

# WHERE'S HOMER?

Your star-studded, sneak-peek guide to a very special, very *Philly Simpsons* episode.

BY VICTOR FIORILLO

This month, Marge and Homer Simpson—America's most enduring (and most chinless) animated stars—will visit Philadelphia for the first time in *The Simpsons*' 36-year run, showering love on our city for the show's milestone 800th episode.

For this you can thank *Simpsons* co-executive producer Christine Nangle, the Penn grad and Oxford Circle native who conceived of and wrote the installment. She's been with the show—the longest-running scripted prime-time series ever—since 2019, prior to which she was, among other things, a writer for *Saturday Night Live*. These days, Nangle makes her home in Los Angeles, but "I'm 100 percent still a Philadelphian," she says. "I wear it with pride on my sleeve."

That's abundantly apparent in her *Simpsons* plot, which—mild spoiler alert—begins when Marge and Homer journey to the city so their dog, Santa's Little Helper, can participate in a (fictional) Philadelphia dog show. Once here, some local conspiracy theorists known as the H.O.A.G.I.E. Men (Historians of America's Great Inventors and Enlightened Men) convince them that the dog is actually a direct descendant of Ben Franklin's mutt, and that he holds secret abilities to find gold supposedly stashed by Franklin. (A penny saved?!) The two find themselves on a *National Treasure*-style adventure in search of that fortune, running into a host of icons along the way.

Not surprisingly, the Philadelphia gags come fast and furious—so here, ahead of the February 15th air date on Fox, Nangle offers up a preview of the people, places, and oh-so-Philly plot points you're going to want to watch for.

