

= Journey to Regionals =

" Journey to Regionals " is the twenty @-@ second episode and first season finale of the American television series Glee . The episode was written and directed by series creator Brad Falchuk , and premiered on the Fox network on June 8 , 2010 . In " Journey to Regionals " , New Directions performs at Regionals in front of celebrity judges Josh Groban , Olivia Newton @-@ John , Rod Remington (Bill A. Jones) and Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) . Club member Quinn (Dianna Agron) gives birth to her daughter , Beth , whom rival glee club coach Shelby Corcoran (Idina Menzel) adopts . Co @-@ captains Finn (Cory Monteith) and Rachel (Lea Michele) reunite , and director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) professes his love for guidance counselor Emma Pillsbury (Jayma Mays) . Although New Directions comes in last in the competition , Sue persuades Principal Figgins (Iqbal Theba) not to disband the club for another year .

The episode features cover versions of nine songs , seven of which are included on the EP Glee : The Music , Journey to Regionals , released on June 8 , 2010 . The album charted at number one in America , setting the record for the shortest span between first weeks at the top of the Billboard 200 with different releases , charting only three weeks after the soundtrack album Glee : The Music , Volume 3 Showstoppers also reached number one . While " Journey to Regionals " is the first episode of Glee to have none of its musical performances released as singles , all six EP tracks charted on the Billboard Hot 100 and the Canadian Hot 100 .

" Journey to Regionals " was watched by 10 @.@ 92 million American viewers and attained the highest finale rating for a new show in the 2009 ? 2010 television season . The episode was the most @-@ watched scripted show of the week of broadcast in the 18 @-@ 49 demographic , and received generally positive reviews from critics . Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club deemed it among the best of the entire season , and Time 's James Poniewozik felt that the episode was a return to Glee 's roots , justifying its renewal for a second season . In contrast , Brett Berk of Vanity Fair felt that " Journey to Regionals " was a mediocre episode , while Jean Bentley of MTV found it uneven , representative of the season as a whole .

= = Plot = =

The episode begins with a flashback of the night Quinn Fabray lost her virginity to Noah Puckerman when they had sex in her bed , unbeknownst to her then boyfriend , Finn Hudson .

When cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) announces that she will be one of the judges at Regionals , along with Josh Groban , Olivia Newton @-@ John , and local news anchor Rod Remington (Bill A. Jones) , the glee club members worry that New Directions will soon be disbanded . Principal Figgins (Iqbal Theba) stands by his requirement that glee club must place at Regionals to continue , despite director Will Schuester 's (Matthew Morrison) protestation that Sue is attempting to sabotage them . Will turns to guidance counselor Emma Pillsbury (Jayma Mays) , who reveals that she has begun dating her dentist , Carl Howell .

Rachel (Lea Michele) kisses Finn (Cory Monteith) when he encourages her to be more optimistic . At Regionals , Aural Intensity is first to perform , singing a mash @-@ up of " Magic " by Olivia Newton @-@ John and " You Raise Me Up " by Josh Groban . Will gives New Directions a pep talk , and Finn professes his love for Rachel just before going on stage . The club pays tribute to Journey , performing " Faithfully " , a mash @-@ up of " Any Way You Want It " and " Lovin ' , Touchin ' , Squeezin ' " , and " Don 't Stop Believin ' " .

Quinn 's (Dianna Agron) mother , Judy Fabray (Charlotte Ross) , comes to watch Quinn perform . She tells Quinn that she kicked her father out of the house after she found out he was having an affair and invites Quinn to come back home . Quinn informs her that her water has broken , and is rushed to the hospital , where she gives birth to a girl . While the other New Directions members accompany Quinn to the hospital , Rachel stays at Regionals to watch Vocal Adrenaline 's performance of " Bohemian Rhapsody " . She asks their coach , her biological mother Shelby Corcoran (Idina Menzel) , to help coach New Directions , but Shelby tells Rachel that she 's tired of coaching glee clubs , and is stepping down as Vocal Adrenaline 's coach to settle down and start a

family . Shelby adopts Quinn 's baby , whom she names Beth at Puck 's (Mark Salling) request .

During the pre @-@ vote discussion , the other celebrity judges insult Sue for her lack of fame . Aural Intensity is named runner @-@ up , and Vocal Adrenaline wins , with New Directions coming in last . Emma argues with Figgins about the club 's future , but he remains intent on disbanding it , since it failed to place . Will has accepted their loss , and professes his love for Emma and kisses her . Sue overhears New Directions ' performance of " To Sir With Love " in appreciation of all that Will has done to help them grow . It is revealed that Sue voted for New Directions to win , and has agreed to end her blackmail of Principal Figgins in exchange for giving New Directions at least one more year to prove themselves and win Regionals . She explains to Will that she may not like him , but she respects his work with the students . Will tells the club of its extension , and performs Israel Kamakawiwoʻole 's version of " Over the Rainbow " with Puck in celebration .

= = Production = =

" Journey to Regionals " was filmed in April 2010 , with fans of Glee invited through Facebook and Twitter to attend the filming of Regionals at the Saban Theatre in Beverly Hills , California . In the episode , both Josh Groban and Olivia Newton @-@ John reprise their roles from earlier in the season , appearing as themselves to judge the Ohio Regionals round of show choir competition alongside Sue and Rod Remington . Series creator Ryan Murphy explained : " The theme of Regionals is celebrity judges . Sue is now a nationwide celebrity . And Olivia and Josh only like choirs that sing their songs , so that 's funny . They wanted to do something that played against what people think about them ... to play against type . So we gave them an opportunity . And it 's funny to have Sue as a judge when she doesn 't really know about [music] , and she has it out for that darn Glee club . "

Other recurring characters who appear in the episode are glee club members Santana Lopez (Naya Rivera) , Brittany (Heather Morris) , Mike Chang (Harry Shum , Jr .) and Matt Rutherford (Dijon Talton) , Principal Figgins , Vocal Adrenaline lead singer Jesse St. James (Jonathan Groff) , Vocal Adrenaline coach and Rachel 's birth mother Shelby Corcoran , and Quinn 's mother Judy Fabray . Emma 's new love interest does not appear in the episode , but will become a major character from early in the show 's second season , played by John Stamos . Will and Emma 's kiss in " Journey to Regionals " was unscripted . Falchuk chose not to inform Mays that it was planned to ensure authenticity in her reaction .

Glee : The Music , Journey to Regionals , an EP containing songs from the episode , was released on June 8 , 2010 . It features cover versions of Journey 's " Faithfully " and " Don 't Stop Believin ' " , as well as a mash @-@ up of " Any Way You Want It " and " Lovin ' Touchin ' Squeezin ' " . " Bohemian Rhapsody " by Queen is also on the EP , as is " To Sir With Love " by Lulu and Judy Garland 's " Over the Rainbow " as reinvented by Israel Kamakawiwoʻole . The EP debuted at number one on the US Billboard 200 selling 158 @, @ 000 copies , and at number two on the Canadian Albums Chart , selling 14 @, @ 000 copies . It entered the Irish Albums Chart at number 14 , climbing to number 1 in its second week of release , becoming the fourth Glee cast release to top the Irish charts . In America , Journey to Regionals was the cast 's third number one album , charting only three weeks after Glee : The Music , Volume 3 Showstoppers , and beating its own record for shortest span between first weeks at the top position with different releases , previously held with Glee : The Music , The Power of Madonna and Volume 3 Showstoppers .

" Journey to Regionals " is the first episode of Glee to have none of its musical performances released as singles . Despite this , all six EP tracks charted on the Billboard Hot 100 and the Canadian Hot 100 , the highest @-@ charting being " Faithfully " at number 36 in the US , and " Over the Rainbow " at number 31 in Canada . A mash @-@ up of Newton @-@ John 's " Magic " and Groban 's " You Raise Me Up " is also used in the episode , but does not feature on the EP . Groff was injured during the filming of " Bohemian Rhapsody " , receiving a five inch scar during the staging of the performance . Glee 's costume designer Lou Eyrich took inspiration from 1960s girl groups for the outfits worn by the show choirs , selecting black and fuchsia sequined dresses for Vocal Adrenaline , and Betsey Johnson 's " Goldie " brocade halter dress for New Directions .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " Journey to Regionals " was watched by 10 @. @ 92 million American viewers , and tied with the 2010 NBA Finals to lead in the 18 ? 49 demographic in its timeslot , attaining a 4 @. @ 6 Nielsen rating . The series ' 18 ? 49 viewership was up 18 percent on the previous episode , giving Glee the highest finale rating for a new show in the 2009 ? 2010 television season . " Journey to Regionals " was the fourth most @- @ watched show of the week in the 18 @- @ 49 demographic , the highest scripted show , and the sixth most @- @ watched program amongst all viewers . In the UK , the episode was broadcast on Monday 14 June 2010 , and was watched by 2 @. @ 354 million viewers (1 @. @ 952 million on E4 , and 402 @, @ 000 on E4 + 1) , becoming the most @- @ watched show on E4 and E4 + 1 for the week , and the most @- @ watched show on cable for the week .

The episode received generally positive reviews from critics . Darren Franich of Entertainment Weekly called it " just about perfect " , writing : " this was one of those high @- @ energy episodes that narrowed its song focus [...] and found a just @- @ right mix of cynicism and optimism , of banal reality and glam performance . " Raymund Flandez of The Wall Street Journal commented : " It 's been a long premiere season of ups and downs , and this last show is a warm embrace that ? let ? s face it ? you just don 't want to let go . " The Houston Chronicle 's Bobby Hankinson deemed the episode " awesome " , observing : " While it was light on the usual humor , it was heavy on emotion , and I think that 's ideal for a season finale . Glee ended its freshman season with a real wallop that took a couple of unexpected turns before pulling nicely into a satisfying finish . " Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club graded the episode " A- " , deeming it among the best of the entire season . He felt that : " On its own , ' Journey to Regionals ' is a fantastic episode of Glee . As a capper to the season , it mostly works . " While VanDerWerff had some issues with the episode , including Shelby 's sudden decision to adopt Beth , he summarized that : " for once in this back nine , the good stuff absolutely overwhelms the stupid stuff . " Jessica Derschowitz of CBS News felt that : " Glee wrapped up on a high note , leaving some of the season 's less @- @ appealing plotlines behind and heading towards the promise of more performances and more amazing Sue Sylvester one @- @ liners next season . "

Time 's James Poniewozik wrote that with " Journey to Regionals " , Glee " returned to its roots , balancing its weirdness , snark and bombast with intimate stories of small @- @ town high school life . And it , too , by showing what it can be at its best , made its case for staying around another year . " IGN 's Eric Goldman rated " Journey to Regionals " 8 @. @ 5 / 10 , signifying a " great " episode . He felt that while it did not match the standards of the mid ? season finale episode " Sectionals " , it was " still a very satisfying wrap up to the first year of Glee . " Gerrick D. Kennedy of the Los Angeles Times noted that he " went into the finale peeved at how incredibly messy last week 's episode was " , but overall he deemed the finale a success . Vanity Fair 's Brett Berk found " Journey to Regionals " a fulfilling , albeit " pretty mediocre " episode , describing it as having " a sense of narrative cohesion that went beyond the writers ' usual throwing @- @ flatware @- @ down @- @ the @- @ garburator modality " . Jean Bentley of MTV found the episode representative of the first season as a whole , explaining : " Much like the entire first year of the show , the uneven episode started out with a promising , action @- @ packed plot , impressed with a couple of flashy musical numbers , then got too cheesy for its own good and petered out with an overly sentimental song . " Fellow MTV writer Aly Semigran noted : " I was hoping for a little more excitement from the episode , though it all did feel very full circle for so many of our characters we 've come to know and love . Here 's to hoping Glee can get back its stellar momentum in season two . "