

## = Blame It on the Alcohol =

" Blame It on the Alcohol " is the fourteenth episode of the second season of the television series Glee , and the thirty @-@ sixth overall . The episode was written by Ian Brennan , directed by Eric Stoltz and first aired in the United States on Fox on February 22 , 2011 . This episode mainly centers on the issues of underage drinking , as the students of McKinley High School are coming drunk to school in increasing numbers . Principal Figgins ( Iqbal Theba ) plans an assembly to warn the students about the dangers on underage drinking , and asks glee club director Will Schuester ( Matthew Morrison ) to have his students perform a song that send positive messages about avoiding alcohol . Rachel Berry ( Lea Michele ) throws a party for the glee club students where almost everyone gets drunk ; the partygoers wake up to hangovers , and must perform various songs about alcohol while still under the influence . The assembly ends abruptly when a song that seems to glorify alcohol is interrupted by two of the singers vomiting over the others , which scares the entire high school into avoiding drunkenness .

" Blame It on the Alcohol " was given a positive reception by many reviewers , though there was disagreement over the show 's messages , including with regard to drinking alcohol . Rachel 's party was lauded , as was the song performed during it , " Don 't You Want Me " ; the assembly song , Kesha 's " Tik Tok " , was also well received . This episode featured cover versions of four songs , which were all released as singles and made available for digital download . Three of the singles debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 . The show 's first original song appeared in this episode : " My Headband " , sung by Michele as Rachel , which was not released .

Upon its premiere , the episode was watched by over 10 @.@ 58 million American viewers , and it earned a 4 @.@ 4 / 12 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . The episode 's total viewership and ratings were slightly up from the previous episode , " Comeback " , which was watched by 10 @.@ 53 million American viewers , and acquired a 4 @.@ 2 / 12 rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic upon first airing on television .

## = = Plot = =

Concerned about recent underage drinking incidents at McKinley High , Principal Figgins ( Iqbal Theba ) schedules a cautionary assembly and commissions the glee club to perform a song about the dangers of alcohol . Lead singer Rachel ( Lea Michele ) sings a song she has written , about her headband , to Finn ( Cory Monteith ) ; she realizes that she needs inspiration to write a song for Regionals , so she throws a house party for the club , which is also attended by former member Kurt ( Chris Colfer ) and his crush Blaine ( Darren Criss ) . The attendees ? except for Kurt and Finn ? get drunk , and Rachel and Blaine share a long kiss during a game of Spin the Bottle , after which they perform " Don 't You Want Me " as a karaoke duet . Blaine spends the night in Kurt 's bed , fully clothed . Kurt 's father Burt ( Mike O 'Malley ) is not pleased about this level of intimacy under his roof and tells Kurt to ask for permission first next time . Kurt grudgingly agrees , but asks Burt to educate himself on gay relationships so Kurt can come to him for advice in the future .

On Monday , the glee club members arrive at school hung over , and perform the song " Blame It " . Club director Will Schuester ( Matthew Morrison ) is impressed with their " realistic acting " , but thinks the song is inappropriate for the assembly as it glorifies drinking . Football coach Shannon Beiste ( Dot @-@ Marie Jones ) prevails on Will to join her in a night out at a cowboy bar to reduce their stress ; they perform the song " One Bourbon , One Scotch , One Beer " . Will gets drunk and once home , his intoxication is such that he marks all his students ' papers with an " A + " , and then drunk dials the school 's guidance counselor Emma Pillsbury ( Jayma Mays ) and leaves a sexually tinged message .

Rachel asks Blaine out , and to Kurt 's dismay he accepts . They argue , as Blaine suggests he might be bisexual , while Kurt denies the existence of bisexuality . Kurt visits Rachel after the date , and warns Rachel that Blaine is indeed gay , if temporarily confused . At the assembly , New Directions perform Kesha 's " Tik Tok " , but the song comes to an abrupt end when Brittany ( Heather Morris ) and Santana ( Naya Rivera ) throw up from intoxication . Figgins later rewards the

club for their performance 's success in scaring their fellow students into sobriety , in the belief that the glee club had been acting during the assembly . Cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester ( Jane Lynch ) publicly humiliates Will by playing the message he left on her voice mail ? not Emma 's , as he had meant to do ? over the school 's public address system while classes are in session . Will realizes that it is hypocritical to tell the students not to abuse alcohol when he does so himself , and convinces the entire club to pledge not to drink until after their upcoming Nationals competition . He tells them he will also abstain , and urges them to call him for a ride home if they do drink , regardless of where they are or how late it is .

At the Lima Bean , Rachel kisses a sober Blaine , which makes him realize he is indeed gay , but instead of being disappointed she is elated : she tells Kurt that her relationship with a man who turned out to be gay is " songwriting gold " .

= = Production = =

" Blame It on the Alcohol " was written by co @-@ creator Ian Brennan and directed by Eric Stoltz in his second time as a Glee director , his first outing having been the acclaimed fourth episode of the season , " Duets " .

A blind item about a " popular gay character " wondering if he might be bisexual after an " encounter " was published on February 10 , 2011 , by Michael Ausiello , Editor in Chief of the entertainment news website TVLine . A " firestorm of speculation " was set off , and centered on Blaine . Glee showrunner and co @-@ creator Ryan Murphy sent an email to the Perez Hilton website , published on February 14 , that stated , " Blaine is NOT bi . He is gay , and will always be gay . I think it 's very important to young kids that they know this character is one of them . "

Within a couple of hours , Michael Jensen of the gay website AfterElton.com took note of Murphy 's statement , and also of the then @-@ current cover article on Criss in Out magazine , in which Murphy was quoted as saying , " Blaine will openly question whether bisexuality is real . I think that some people will love that discussion and some will not love it . " Jensen pointed out that Murphy does not say that Blaine will not question his own sexuality , but clearly " decides he is , in fact , gay " . Ausiello posted at about that time that Blaine was indeed who he was referring to in his original story , quoted from the same Out article as Jensen , and added a new one @-@ sentence summation from Murphy on the coming episode : " I guess the moral of the story is don 't play spin the bottle while drunk on wine coolers . "

The show 's first original song was included in the episode : " My Headband " , sung by ? and ostensibly written by ? Rachel . In actuality , the song was written by Brennan , who wrote the episode , and composer James Scott Levine .

The episode featured cover versions of " Don 't You Want Me " by The Human League , sung by Criss and Michele ; " One Bourbon , One Scotch , One Beer " by Rudy Toombs , as recorded by George Thorogood , sung by Morrison and Jones ; " Tik Tok " by Kesha , performed by Morris and New Directions , and " Blame It " by Jamie Foxx and T @-@ Pain in a rendition by New Directions with Amber Riley and Kevin McHale as leads . " One Bourbon " marked Jones 's singing debut on Glee .

Recurring guest stars who appear in the episode include glee club members Mike Chang ( Harry Shum , Jr . ) , Sam Evans ( Chord Overstreet ) and Lauren Zizes ( Ashley Fink ) , cheerleader Becky Jackson ( Lauren Potter ) , football coach Shannon Beiste ( Jones ) , Principal Figgins ( Theba ) and Kurt 's friend from Dalton Academy , Blaine Anderson ( Criss ) .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Blame It on the Alcohol " was first broadcast on February 22 , 2011 in the United States on Fox . It received over 10 @.@ 58 million American viewers upon its initial airing , according to the Nielsen

ratings . The episode garnered a 4 @. @ 4 / 12 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , tied for the highest of the night with NCIS . The episode 's total viewership and ratings slightly increased from the previous episode , " Comeback " , which was watched by 10 @. @ 53 million American viewers and received a 4 @. @ 2 / 12 rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic during its original airing .

With its Canadian broadcast , also on February 22 , 2011 , " Blame It on the Alcohol " drew 1 @. @ 89 million viewers and placed fourteenth in the weekly program rankings . This was an improvement on " Comeback " , which aired the week before , ranked eighteenth and was watched by 1 @. @ 75 million viewers . In Australia , the episode was watched by 1 @. @ 02 million viewers on March 7 , 2011 , which made Glee the sixth most @-@ watched show of the night and twentieth of the week . In the UK , the episode was broadcast on April 11 , 2011 . It attained 2 @. @ 53 million viewers ? 2 @. @ 05 million on E4 , and 483 @, @ 000 on E4 + 1 ? and was the most @-@ watched show on cable for the week . Viewership was marginally down from " Comeback " , attracting 40 @, @ 000 fewer viewers .

= = = Critical response = = =

Reaction to the episode was split . While the majority of reviewers were favorably impressed , some very much so , a significant minority were disappointed at the message the episode conveyed and the storytelling decisions . Among the former were Kevin Fallon of The Atlantic , who described it as " Glee at its best : cartoonish , outlandish , and loud ? but still oh @-@ so true to life . " IGN 's Robert Canning gave the episode a " great " rating of 8 out of 10 , and called the main storyline " comical and human " . Candace Bulter of ScreenCrave also gave the episode an 8 out of 10 , and wrote , " This week 's Glee puts on the beer goggles to put alcohol @-@ related issues in perspective . The result is humorous and ironic , but leaves something to be wanted . " Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club , wrote that " the underpinnings of the episode aren 't terrible , just overstuffed " and gave it a " B ? " . MTV 's Aly Semigran stated that the episode " left something of a sour taste " , and added that while the show " always combines humor with serious life lessons , it seems there were none to be found here " ; she called the episode " a wasted opportunity " . BuddyTV 's Jen Harper was also disenchanted by the episode , and concluded , " Geez Louise , Glee . What 's happened to you ? " Amy Reiter of The Los Angeles Times saw the show 's message differently from Semigran , and wrote , " Leave it to Glee to tackle a potentially joyless , didactic topic like teenage drinking and somehow manage to entertain and surprise and get its important life lessons across . " Time 's Richard Corliss called it a " breezy , sharply written episode " and rated it in the " high @-@ middle range " for the show . He concluded , " Last night 's hour of Glee was of the level a superior series sticks in mid @-@ season between its ' important ' episodes . If this is coasting , take me along for the ride . "

The scenes that featured Rachel 's party were acclaimed by most reviewers . Fallon called them " a parade of the funniest sight gags , most uninhibited acting , and ? interestingly enough ? most relatable scenes Glee has produced in a while " , and described Michele as " an acting stand out " who " handled the entire arc like a seasoned comedienne " . His colleague Meghan Brown said it " showed Glee at its best " , and added : " The dialogue was snappy , the group dynamic was clean and specific , and the kids seemed like actual kids . " VanDerWerff also pointed out that the club members " really felt like kids , not like miniature 30 @-@ somethings " , and said the party was the " best part " of the episode . Erica Futterman of Rolling Stone praised Finn 's breakdown of " the five drunk girl archetypes , as demonstrated by the glee girls " . Harper wrote that the party scenes " left a lot to be desired " , and Patrick Burns , the third reviewer from The Atlantic , " waited for the Glee party to get out of control , or for someone to get hurt so that America 's youth could be shocked and appalled by the dangers of drinking " , but " the worst thing that happened was that Rachel tried to flip a gay guy " .

Kurt 's scenes with Blaine and with his father evoked very divergent opinions from reviewers . Canning made mention of " a great conversation between Blaine and Kurt that felt very real for kids in this situation " and noted he was " glad it wasn 't an easy talk for either of them " . The Houston

Chronicle 's Bobby Hankinson agreed , and said of their " debate over the existence of bisexuality " that " it was refreshing to see Glee portray a conversation like it really goes down in reality . It ? s also good to see them not treat Kurt like such a saint all the time . " Semigran wrote that Kurt showed " an unflattering side of himself " , and Gonzalez stated that she " was completely on Blaine 's side here " : Kurt " wasn 't fair " and " was sort of unlikable " for once , though she did add that " he 's allowed to be flawed " . Blaine 's " sudden confusion over his sexual orientation " was deemed a " false note " by Reiter , who called his " overwrought speech " at the Lima Bean " off @-@ key " . Harper was unhappy that " major plot points like a gay character thinking he might be bi or straight get instigated , sorted out and wrapped up within an hour " , and said she thought it was " hurtful " for Blaine to " accept a date with Kurt 's friend " after he and Kurt had " agreed to sort of work on a potential relationship between the two of them " in the " Silly Love Songs " episode .

There were similar reactions to Kurt 's scene with Burt , though reviewers agreed that Burt was being reasonable and Kurt was not . Gonzalez characterized Kurt as " more flawed in this episode than he has been , especially in that scene with his dad when he kept taking offense to his dad 's miscommunicated guidelines for sleepovers " , and Semigran described " Kurt 's overreaction " as " even more unsettling " than his argument with Blaine . Corliss wrote that Kurt 's " smackdown of his father has the odor of propaganda from the gayest show in TV history " . Canning said he was " moved by Kurt asking his father to step out of his comfort zone and educate himself about what is gay men do when [ they 're ] together " , and Gonzalez enjoyed " the very realistic tension that exists between them as father and gay son " .

Harper was harshly critical of " the inane story line " where Sue regularly accused Will of being an alcoholic , which Semigran also took exception to . Reiter characterized " Sue throwing Aural Intensity 's ' chipper homosexual ' choir director down the stairs , twice " as a " false note " and said it was " particularly difficult to take " , though VanDerWerff called it " kind of funny " . Semigran was one reviewer who noted that Mercedes was wrong when she " complains that there are no songs that convey alcohol is bad " . She suggested " Pink 's ' Sober ' or Pearl Jam 's haunting cover of ' Last Kiss ' or Simple Plan 's moving ' ( Untitled ) How Could This Happen to Me ? ' " as songs that New Directions could have done for the assembly .

= = = Music and performances = = =

The musical covers and performances for the episode were given a mostly positive reception by reviewers . Rachel and Blaine 's duet of " Don 't You Want Me " was called " the best number of the episode " by VanDerWerff . Semigran went further and said it was the " best number by far " , and Hankinson went beyond that : " it may be one of my favorite Gleeformances of all time " . Futterman called it " fun " and " flirty " , and noted that " it pits Glee 's most well @-@ rounded pop vocalists against each other " . Anthony Benigno of The Faster Times and Gonzalez both gave the performance an " A " ; Benigno wrote that " it sounds like a modernized version of an old song and it totally , 1000 % works " , and Gonzalez declared that " Blaine needs to join New Directions so we can get more duets between him and Rachel " . Harper , while she characterized it as a " really cute duet " , said she was " not super @-@ keen on seeing them pair up again " . Brett Berk of Vanity Fair was even less enthusiastic , and gave it two stars out of five .

Berk was more enthusiastic about " Blame It " and gave it four stars out of five ; he wrote , " This should be the song they sing at Nationals " . Gonzalez called it " one of the better R & B performances we 've seen from the Glee gang in a while " , and gave it an " A " . Billboard 's Katie Morgan thought that " this version might be better than the original " , while Harper was quite sure , and declared that it was " way better than the Jamie Foxx version " . Futterman , though she described it as a " very informed rendition " , said that " the song was too clean @-@ scrubbed to pass for a dirty club hit " . Benigno , while he liked " the harmonies in the hook " , said the song was " very skippable " and gave it a " B " . VanDerWerff said it was " one of the least enjoyable numbers of this season " .

Benigno gave a " B + " to " One Bourbon , One Scotch , One Beer " . He noted that " Glee can slum with the best of ' em when the occasion calls for it " , and added " it 's the total lack of irony that ends

up making this one so good ". Gonzalez was " prepared to hate " the song , but that Jones and Morrison clearly " had fun recording this song " , and since " country is 70 percent attitude " , she ultimately gave it a " B " . Bulter wrote that she " can ? t wait for more of Beiste ? s alto country vibes to be showcased " .

Morris as Brittany was lauded for her performance in " Tik Tok " , which Bulter called the " performance of the night " and praised her " mad dance skills and awesome vocals " . Reiter wrote that Brittany " owned that rendition " , and CNN 's Lisa Respers France gave " kudos to Brittany for her awesome performance " . Benigno gave the song an " A ? " , noted that Morris has a better voice than the original artist , Kesha , and the rendition was a case of " a bunch of really talented kids making a simple song better " . Futterman praised the " dance @-@ centered performance " , but said she wished Rachel or Mercedes had sung lead . VanDerWerff " really liked " Morris on the number , but said he " didn 't buy " that it was the song selected for the assembly .

= = = Chart history = = =

Of the four cover versions released as singles ? the original song " My Headband " was not released ? three debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 and appeared on other musical charts . On the Hot 100 , the show 's rendition of " Don 't You Want Me " debuted at number forty @-@ nine ; it was at number fifty on the Billboard Canadian Hot 100 . The other two songs on the Hot 100 were " Blame It " at number fifty @-@ five , which also made number sixty @-@ one on the Canadian Hot 100 , and " Tik Tok " at number sixty @-@ one , which also made number fifty @-@ six on the Canadian Hot 100 . " Don 't You Want Me " was also featured on the sixth soundtrack album of the series , Glee : The Music , Volume 5 . " One Bourbon , One Scotch , One Beer " did not chart .