

= JJ (Skins series 3) =

" JJ " is the seventh episode of the third series of the British teen drama Skins , which first aired on 5 March 2009 on E4 in both Ireland and the United Kingdom . The episode was written by the series ' co @-@ creator , Bryan Elsley , and was directed by Charles Martin . The episode focuses on the character of JJ Jones (Ollie Barbieri) , who has Asperger syndrome , and his confusion about his life and his desire to be normal . He strikes up a friendship with Emily Fitch (Kathryn Prescott) and attempts to solve the dispute between his friends James Cook (Jack O 'Connell) and Freddie Mclair (Luke Pasqualino) over their shared love interest , Effy Stonem (Kaya Scodelario) .

" JJ " was filmed in November 2008 . Barbieri undertook various measures to get into his character 's mindset , including research , creating part of the set himself , and later destroying it . The episode featured numerous cameo appearances by the series ' crew members . " JJ " drew just under one million viewers on its first broadcast and was E4 's highest @-@ rated programme of the week . It was received generally well by critics , though the writers ' decision for Emily to have sex with JJ drew criticism from the lesbian community .

= = Plot = =

JJ visits his psychiatrist , Dr Felly (Paul Ridley) , seeking help for his recent bouts of rage and his confusion about his life and friends . Dr Felly has poor advice for JJ and prescribes him more drugs to calm him down . As he is leaving , he meets Emily , who came to the clinic to receive counselling in being more honest , but was simply prescribed the same drugs as JJ . She comes out to him and he shares with her his longing to be " normal " for a day so that he could lose his virginity and reunite Freddie and Cook . She advises him to just ask for the things he wants , so they visit Freddie to tell him to make up with Cook . At Freddie 's house , though , they walk in on Freddie having sex with Emily 's twin sister , Katie (Megan Prescott) , and JJ accidentally outs Emily as a lesbian , leaving Katie looking visibly shaken . JJ asks Freddie to make up with Cook , but Freddie refuses and tells JJ to choose between him and Cook .

Returning home , JJ sees his mother , Cecilia (Juliet Cowan) , overwhelmed by all of his issues and blames himself . He calls Cook to tell him how he feels , but Cook is preoccupied with having sex with a girl who JJ assumes is Effy . When he visits Effy , however , she reveals that she has not seen Cook in days . He asks her to leave Freddie and Cook alone ; she refuses but offers to be his friend . JJ then visits Cook and discovers that he is having sex with their friend Pandora Moon (Lisa Backwell) . Pretending not to have seen this , he then confronts Cook about ruining their friendship with Freddie and shouts at Cook for not caring about how he feels . Cook tells JJ that he loves him and brings JJ with him to buy drugs . They are almost arrested and , after running from the police , JJ pressures Cook into taking his prescription drugs instead before they meet their friends at a club . In the queue , Effy tells Naomi Campbell (Lily Loveless) that she knows about Naomi and Emily 's relationship . Naomi reveals that she is unsure of her sexuality and realises that Effy is in love with Freddie , not Cook . JJ and Cook arrive and Thomas Tomone (Merveille Lukeba) lets them into the club where British electronica duo You Love Her Coz She 's Dead are playing , announcing that Emily is already inside . Cook gets into a fight on the dancefloor and Freddie moves in to help when he discovers that JJ gave Cook his prescription drugs .

Cook , under the influence of JJ 's drugs , is compelled to tell the truth and confesses that Effy loves Freddie . Cook says that he loves Effy , but knows his feelings are not reciprocated and that is why he is having an affair with Pandora . Thomas , Pandora 's boyfriend , overhears this and is furious . JJ leaves the club and finds a tearful Emily , who does not want to go home to face Katie . JJ invites her to spend the night with him and , after they agree to be friends , she gets him to have sex with her , as a " once @-@ only charity event " . JJ 's mother meets Emily the next morning and watches them discuss the night before . She is overjoyed that he has made a real friend and believes that JJ will be alright after all .

= = Production = =

" JJ " was filmed in November 2008 in the same production block as the series ' eighth episode , " Effy " . Ollie Barbieri did some research to help him in playing JJ , who has Asperger syndrome . He said that , in initial episodes , he played JJ as " quite mad and I jumped around a lot " , though by this episode his portrayal was " watered down a bit " . Charles Martin shot an unscripted scene that involved Barbieri destroying the set of JJ 's bedroom ; Martin believed this would help Barbieri to get into JJ 's mindset . Barbieri was also able to learn more about his character by creating the collage in JJ 's room himself , in which JJ has tried to organise his thoughts about his friends and his life . Martin said that he and Barbieri had a " very involved director @-@ actor relationship " and that he enjoyed " JJ " the most out of all the episodes he directed in the series . According to runner Laurence Wigfield , JJ 's clinic was described in the script as " a desolate shabby place , the kind of place you went to die " , with the bracketed suggestion of Fishponds Studio , where the Skins offices are . Though Wigfield initially " couldn 't believe " this , the studio was used for filming the scene , which Wigfield admitted " worked quite well " . The scene in which JJ and Emily bond after meeting at the clinic was filmed in Bristol 's Brandon Hill Park , near Cabot Tower .

Skins ' assistant director , Seth Adams , had a cameo appearance as a nurse at JJ 's clinic , while floor runner Tom Meakin featured in a minor role as a policeman . The men who fight with Cook at the club were played by members of the Skins crew , Chris " Fagin " Lynd , Toby " Ziegler " Welch and " The Slasher " . The show 's location manager appeared in a non @-@ speaking role as a mental patient being pushed in a wheelchair at the psychological clinic . The episode 's soundtrack comprises mostly piano works composed by Claude Debussy and recorded by David McGuinness . This was the result of a suggestion made by Bryan Elsley for Debussy 's music to accompany an entire episode .

= = Reception = =

" JJ " brought in 997 @, @ 000 viewers and was E4 's highest @-@ rated programme of the week with an audience share of 4 @. @ 8 percent . Another 325 @, @ 000 viewers watched the episode an hour after its initial broadcast on E4 's timeshift channel , E4 + 1 .

" JJ " was received generally positive reviews from mainstream critics . One critic for PopSugar.com " love [d] " JJ 's friendship with Emily and his mother 's smile at the end of the episode , which they felt was " a touching moment to end with " . They credited Cook 's likableness , in spite of the character 's flaws , to O 'Connell 's " great " acting . Ellie Newton @-@ Syms of InJournalism Magazine wrote that " digging into slightly deeper issues is what Skins is good at " and " there is clearly lots left to be revealed " , as signified by Cook 's drug @-@ induced revelation that he has " nothing " . Digital Spy 's Dan French reviewed the episode positively , finding JJ to be a " lovable " character . He considered Cook 's confession that Effy truly loves Freddie and the revelation of Cook 's affair with Pandora to be " shocking " . Fergus Shiel of The Sydney Morning Herald called " JJ " a " top episode " , praising its portrayal of " teenage uncertainty that pack [s] an emotional punch " . Keeley Bolger , writing for The Sun , sympathised with JJ , commenting that " JJ 's drama doesn 't end " .

The episode drew criticism from the lesbian community , however . Kate Murray of lesbian @-@ based website AfterEllen.com regarded Emily 's willingness to have sex with JJ as the use of a " classic and highly offensive stereotype " and felt that this " undermine [d] what it means to be a lesbian " . She thought that the episode fell short of the previous episode , " Naomi " , which focused on Emily and Naomi 's relationship , suggesting that this could be because " Naomi " was written by a 19 @-@ year @-@ old female , Atiha Sen Gupta , while " JJ " was written by Elsley , a 47 @-@ year @-@ old male . The entertainment editor for eurOut.org , a website for European lesbians , was critical of the episode , writing , " Welcome to the wonderful world of television , where being a lesbian and sleeping with men always goes hand in hand . " She did believe , however , that Emily 's coming out to JJ was " very funny " and Effy 's nonchalance about Naomi 's sexuality was " cool " .