

= Home (Glee) =

" Home " is the sixteenth episode of the American television series Glee . The episode premiered on the Fox network on April 27 , 2010 . It was directed by Paris Barclay and written by series creator Brad Falchuk . " Home " sees new cheerleader Mercedes Jones (Amber Riley) deal with body image issues , while Kurt Hummel (Chris Colfer) sets his dad and Finn Hudson 's mom together , in an attempt to get closer to Finn (Cory Monteith) , and club director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) is reunited with his friend April Rhodes (Kristin Chenoweth) . Chenoweth first appeared in Glee in the episode " The Rhodes Not Taken " . She enjoyed the role of April so much that she agreed to return for " Home " , and has expressed an interest in reappearing in the future .

The episode features cover versions of five songs , all of which were released as singles , available for digital download , and four of which are included on the soundtrack album Glee : The Music , Volume 3 ? Showstoppers . " Home " was watched by 12 @. @ 18 million American viewers and received mixed reviews from critics . Both Gerrick D. Kennedy of the Los Angeles Times and Tim Stack of Entertainment Weekly recommended that Chenoweth receive an Emmy nomination for her performance , and Mark A. Perigard of the Boston Herald opined that the episode itself should be submitted for Emmy consideration . Jean Bentley of MTV felt that Chenoweth was overused in the episode , however , and criticized the songs performed as being unrecognizable to younger viewers . Todd VanDerWerff of The A. V. Club felt that the episode was poorly balanced , and Bobby Hankinson of the Houston Chronicle deemed " Home " the weakest episode of Glee thus far .

= = Plot = =

In preparation for an interview with Splits Magazine , cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) demands that new cheerleader Mercedes Jones (Amber Riley) lose ten pounds in a week . She reserves the school auditorium for cheer practice , so glee club director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) has to find the club a new rehearsal space . He visits a local roller rink where he finds former glee club member April Rhodes (Kristin Chenoweth) , who tells him that she is the mistress of the wealthy eighty @- @ year @- @ old tycoon who owns the rink . Upon learning that Will is looking to sublet his apartment , April invites herself to visit . After spending the night sharing a bed , Will forbids April from staying over again and tells her she is worth more than being a mistress . April says she will break up with her tycoon .

Mercedes struggles to eat healthily and her mid @- @ week weigh @- @ in shows that she has gained two pounds . She begins extreme dieting and faints in the school cafeteria . Former cheerleading captain Quinn Fabray (Dianna Agron) sympathizes with Mercedes , commending her for being so comfortable in her own body and advising her not to let being a cheerleader detract from that . Though Mercedes is embarrassed , Quinn tells her that she is beautiful . On the day of the pep rally , Mercedes abandons the planned routine , and instead sings " Beautiful " . The journalist from Splits Magazine assumes that Sue engineered the performance and expresses his admiration for her , promising her positive publicity from his article .

Glee club member Kurt Hummel (Chris Colfer) sets up his widower father Burt (Mike O 'Malley) with Finn Hudson 's (Cory Monteith) widowed mother Carole (Romy Rosemont) . He believes that it will help him become closer to Finn , for whom he has feelings . Finn is upset when Carole sells their old furniture , and stops his late father 's recliner from being sold . He is initially hostile to her dating someone new , but begins to bond with Burt over sports at a group dinner . Kurt feels left out , and later asks Finn to help him break up their parents . Finn initially agrees , but relents after Burt tells him that he loves Carole and would never hurt her . They watch a basketball game together and Finn allows Burt to sit in his father 's recliner , while Kurt watches on sadly through the window .

When April attempts to break up with her tycoon , he has a stroke and dies . His wife gives April \$ 2 million in hush money , and April uses some of it to buy the auditorium for the glee club . She plans to go to Broadway to launch the first all @- @ white production of The Wiz . The episode ends with April and the glee club performing " Home " from The Wiz .

== Production ==

" Home " was directed by Paris Barclay , who also directed " Wheels " , Glee 's ninth episode . It was written by series co -@ creator Brad Falchuk , who deemed the episode potentially the best of the series so far . " Home " sees the return of guest star Kristin Chenoweth , who first appeared in episode five , " The Rhodes Not Taken " , as former glee club member April Rhodes . Prior to her first appearance , Chenoweth was already acquainted with Glee creator Ryan Murphy , having appeared in his 2006 film Running with Scissors . Murphy commented that he loves writing for Chenoweth , and both he and Chenoweth expressed their desire for April to return to Glee in the future , with Chenoweth stating : " This part is like nothing I 've had the chance to do on TV . " It was confirmed in October 2009 that Chenoweth would reprise the role of April later in the first season , and on March 14 , 2010 that her return would occur in " Home " .

While Glee also features Chenoweth 's former Wicked co -@ star Idina Menzel as recurring character Shelby Corcoran , the producers declined to give the two scenes together , explaining that the series is story @-@ driven , and as re @-@ uniting the two on @-@ screen did not work for storytelling purposes , it was deemed unnecessary . Of Chenoweth 's future with Glee beyond " Home " , Falchuk commented that the producers want to " have her around as much as possible " , and although no plans have been solidified , she may return in the second season . He expanded : " [When] you have talents like that , it 's very hard to not want them back . The one advantage we have , I think , is that we have so many incredibly talented people in our ? cast that ? we don 't need [guest actors] as much . But there are certain very special people that , of course , you 'd always be interested in . "

The episode features a cover version of " A House Is Not a Home " , performed by Colfer and Monteith , as well as a mash @-@ up of " A House Is Not a Home " and " One Less Bell to Answer " , performed by Chenoweth and Morrison . Morrison and Chenoweth also duet on The Pointer Sisters ' version of " Fire " . In keeping with the " home " theme of the episode , Mötley Crüe 's ballad " Home Sweet Home " (and also " Heart of Glass " by Blondie , although this isn 't about home) can be heard in the roller rink scene , but was not covered by the cast . Chenoweth performs " Home " from The Wiz , and Riley sings " Beautiful " by Christina Aguilera . The songs performed were all released as singles , available for digital download . Each track except " Fire " and " Home Sweet Home " is also included on the album Glee : The Music , Volume 3 ? Showstoppers .

== Reception ==

=== Ratings ===

In its original broadcast , " Home " was watched by 12 @.@ 18 million American viewers and attained a 5 @.@ 2 / 13 rating / share in the 18 @-@ 49 demographic . In the United Kingdom , the episode was watched by 1 @.@ 91 million viewers and was the second most @-@ watched show of the week on the non @-@ terrestrial channels , beaten only by Britain 's Got More Talent . In Canada , Glee was watched by 2 @.@ 16 million viewers , making Glee the tenth most @-@ viewed program of the week . In Australia , the episode lead in its timeslot in all key demographics , and was watched by 1 @.@ 3 million viewers , making Glee the 16th most @-@ viewed show of the week .

=== Critical response ===

" Home " received mixed reviews from critics . Gerrick D. Kennedy of the Los Angeles Times deemed it the series ' most emotional episode , and his favorite next to " Wheels " . Kennedy praised O 'Malley 's performance as " nothing short of perfection " and recommended that Chenoweth receive an Emmy nomination for her performance . Tim Stack of Entertainment Weekly concurred that Chenoweth 's performance was Emmy @-@ worthy , though felt she may have been

slightly overused in the episode . Stack noted that he did not love " Home " upon his first viewing , but praised it for adding depth to the characters and tackling body image and sexuality issues . Rick Bentley of McClatchy Newspapers called the episode " as perfect as television can get " , praising Colfer 's performance and also deeming him deserving of an Emmy nomination . Mark A. Perigard of the Boston Herald similarly assessed that " Home " is : " the strongest episode of the season to date , the one Fox should submit for Emmy consideration . " Perigard was impressed by the range shown by O 'Malley , and opined that the episode as a whole had no low @-@ points .

In contrast , Jean Bentley of MTV described " Home " as " an hour of television better suited for Internet surfing than actually paying attention . " She criticized the songs as being unrecognizable to younger viewers , and called the main plots " emotional doozies , with not much comic relief in between . " Bentley felt that Chenoweth was overused , and called her appearance in the episode " nonsensical and unnecessary " . Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club graded the episode " C " . He felt that the three main plot strands were poorly balanced , resulting in an episode with " powerful moments that drown as they 're nearly subsumed by everything else going on . " VanDerWerff criticized Mercedes ' storyline as being too abrupt , and deemed her performance of " Beautiful " : " so forced that it loses any power it might have from what 's a genuinely nice arrangement of the song . " Finally , he expressed his concern that the prevalence of songs in Glee may detract from the quality of the show . Bobby Hankinson of the Houston Chronicle also criticized the episode , deeming it the weakest of the series so far , and one that left him underwhelmed .