

= All Mixed Up (Cougar Town) =

" All Mixed Up " is the first episode of the second season of the American television sitcom Cougar Town . It originally aired on September 22 , 2010 in the United States on ABC . In this episode , Jules (Courteney Cox) sees a therapist named Glenn (Jennifer Aniston) in order to relieve the stresses of her issues . Meanwhile , Bobby (Brian Van Holt) is troubled with the reality of Grayson 's (Josh Hopkins) relationship with Jules , and Travis (Dan Byrd) prepares for college .

" All Mixed Up " was directed by co @-@ creator Bill Lawrence and written by Lawrence and fellow co @-@ creator Kevin Biegel . Aniston made a guest appearance in " All Mixed Up " , after a year of heavy speculation . Lawrence felt that her appearance marked a transition in viewership opinions on the show , and opined that the series had precluded from its original concept .

The episode was well received by television commentators , who praised the storyline and Aniston 's performance . Upon initial airing , it attained 8 @. @ 35 million viewers and a 3 @. @ 3 / 9 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , according to Nielsen ratings . " All Mixed Up " became the third highest @-@ rated episode of the series , and went on to become the highest @-@ rated installment of the season .

= = Plot = =

To help with the stresses of her various issues ? understanding her new relationship with Grayson , dealing with Travis leaving for college , and trying to fit Bobby into her life ? Jules (Courteney Cox) has started to see a new therapist , Glenn (Jennifer Aniston) . Jules is able to relate well to Glenn , particularly because Glenn seems to have a mother @-@ son bond with her son , Gabriel , as close as Jules has with Travis . Ellie (Christa Miller) is skeptical about Glenn 's qualifications , and jealous that Jules now prefers to talk about her problems with Glenn instead of her .

Grayson (Josh Hopkins) decides that he wants to spend a day away from Jules for some space , sending Jules spiralling . She starts tracking down Glenn outside of therapy sessions to talk . Eventually , Jules discovers that Gabriel is not Glenn 's son , but rather a pet dog ; after the resulting argument , Glenn tells Jules to find another therapist . Jules then reverts to relying on Ellie for advice .

Andy (Ian Gomez) discovers that a photograph of Jules on an advertising bench has been defaced , so he , Bobby (Brian Van Holt) and Grayson stake out the bench to catch the culprit . Grayson quickly realises that Bobby defaced the bench ; Bobby confides in Grayson that he 's not entirely comfortable yet with Grayson 's and Jules ' relationship , but insists that their friendship is still close .

Laurie (Busy Phillips) bets Travis (Dan Byrd) twenty dollars that she can stay awake longer than him . Laurie cheats , taking naps at every possible opportunity , accepting that she will lose the bet , but enjoying the opportunity to mess with Travis . When the bet is over , they acknowledge how much they will miss each other when Travis leaves for college .

= = Production = =

Actress Jennifer Aniston made a guest appearance on " All Mixed Up " . Speculations of her appearance initially surfaced a year prior to the confirmation , and upon hearing of it , Cougar Town co @-@ creator Bill Lawrence initially supported such allegations . Lawrence stated that he announced that Aniston would appear on the television series , but had not contacted her or her representatives . Eventually , Lawrence averted away from his claims and stated that " nothing 's happened yet " . He continued in his interview with E ! Online : " I 'd kill to get Jennifer on the show , and if I had any inclination it was happening , I would be telling everybody ' cause I don 't really give a sh @-@ t . I would love it to happen and the second it did I would tell everybody in the world , but nothing 's happened . "

Lawrence confirmed her appearance in July 2010 and revealed that Aniston attained the role of Bonnie , the psychiatrist for Jules . " Kind of a get @-@ too @-@ involved @-@ in @-@ her @-@

life @-@ type of therapist , " he retorted . " Those guys are so close in real life they kind of do that for each other anyway . Bonnie has the life Jules wishes she has . " Aniston had previously worked with Courteney Cox in the American sitcom Friends , and again on the serial drama Dirt . Aniston became the second cast member from Friends to appear on the television series , succeeding Lisa Kudrow , who previously appeared in the season one episode " Rhino Skin " , also playing the role of a medical professional (specifically , a dermatologist) .

Cox wanted the show to establish itself before opting for an appearance by Aniston . Lawrence stated that it took a considerable length of time to lay on the foundation of Cougar Town ; " And once we did and once it was clicking , I think that not only did Courteney feel comfortable talking to Jen about doing it , but comfortable in how funny she thinks the show is and that Jen would like it and fit into this world really well . " He added : " It starts and ends with Courteney and Jennifer being really great friends and excited to work together again ? especially doing comedy together . Every day that those two talk they have more ideas about [the role] . It 's definitely something they ? re both involved in creatively . "

Bill Lawrence expressed that he hoped that Aniston 's guest appearance would mark a turning point in viewership opinions , and felt that the show had distanced itself from its original concept . " I want as many people as I can get to see what the show kind of became last year , " Lawrence articulated . " It went from a typical TV show trying to find itself to something that I ? m really proud of and like and think is really funny . "

= = Reception = =

" All Mixed Up " was originally broadcast on September 22 , 2010 in the United States on ABC . Upon airing , the episode garnered 8 @. @ 35 million viewers , despite airing simultaneously with episodes of Hell 's Kitchen on Fox , Criminal Minds on CBS , Law & Order : Special Victims Unit on NBC , and Hellcats on The CW . It attained a 3 @. @ 3 / 9 rating amongst people the 18 ? 49 demographic , according to Nielsen ratings . " All Mixed Up " achieved the series ' highest total viewership in a year , and earned the highest rating in the 18 ? 34 demographic of the night in its respective timeslot , garnering a 3 @. @ 0 / 9 rating . The episode became the third @-@ highest rated episode of Cougar Town , as well as the highest @-@ rated episode of its second season .

" All Mixed Up " was well received by television critics . Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club issued the episode a B + grade , and felt that the episode was superior to those of the show 's first season . He asserted : " Cougar Town hasn 't taken as big of a step up from season one to season two as it did from the first part of season one to the last part of season one . But the step from ' average ' to ' good ' was the easy part . Season two is the season where viewers are going to find out if the show has what it takes to make the small steps needed to get from ' good ' to ' great ' . There 's every indication that it 's on the way there in the premiere because it 's finally started to wrestle with some of the knottier questions at its center . " HitFix writer Alan Sepinwall opined that the show averted from its original premise ; " It 's become one of my favorite comedies , and whether you care about Aniston or not , tonight is a good time to sample it if you dismissed it last year because of the title , the original premise or some of those early episodes . "

Commentators cited Jennifer Aniston 's appearance as the highlight of the episode . Entertainment Weekly 's Annie Barrett lauded the interactions between Aniston and Cox ; " Their interactions were along the lines of what I imagine it would have been like if Rachel 's character had suddenly decided she had become a wizard . " Kevin Fallon of The Atlantic echoed synonymous thoughts , and felt that Aniston 's performance reminded the audience of her star power . Fallon wrote : " Aniston 's performance was delightfully weird and offbeat ? and comedically sharp , a welcome change from the generic and bland film roles she 's played in the years since Friends ended . Last night 's performance spotlighted her gifts as a character actress ? and served as a frustrating reminder of what we 've been missing since she has [all but] abandoned that niche of acting . " Sepinwall expressed that Aniston " acquits herself just fine in the small role of Jules ' eccentric new therapist . She 's likable and daffy but never over @-@ the @-@ top . " Hollywood Life journalist Laura Schreffler was not as enthusiastic as the general consensus , avouching that Aniston 's guest

appearance was overhyped and a " glorified cameo " . Schreffler added that Cox overshadowed her , asserting that she " is still way more hilarious " .