

= Laryngitis ( Glee ) =

" Laryngitis " is the eighteenth episode of the American television series Glee . The episode premiered on the Fox network on May 11 , 2010 . It was directed by Alfonso Gomez @-@ Rejon and written by series creator Ryan Murphy . In " Laryngitis " , glee club member Puck ( Mark Salling ) dates Mercedes ( Amber Riley ) in an attempt to raise his social status . Kurt ( Chris Colfer ) is jealous of the time his father is spending with Finn ( Cory Monteith ) , and Rachel ( Lea Michele ) worries about her future when she is diagnosed with tonsillitis . Mike O 'Malley guest @-@ stars as Kurt 's father Burt , and Zack Weinstein appears as disabled former football player Sean Fretthold .

The episode features cover versions of seven songs , five of which were released as singles , available for digital download , and three of which are included on the soundtrack album Glee : The Music , Volume 3 ? Showstoppers . " Laryngitis " was watched by 11 @. @ 57 million American viewers and received mixed reviews from critics . Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club , Bobby Hankinson of the Houston Chronicle , Vanity Fair 's Brett Berk and James Poniewozik of Time all enjoyed the episode , noting that it came after several lesser @-@ quality episodes since the show 's return from its mid @-@ season break . In contrast , Lisa Respers France of CNN felt that " Laryngitis " was lecturing in tone , and more sad than it was comedic . Henrik Batallones of BuddyTV and Entertainment Weekly 's Darren Franich both expressed concern with the disability plot , the former finding it forced and the latter questioning whether Glee honors its disabled actors , or uses them shamelessly .

= = Plot = =

When glee club member Puck ( Mark Salling ) has his mohawk shaved off at the insistence of his dermatologist for medical purposes , he discovers he is no longer considered a credible bully . He realizes that Mercedes ( Amber Riley ) has become popular since joining the cheerleading squad , and resolves to date her . Mercedes initially attempts to dissuade him , but after the two sing a duet of " The Lady Is a Tramp " , she warms to him . Puck 's former girlfriend Santana ( Naya Rivera ) is jealous , and she and Mercedes sing " The Boy Is Mine " . When Mercedes realizes that Puck has returned to being a bully , she breaks up with him and resigns from the cheerleading squad .

Meanwhile , Rachel ( Lea Michele ) realizes that some glee club members are faking their singing . She tells glee club director Will Schuester ( Matthew Morrison ) , complaining that she is doing most of the work , exhausting herself and getting ill in the process . She reveals the non @-@ participants as Finn ( Cory Monteith ) , Quinn ( Dianna Agron ) , Puck , Brittany ( Heather Morris ) , and Santana . Will gathers the students and gives them a new task for the week : each club member will have to do solos , and each must choose a song that best represents their feelings .

Rachel then confronts the non @-@ participating glee members and insults them , but when she starts to sing Miley Cyrus 's " The Climb " , she sounds terrible : she has started to lose her voice . Later , after an examination by Rachel 's doctor reveals that she suffers from tonsillitis and may need to have her tonsils removed , she is afraid to have the surgery lest it affect her voice , as she believes her singing ability is her only asset . Finn , who accompanied her to the doctor 's , tries to convince her that he loves everything about her and that there is more to her than her voice . He warns her that if she loses her ability to sing then Jesse ( Jonathan Groff ) would no longer find her attractive . Rachel tells Finn that she still cares about Jesse and that he needs to move on , prompting Finn to sing " Jessie 's Girl " as his solo assignment . To put her fear into perspective , Finn introduces her to his friend Sean ( Zack Weinstein ) , who was paralyzed from the upper chest down during a football game . At first , Rachel is nervous and overwhelmed by the meeting , but Finn forces her to stay as Sean tells her about his grueling experiences with his disability and how he realized that a person is not just one single thing . She then begins to understand why Finn brought her and thanks Sean as she leaves .

In the meantime , Kurt ( Chris Colfer ) is jealous of the time his father Burt ( Mike O 'Malley ) is spending with Finn , now that their parents are dating , and attempts to emulate Burt 's personality . He dresses in outdoorsman gear , sings John Mellencamp 's " Pink Houses " during a glee club

rehearsal , and attempts to have a fling with Brittany , making out with her in his bedroom and ensuring that his father is aware of his new behavior . Frustrated that Burt is still spending time alone with Finn , Kurt reverts to his former personality and sings " Rose 's Turn " . Burt overhears his performance , praises Kurt 's singing and apologizes for not spending enough time with him . He reassures Kurt that he still loves him , and always will , no matter who his son chooses to be with .

Rachel eventually recovers her voice after taking the antibiotics her doctor prescribed . She goes back to Sean 's house to thank him again , and offers to give him singing lessons . They start singing U2 's " One " , and the scene switches back and forth between her duet with Sean and the full glee club 's performance of the song on stage at school .

= = Production = =

Recurring characters who appear in " Laryngitis " are Kurt 's father Burt Hummel ( Mike O 'Malley ) , glee club members Santana Lopez ( Naya Rivera ) , Brittany ( Heather Morris ) , Mike Chang ( Harry Shum , Jr . ) and Matt Rutherford ( Dijon Talton ) , school reporter Jacob Ben Israel ( Josh Sussman ) and AV club president Lauren Zizes ( Ashley Fink ) . Rizwan Manji plays Dr. Gidwani . Zack Weinstein guest stars as Sean Fretthold , a football player who was paralyzed below the upper chest after injuring his spinal cord at C4 in an accident , similar to the actor 's injury in real life . Sean is the second wheelchair @-@ using character to appear on Glee . In November 2009 , the episode " Wheels " attracted criticism from disability advocates , who called attention to the fact that disabled character Artie Abrams is played by able @-@ bodied actor Kevin McHale . Weinstein defended McHale 's casting , opining that if he was the best auditioning actor for the role , then his ability to walk should be irrelevant . However , Weinstein also stated he " would like to see wheelchair users given the chance to audition and be seriously considered for roles that aren 't specifically written for someone with a disability . " Weinstein revealed that he wished he had auditioned for the role of Artie , and that Glee was his favorite show . Around February 2010 , Weinstein 's agent got him an audition to play Sean , and within a week and a half , he learned he had got the part . Glee was Weinstein 's first professional acting job . He called the twelve hours he spent filming his scenes " twelve of the most important hours of [ his ] life " .

The episode features cover versions of seven songs . Rachel performs " The Climb " by Miley Cyrus , and Finn sings " Jessie 's Girl " by Rick Springfield . Puck and Mercedes duet on Sammy Davis Jr . ' s " The Lady Is a Tramp " , and Mercedes and Santana sing " The Boy Is Mine " by Brandy and Monica . Kurt sings John Mellencamp 's " Pink Houses " , and " Rose 's Turn " from Gypsy : A Musical Fable . The glee club closes the episode with " One " by U2 , featuring guest vocals from Weinstein as Sean . " Jessie 's Girl " , " The Lady Is a Tramp " , " The Boy Is Mine " , " Rose 's Turn " and " One " were released as singles , available for digital download . " The Lady Is a Tramp " , " Rose 's Turn " and " One " are also included on the soundtrack album Glee : The Music , Volume 3 ? Showstoppers .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original broadcast , " Laryngitis " was watched by 11 @.@ 57 million American viewers and attained a 4 @.@ 8 / 12 rating / share in the 18 @-@ 49 demographic . In the United Kingdom , the episode was watched by 1 @.@ 81 million viewers and was the most @-@ watched show of the week on the non @-@ terrestrial channels . In Canada , " Bad Reputation " was watched by 1 @.@ 97 million viewers , making Glee the 13th most watched program of the week . In Australia , the episode was watched by 1 @.@ 44 million viewers , making " Laryngitis " the 15th most @-@ watched program of the week .

= = = Critical response = = =

The episode received mixed reviews from critics . Lisa Respers France of CNN felt that " Laryngitis " highlighted a trend of Glee storylines becoming progressively sadder , rather than comedic . She wrote that the plotlines came across as lecturing , and concluded : " I still heart Glee , which is clearly one of the best shows on television right now . I just think they may want to lighten the life lessons a bit or spread them out more over several episodes rather than clobbering us all at once . " Henrik Batallones of BuddyTV wrote that he was uncertain what to make of the episode , noting : " Sure , there were some high points , and it was a pretty enjoyable watch , but unlike the last few episodes this one left me a little high and dry . " Batallones observed that the Sean storyline felt " totally forced into the episode , making Rachel 's epiphany [ ... ] very forced and unnatural . " Entertainment Weekly 's Darren Franich was also troubled by the storyline , noting : " It seems like the height of vanity to basically use this storyline to teach Rachel an important lesson about being herself . [ ... ] Glee has used disabled actors before , and I think it 's worth debating whether the show honors that or uses it shamelessly . "

Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club graded the episode " B + " . While he had been disappointed with several episodes since the show 's mid @-@ season break , VanDerWerff noted : " Glee still has its inconsistencies , but it 's getting back to the show I so enjoyed last fall . " He wrote of the Sean storyline that it : " should feel offensive but mostly skates away from actually being so because it treats the paralyzed character with a great deal of respect " . Bobby Hankinson of the Houston Chronicle also noted that he had been underwhelmed with the show since its return , but loved " Laryngitis " , writing : " The story focused exclusively on the kids ? not Mr. Shue or Sue Sylvester ? and the performances were realistically small @-@ scale . [ ... ] All that classic Glee charm came washing over me once more and it was glorious . " Gerrick D. Kennedy of the Los Angeles Times similarly stated : " When Glee is at its best , you get episodes like this week 's . There were no gimmicks , no over @-@ the @-@ top productions , no unnecessary stars [ ... ] It was just great storytelling and superb finger @-@ snapping music . " Vanity Fair 's Brett Berk deemed " Laryngitis " a " truly successful episode " , but also highlighted the show 's inconsistency in quality since its return . James Poniewozik of Time called " Laryngitis " the first episode of Glee since its mid @-@ season break that he enjoyed " ( mostly ) without reservation . " Eric Goldman of IGN rated the episode 8 @.@ 8 / 10 , deeming it one of his favorite episodes of Glee , " with some of the funniest material the show has delivered thus far . "