just essentially grew up and it became more of a transition," said Novak. Kaling supported Novak at the L.A. premiere of Quentin Tarantino's Inglourious
Basterds. In the WWII film, Novak plays Private First Class Smithson Utivitch alongside Brad Pitt. On May 10, 2012, the season 8 finale of The Office aired, Kaling's final episode as a series regular. She left the show to focus on her Fox and eventual Hulu show, The Mindy Project. Novak followed suit halfway through season 9, later revealing on a
2021 episode of the Armchair Expert podcast with Dax Shepard that it was mostly due to burnout: "Sometimes, you just know when it's time." In an interview with Entertainment Weekly, Novak admitted that it can be difficult for his and Kaling's partners to understand their relationship. "We are pretty inseparable best friends with a lot of chemistry
ourselves, and we're not dating," he said. "Whenever we date anyone else, I think there's a period where the person is very skeptical of our friendship." Beth Dubber/NBCU Photo Bank/NBCUniversal Kaling tapped Novak to help her produce the first season of The Mindy Project, and he even had a three-episode character arc. On the show, he played
Jamie, one of Mindy Lahiri's love interests. The duo again based their characters' relationship on their own while also referencing the iconic film When Harry Met Sally with their co-written episode "Harry and Sally." Dimitrios Kambouris/Getty Kaling and Novak attended their first Met Gala side by side. Kaling wore a purple Lela Rose dress, in line
with the year's theme of PUNK: Chaos to Couture. "We would gone punk even if it wasn't the theme," she later captioned an Instagram selfie with Novak from the event. The Office officially came to an end on May 16, 2013. After leaving the show a year prior, Kaling and Novak returned for the series finale. In the final episode, Kelly and Ryan get
their own version of happily ever after, running away together and ditching their responsibilities at Dwight Schrute and Angela Martin's wedding. In a cute Office reference, Kaling called Novak her "soup snake" in a birthday tribute on Twitter, a running joke between the pair. The term "soup snakes" comes from an episode in season 7 where Steve
Carell's Michael Scott confuses his own handwriting, reading "soup snakes" rather than "soul mates" in a written love confession. Mark Sullivan/WireImage Kaling and Novak kicked off their cute tradition of attending the Vanity Fair Oscars party together in 2014. The pair also attended the bash together in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2022. Before
the 2018 party, Kaling shared a video of the two en route, saying, "I'm headed out for a night of fun with my best friend." On Sept. 15, 2014, Kaling went on the Howard Stern show and spilled about her previous relationship with Novak, saying that had he proposed at the time, she would have said yes. She also shared that it was Novak who initiated
their final breakup. "He broke up with me," she said. "It was years and store that that breakup happened. I was so sad, not angry, sad." Kevin Mazur/VF17/WireImage In a 2015 profile for InStyle, Kaling got a lot of fans' hopes up after opening up about her complicated friendship with Novak. "I will freely admit: My relationship with BJ Novak is
weird as hell," she said. "He is not my boyfriend, but he is not my boyfriend, but I don't think Facebook would accept this as a new status." Chris Haston/Universal Television/NBCU Photo Bank/NBCUniversal Novak reprised his role as Jamie in
season 5 of The Mindy Project. On the show, Mindy Lahiri and Jamie share a quick kiss after one too many shots at a party. "I was doubly happy to come back to The Mindy Project, but I never ask for a favor from Mindy because she'd do it," he
continued. Kaling celebrated Nation Best Friends Day by posting a tribute to Novak on her Instagram. "Best friend isn't a person, it's a tier," she wrote in the caption, again quoting her Office character. She also continued the When Harry Met Sally references, noting that the pair were dressed as the fictional best friends in the photo. Emma McIntyre
/VF19/WireImage On Dec. 15, 2017, Kaling welcomed her first child, daughter Katherine "Kit" Swati. In 2019, she revealed to Good Housekeeping that Novak is Kit's godfather. Novak took on the role of godfather again when Kaling gave birth to her second child, son Spencer Avu, on Sept. 3, 2020. VALERIE MACON/AFP Kaling and Novak hit yet
another red carpet together at the 92nd Academy Awards before Kaling took to the stage to present an award. After the event, the pair kept up their tradition and attended the Vanity Fair Oscars party, later posting a series of photos from a photo booth. In an October 2020 interview with the Today Show, Kaling shared that Novak has become pretty
attached to her kids: "He said the funniest thing, he was like, 'Can you sue for god-paternity rights?' " Matt Winkelmeyer/VF20/WireImage Novak's most important role? Playing Santa Claus for Kaling's kids. In 2020, she revealed that she and Novak schemed as to how to pull off the surprise. "We're going to be baking cookies and then all of a sudden
we're going to hear bells from another room and I'm going to go, 'Kit, what do you think that is?' " Kaling said the act ends with Kit finding Novak in a Santa costume asleep on the couch with a bag of toys. Emma McIntyre/Getty In November 2021, Kaling's HBO Max comedy The Sex Lives of College Girls premiered in L.A. at the Hammer Museum.
Novak was on hand to support Kaling, who created the show under her own production company, Kaling International, Inc. Maddie Malhotra/Boston Red Sox/Getty Kaling and Novak, both of whom are Massachusetts natives, spent a fun evening together at Fenway Park for a Boston Red Sox/Getty Kaling and Novak, both of whom are Massachusetts natives, spent a fun evening together at Fenway Park for a Boston Red Sox/Getty Kaling and Novak, both of whom are Massachusetts natives, spent a fun evening together at Fenway Park for a Boston Red Sox/Getty Kaling and Novak, both of whom are Massachusetts natives, spent a fun evening together at Fenway Park for a Boston Red Sox/Getty Kaling and Novak, both of whom are Massachusetts natives, spent a fun evening together at Fenway Park for a Boston Red Sox/Getty Kaling and Novak, both of whom are Massachusetts natives, spent a fun evening together at Fenway Park for a Boston Red Sox/Getty Kaling and Novak, both of whom are Massachusetts natives, spent a fun evening together at Fenway Park for a Boston Red Sox/Getty Kaling and Novak, both of whom are Massachusetts natives, spent a fun evening together at Fenway Park for a Boston Red Sox/Getty Kaling and Novak, both of whom are Massachusetts natives, spent a fun evening together at Fenway Park for a Boston Red Sox/Getty Kaling and Novak, both of whom are Massachusetts native for a Boston Red Sox/Getty Kaling and Novak Red Sox/G
the team captioned a photo of the pair, decked out in Rox Sox jerseys and posing with the team mascots, Wally and Tessie. In her own post, Kaling joked that it was "a completely perfect night at Fenway to see my fave guys, the Boston Red Sox, and with my best friend, the Green Monster, Wally. B.J. Novak was also there." On June 12, 2022, B.J.
Novak made his directorial debut with the film Vengeance, which has a star-studded cast including Dove Cameron and Ashton Kutcher. At the film's debut at the Ace Hotel in Downtown L.A., Kaling dropped by to complete her best friend duties and support Novak, Kaling addressed the rumors that Novak is the father of her children during an
interview with Marie Claire. While Kaling has never revealed the paternity of her kids, fans have long theorized that Novak could be their father. However, as the Never Have I Ever creator explained, the speculation "doesn't bother" her. "He's the godparent to both my kids — and they have such a great relationship — and so far [the rumors haven't]
affected my happiness at all, it hasn't affected my kids or BJ," she told the publication. "If that's what is going to be titillating to people, I'll take it," Kaling added. Kaling allowed her four-year-old daughter to stay up past her bedtime for some stargazing at the Griffith Observatory with her godfather, Novak. Kit came dressed for the occasion, donning
black pajama bottoms adorned with yellow stars and crescent moons. The Mindy Project star posted a few photos on Instagram from the trio's late-night outing in L.A. One photo showed Kit peering through a giant telescope, while another pictured Novak holding his goddaughter as she pointed to something in the sky. "My four year old had the best
night of her life at our star party + Saturn spotting," Kaling captioned the image carousel. "Thank you @bjnovak for sharing your passion for astronomy." While chatting with Meghan Markle on her podcast, Archetypes, Kaling shared the parenting advice — courtesy of her friend Novak — that has stuck with her. "I grew up always feeling ugly,
overweight, othered. And so with my daughter, I'm always telling her that she's beautiful," she said. "To the point where my friend B.J. is like 'You can tell her other compliments.' "Kaling went on to add: "It's funny to realize 'Oh, I'm focusing too much on this.' Every morning I'm like 'You're so beautiful," she said. "To the point where my friend B.J. is like 'You can tell her other compliments.' "Kaling went on to add: "It's funny to realize 'Oh, I'm focusing too much on this."
But I do think that's how we can change things." Mindy Kaling and BJ Novak. Chris Haston/NBC via Getty At the 2022 Emmy Awards, Novak and Kaling presented the trophy for writing for a limited or anthology series or movie. Before announcing a winner, however, Novak and Kaling presented the trophy for writing for a limited or anthology series or movie.
congratulations, you lazy sons of bitches," teased Kaling. "How are you getting away with this?" "Eight episodes?" Novak asked before Kaling added, "We came out doing network sitcoms, 22 episodes a year." "And that show, that would take up your whole life. No time for other projects," Novak chimed in. Kaling looked at her co-presenter and
continued, "No time for a social life. You had no choice but to form insanely complicated relationships with your costars," joking about the buzz surrounding their relationship. Mindy Kaling Instagram about the buzz surrounding their relationship. Mindy Kaling Instagram about the buzz surrounding their relationship. Mindy Kaling Instagram about the buzz surrounding their relationship.
white roses. In the photo, Kaling looked glamorous in a sparkly dress by Naeem Khan while Novak was photographed in all black. Novak shared pictures of the two on his Instagram Story, sharing a snap of the two in front of the same flower wall as a photo of Kaling taking the selfie. During an appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live, Kaling
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reflected on "the most genuinely scary situation" she had ever experienced. When she was nearly nine months pregnant with her daughter, the comedian went out to dinner in L.A with Novak. A fan (who was acting strange) came up to the two of them and said: "Hey, love you guys in The Office!" The interaction was brief as they made their way from the car to the front door of the restaurant. "Restaurant's closed, for whatever reason. And then we walked back to the car, and when we walk back to the car — we're like, 'Oh, that's probably not it, because there's somebody sitting in the driver's seat,' and we keep walking," Kaling shared. "We go back to the car and the guy that we had talked to by the meter had gotten into B.J.'s laptop open and was on B.J.'s laptop." Luckily, Novak and Kaling confronted the man and managed to get him out of the car without any physical altercation. During an appearance on The Drew Barrymore Show, Kaling told Drew Barrymore

why she wants to keep her relationship with Novak in the friend zone. "He is a wonderful friend and he is the godparent of our family, but we've known each other for a long, long time and I think anyone who's been friends with someone for 18, 19 years and at one point dated and now doesn't, they maybe understand this. You have exes that you wouldn't necessarily marry now." Novak spoke about his romantic history with Kaling when he presented her with the Norman Lear Achievement Award in Television at the 2023 Producers Guild Awards. The actor called himself and Kaling "reckless idiots" when they were dating and working together on The Office. He recalled arguing and "forever grinding the writers room into a halt." He also described their romantic relationship as a "tumultuous, romantic, toxic, boundary-less mess," which inspired the show's producers to suggest the pair "have scenes together" because they were "pretty funny." Kaling later posted photos on Instagram from the evening, including snaps of her and Novak together. Jon Kopaloff/Getty Before enjoying a star-studded evening, Novak and Kaling posed for photos together on the Vanity Fair red carpet. The Mindy Project star wowed in a metallic gold Prabal Gurung gown, while Novak donned a dapper black tuxedo. Kaling marked Novak's 44th birthday by posting a picture on Instagram of the pair smiling in a car. "Happy birthday, Uncle B! We love you!," she captioned the photo. "No party is as fun as the car ride home with you," Novak responded in the comments. When the podcast from Instagram gossip account Deuxmoi shared anonymous intel that the longtime friends had a falling out, Kaling took the opportunity to respond. "Omg I haaate him so much," she jokingly wrote in a comment that was captured by the Comments By Celebs Instagram account. Kaling gave birth to her third child, Anne, in February 2024. While talking too PEOPLE, Novak described the infant as "adorable" and "the best." Mindy Kaling and B. J. Novak in 2025. Michael Buckner/Variety via Getty Novak delivered a sweet speech at Kaling's Hollywood Walk of Fame ceremony. He described the actress as a "brilliant and wildly successful showrunner, an incredible mother of three [and] a deep and carring daughter and friend." Kaling later noted that Novak is an "important to the actress as a "brilliant and wildly successful showrunner, an incredible mother of three [and] a deep and carring daughter and friend." and integral part of my family." 9 Seasons - 24min Buy Starts at \$2.99 / Episode Actors who left The Office before it ended did so on good terms and went on to do other great projects, some even returned for the series finale. Steve Carell's departure from The Office in season 7 was a difficult goodbye as he had been an important member of the show since season 1. Other actors who left early include Mindy Kaling, B.J. Novak, David Denman, Melora Hardin, Amy Ryan, Zach Woods, Rashida Jones, and James Spader. The Office launched the careers of many cast members who left early include Mindy Kaling, B.J. Novak, David Denman, Melora Hardin, Amy Ryan, Zach Woods, Rashida Jones, and James Spader. The Office launched the careers of many cast members. an impact. Although the original UK version of The Office that the US version is based on ran for only 14 episodes, the American show enjoyed a long run on television and is still considered one of the all-time greats of TV comedies and a noteworthy pioneer in the mockumentary sitcom genre. But even though the show was so successful, some actors left before it was over. The actors who departed from The Office and have continued to do so more recently. Some even returned for The Office's series finale, making for both emotional and hysterical cameos that remained true to their characters. Related The Office season 2 opened with the memorable "The Dundies", but Steve Carell (Michael Scott) Michael Left The Office In Season 7, Episode 22 Out of every actor who left The Office, Steve Carrell's exit was the biggest. The show wouldn't be what it is without self-proclaimed "World's Best Boss," Michael Scott. But The Office season 7 sees Michael finally leave Dunder Mifflin and Scranton, PA behind to move to Colorado with his fiance, Holly. It's one of the sitcom's most emotional moments, and it was a difficult goodbye for the cast too, as Carell had been such an important member of the show since its original season 1 adaption. At the time, the office was that he simply felt it was time to go, and he wanted to spend more time with his family. In Andy Greene's 2020 book, The Office: The Untold Story of the Greatest Sitcom of the 2000s, it's revealed Carell was willing to return for more seasons of the show, but executives at NBC never communicated about renewing his contract. Even when Carell was nominated for 6 Emmys For The Office, winning once in 2005. Customer service rep Kelly's sendoff comes in the first episode of season 9 as Mindy Kaling left The Office. Kelly announces that it is Ohio and not Florida. However, she does appear in the series finale, fittingly running off with on-again, off-again lover Ryan at Dwight and Angela's wedding, leaving Ryan's infant son Drake in the care of the unsuspecting Ravi. According to the actress, her departure from the show was quite seamless. Kaling was starting her show, The Mindy Project, and she ended up working with some of her friends from The Office on that project as well, such as B.J. Novak and Ed Helms. Related The Office had several cringeworthy moments that would not fly in today's culture, but could the show still be brought back successfully? Like Mindy Kaling, B.I. Novak, who plays Ryan on The Office, was also a writer on the show, as well as a producer. He also left right at the start of season 9, with Ryan following Kelly to Ohio but claiming that his simultaneous departure was unrelated. According to B.J. Novak, his Office exit was motivated mostly by burnout. By season 9, other important The Office cast members like Carrell, and especially Kaling, whom Novak was quite close with when working on the series, had already left. Novak wasn't feeling as invested in the show as he wanted and didn't feel like he could do it anymore, even though he was offered a role as The Office showrunner moving forward. Before Jim and Pam's romance took off, Roy Anderson, played by David Denman, was Pam's deadbeat fiancé/boyfriend in the show's early seasons. Inattentive and prone to violence, Roy serves mainly as an obstacle to Jim and Pam's romance throughout The Office seasons 1 to 3. This is ultimately why Denman left, too. After Pam and Roy's Office breakup, the actor knew he wouldn't be on the show for much longer. Denman's original contract was rather ominous setup. coupled with the writers' commitment to getting Jim and Pam together, meant that Denman wasn't destined to stick around as a series regular past season 3. His character did find redemption in The Office season 9 episode, appropriately entitled "Roy's Wedding," suggesting Roy was better off without Pam. The episode opens with Jim and Pam somewhat awkwardly attending a lavish (and bizarrely early morning) wedding for Roy and his new bride-to-be. The reception revealed that Roy had started a successful gravel company, affording him a beautiful home. He even took piano lessons to impress his new bride, which understandably left his ex, Pam, shocked. One of The Office's most notorious characters is Jan Levinson, who plays Michael's uptight corporate boss, domineering girlfriend, and unstable ex at different points in the show. Jan's appearance in the series mostly dwindles by the end of season 5, though she does appear as a recurring character in season 7 as well. After Jan's breakup with Michael, Jan's role becomes less important, which is part of why actress Melora Hardin disappeared from the show. On the podcast, An Oral History of The Office, Hardin also revealed that she never felt a true sense of belonging on set. Though there was no ill will between her and the rest of the cast, a side effect of Jan's appearance only in specific scenes, as opposed to the consistent Scranton office, meant that she didn't bond as tightly as everyone else did. Another iconic flame of Michael Scott dated on The Office is HR rep Holly, she is a great fit for his unique personality and quirks, and the two seem genuinely in love. Though not technically billed as a main cast member for any of the season is the fact that Holly and Michael's journey. The simple reason why the actress didn't stick around until the show's final season is the fact that Holly and Michael's lives were completely intertwined after season 7, so it would have been out of place for Ryan to appear without Carell. Related Holly joined The Office during season 4 as the new Human Resources representative, but here's her most controversial in the position explained. Gabe, played by Zach Woods, is one of The Office's odder later-season additions to the main cast. Technically a management consultant after Sabre buys up Dunder Mifflin in season 6, there's plenty about The Office's Gabe Lewis that makes no sense. The character mysteriously disappears after season 8, presumably being unceremoniously fired by David Wallace after he buys Dunder Mifflin back from Sabre. Gabe does have a guest appearance in season 9's "Moving On" episode, however. Woods has never revealed any particular reason for leaving. Like Roy, Rashida Jones's character, Karen Filippelli, wasn't meant to last on The Office since her primary role was keeping Jim and Pam apart during season 2 to add drama to their long love saga. However, Jones left The Office somehow the same person Lastly, James Spader was only on The Office as a main character for season 8, in which he played Michael Scott's replacement, Robert California. This appearance was always intended as a one-off, so it came as no surprise that Spader left the show before season 9 just as planned. Nevertheless, his performance as a cunning and at times even scary corporate opportunist made Spader one of The Office's most interesting main actors to leave the show early. Though every actor left The Office for their own reasons, there are so many cast members who owe their careers to the show. Steve Carrell and John Krasinski are the biggest stars to come out of the original cast, with big movie careers including an Oscar nomination for Carrell in Foxcatcher and a solid directing career for Kransinki with A Quiet Place. Other cast members like Ed Helms, Craig Robinson, Ellie Kemper, and Mark Proksch kicked off successful television careers with their roles on the show. Fans might also forget that The Office helped launch future superstars like Amy Adams and Evan Peters in early roles. B.J. Novak was a treasured and very important part of The Office. Fans knew him as the bizarre and out-of-pocket Ryan Howard, being a downright douche in certain situations and being a victim of Michael Scott in others. While this was what he was best known for, he was also one of the most important parts of the behind-the-scenes of the series. Ryan Howard in The Office | Credit: NBC Playing the role of a producer for the series, he co-wrote several beloved episodes from the series and even earned an Emmy nomination for his contributions. However, the actor ended up leaving the series towards the start of the ninth season. During an interview, he confessed the reason and many fans would be quite upset to know why. Several cast members from The Office also played the roles of producers and writers in the series' development. From Mindy Kaling, who played the roles of producers and writers in the series' development. brother, Mose. A still from The Office | Credit: NBC However, towards the end of the series, B.J. Novak was one of the few people left among the main cast who was playing both roles. During an appearance on the Armchair Expert podcast, Novak talked about what made him want to walk away from the show that he had spent a decade working on. I was burnt out, Mindy (Kaling) had left. Carell had left. Carell had left. Carell had left. And they wanted a new showrunner and they asked if I would want to do that and I couldn't imagine it. It would seem that Kaling walking away from the project, and Steve Carell leaving the role of Michael Scott forced the actor to reconsider his decision to continue the series. Additionally, he was also offered quite a promotion on the series. Novak revealed that he was given the opportunity to become the showrunner of the series. B.J. Novak in The Office as Ryan Howard | Credit: NBC However, this was not enough for him to reconsider, as he was not interested in taking up the role. B.J. Novak continued revealing what exactly made him want to reconsider the role of Ryan Howard and all of the other responsibilities he had on The Office. The actor confessed that working on the series simply did not feel the same to him anymore. This is not surprising considering just how much has changed for fans as well. B.J. Novak in The Office as Ryan Howard | Credit: NBC After Michael left, it is a collectively acknowledged fact among fans that the series simply wasn't the same. It would seem that this regard wasn't only held by the viewers but also couldn't imagine just hanging around without it. And I just couldn't do it anymore. I didn't have the love. With this in mind, he confessed that he simply could not continue one without the rest of the cast by his side. He even went as far as to say that he no longer had a love for the show like he used to. While this confession may make many fans upset, it does seem to hold very true for the actor. The Office is available for streaming on Netflix. Actors who left The Office before it ended did so on good terms and went on to do other great projects, some even returned for the series finale. Steve Carell's departure from The Office in season 7 was a difficult goodbye as he had been an important member of the show since season 1. Other actors who left early include Mindy Kaling, B.J. Novak, David Denman, Melora Hardin, Amy Ryan, Zach Woods, Rashida Jones, and James Spader. The Office cast members before the series finale made an impact. Although the original UK version of The Office that the US version is based on ran for only 14 episodes, the American show enjoyed a long run on television and is still considered one of the all-time greats of TV comedies and a noteworthy pioneer in the mockumentary sitcom genre. But even though the show was so successful, some actors left before it was over. The actors who departed from The Office cast before the show had run its course had their reasons for doing so, though all parted on good terms. Likewise, many of them went on to do other great projects after leaving The Office and have continued to do so more recently. Some even returned for The Office's series finale, making for both emotional and hysterical cameos that remained true to their characters. 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Though not technically billed as a main cast member for any of the seasons she appears in, Amy Ryan is, no doubt, a critical component of The Office's storyline because of how Holly helps shape Michael's lives were completely intertwined after season 7, so it would have been out of place for Ryan to appear without Carell. Related Holly joined The Office during season 4 as the new Human Resources representative, but here's her most controversial in the position explained. Gabe, played by Zach Woods, is one of The Office's odder later-season additions to the main cast. Technically a management consultant after Sabre buys up Dunder Mifflin in season 6, there's plenty about The Office's Gabe Lewis that makes no sense. The character mysteriously disappears after season 8, presumably being unceremoniously fired by David Wallace after he buys Dunder Mifflin back from Sabre. Gabe does have a guest appearance in season 9's "Moving On' episode, however. Woods has never revealed any particular reason for leaving The Office early after being bumped up to a main cast role in season 7, though it allowed him to star in HBO's Silicon Valley. A few other actors had one-season main roles on The Office before leaving. Like Roy, Rashida Jones's character, Karen Filippelli, wasn't meant to last on The Office since her primary role was keeping Jim and Pam apart during season 2 to add drama to their long love saga. However, Jones left The Office to work on Parks and Recreation, leading to the theory that Parks & Rec's Ann Perkins and The Office as a main character for season 8, in which he played Michael Scott's replacement, Robert California. This appearance was always intended as a one-off, so it came as no surprise that Spader left the show before season 9 just as planned. Nevertheless, his performance as a cunning and at times even scary corporate opportunist made Spader one of The Office's most interesting main actors to leave the show early. Though every actor left The Office for their own reasons, there are so many cast members who owe their careers to the show. Steve Carrell and John Krasinski are the biggest stars to come out of the original cast, with big movie careers including an Oscar nomination for Carrell in Foxcatcher and a solid directing career for Kransinki with A Quiet Place. Other cast members like Ed Helms, Craig Robinson, Ellie Kemper, and Mark Proksch kicked off successful television careers with their roles on the show. Fans might also forget that The Office helped launch future superstars like Amy Adams and Evan Peters in early roles. Not long into the pandemic, it was revealed that The Office producers Ben Silverman and Paul Lieberstein were working on a workplace comedy that dealt with people working remotely under the Big Breakfast banner of Propagate Content. The comedy has since found not only a title but also a home, as it will be titled Remote and is coming to CBS All Access and CBS TV Studios. The Office has become one of the most beloved comedies of all time, so we can only imagine what the team can do with the very real situation that many workers around the world find themselves in right now. As Silverman previously stated, this is the new normal, and the series will try and bring humor and comfort to this challenging time. "So many of us are jumping on daily Zoom meetings — for work and beyond," Silverman said. "We are in a new normal and are personally navigating ways to remain connected and productive at work and in our home lives. With the brilliant Paul Lieberstein at the helm, we think we have a series that not only brings humor and comfort during this troubling time but will also be an inventive and enduring workplace comedy for years to come." Remote will revolve around a boss who tries to ensure that his staff stays connected and productive while working from home, so has them all virtually interact and work face to face throughout the day. This was actually a pretty easy transition for Lieberstein, who said "Start with the office comedy, lose the office and you're just left with comedy. The math works." Lieberstein and Silverman both have an Emmy, so the odds are that Remote could very well follow in those footsteps. The Office was already popular during its initial NBC run, but it gained a whole new legion of fans when it was made available to stream on Netflix. Since then it's become a modern classic, and once it leaves Netflix it will head to NBC's new streaming service Peacock. Are you excited for Remote? Let us know in the comments!

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