

= Acafellas =

" Acafellas " is the third episode of the American television series Glee . The episode premiered on the Fox network on September 16 , 2009 . It was directed by John Scott and written by series creator Ryan Murphy . The episode sees glee club director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) form an all @-@ male a cappella group , the Acafellas , neglecting the club in favor of dedicating his time to the new endeavor . New Directions struggle with choreography , and resist attempts at sabotage by members of the cheer squad . Mercedes (Amber Riley) harbors romantic feelings for Kurt (Chris Colfer) , who comes out as homosexual .

Singer Josh Groban guest stars as himself , John Lloyd Young appears as wood shop teacher Henri St. Pierre , and Victor Garber and Debra Monk play Will 's parents . The episode features covers of seven songs , including the instrumental piece " La Camisa Negra " performed on guitar by Mark Salling . Studio recordings of two of the songs performed were released as singles , available for digital download , and two of the tracks also appear on the album Glee : The Music , Volume 1 .

The episode was watched by 6 @.@ 69 million US viewers and received mixed reviews from critics . Entertainment Weekly 's Tim Stack and the New York Times 's Mike Hale welcomed the return of Stephen Tobolowsky as Sandy Ryerson , while Ryan Brockington of the New York Post and Raymund Flandez of The Wall Street Journal praised Riley 's cover of Jazmine Sullivan 's " Bust Your Windows " . However , Rachel Ray , reviewing the episode for The Independent , deemed it " overhyped [...] uninspired , confusing and with a simple plot to boot . "

= = Plot = =

When Rachel Berry (Lea Michele) questions director Will Schuester 's choreography skills during a glee club rehearsal , he forms an all @-@ male a cappella group , the Acafellas , to build his confidence . The group originally consists of Will , football coach Ken Tanaka (Patrick Gallagher) , woodshop teacher Henri St. Pierre (John Lloyd Young) and Howard Bamboo (Kent Avenido) , a co @-@ worker of Will 's wife Terri (Jessalyn Gilsig) . After their first performance however , Henri and Howard drop out and Will replaces them with glee club member Finn Hudson (Cory Monteith) , who was considering quitting glee club , and his fellow football player Puck (Mark Salling) . Former glee club director Sandy Ryerson (Stephen Tobolowsky) also joins the group , having arranged for singer Josh Groban to be at their next performance . Although the star compliments their rendition of " I Wanna Sex You Up " , he reveals that he only attended to make sure Sandy stopped stalking him .

In Will 's absence , the glee club hires Dakota Stanley (Whit Hertford) , the choreographer of a rival club , Vocal Adrenaline , to help coach them to a Nationals championship . Cheerleaders Quinn (Dianna Agron) , Santana (Naya Rivera) and Brittany (Heather Morris) hope that the notoriously harsh Stanley will prompt some members of the club to quit , furthering their plan to sabotage the club . Although Stanley is heavily critical of most of the group , Rachel convinces the members that their differences give them a unique edge , and fires the choreographer . The cheerleaders also lead Mercedes Jones (Amber Riley) to believe that fellow club member Kurt Hummel (Chris Colfer) has feelings for her , leaving her hurt when he rejects her advances . He misleads her into believing he has feelings for Rachel , which angers Mercedes , and she breaks the windshield of his car and sings " Bust Your Windows " . Kurt later confesses to her that he is gay ? the first time he has said it to anyone ? and the two make up .

Cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) is angry that the club is now stronger than ever , and punishes Quinn and Santana . Quinn retaliates by thanking Sue for helping her realize that believing in herself negates the need to bring other people down . Will realizes that his passion is teaching , not performing , and resolves to recommit to the glee club .

= = Production = =

Recurring cast members who appear in " Acafellas " are Stephen Tobolowsky as former glee club director Sandy Ryerson , Patrick Gallagher as football coach Ken Tanaka , Iqbal Theba as Principal Figgins , Kent Avenido as Sheets and Things employee Howard Bamboo , and Naya Rivera and Heather Morris as glee club members Santana Lopez and Brittany Pierce . Whit Hertford guest @-@ starred as choreographer Dakota Stanley . Cheyenne Jackson was originally supposed to play Dakota Stanley , but when he arrived in California he learned that he had the flu . John Lloyd Young played Henri , " a retired wood shop teacher with an excellent singing voice " , and Victor Garber and Debra Monk played Will 's parents . Morrison was " thrilled " by Garber 's casting , having been a longstanding fan of his . Josh Groban received special guest star billing , playing , in Colfer 's words , " himself as this ignorant asshole " . Morrison 's rapping in the episode was an already acquired skill , with Gilsig commenting : " He can do it . It didn 't look like a joke , it actually looked totally authentic , and he was fantastic . I think he has just an amazing musical range . People like that who have been singing their whole lives , they have such a command of that . " Riley deemed Kurt 's coming out in the episode " very emotional " and " one of [her] favorite scenes " . Colfer described the scene as " very respectful and very touching ... very , very real and serious . "

= = Music = =

The episode features cover versions of " For He 's a Jolly Good Fellow " , " This Is How We Do It " by Montell Jordan , " Poison " by Bell Biv DeVoe , " Mercy " by Duffy , " Bust Your Windows " by Jazmine Sullivan , " I Wanna Sex You Up " by Color Me Badd and an instrumental performance of " La Camisa Negra " by Juanes . Studio recordings of " Bust Your Windows " and " Mercy " were released as singles , available for digital download . " Bust Your Windows " is also featured on the soundtrack album Glee : The Music , Volume 1 , with a studio recording of " I Wanna Sex You Up " included as a bonus track on discs purchased from Target .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Acafellas " was watched by 6 @.@ 69 million US viewers and attained a 3 @.@ 2 / 9 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . It was the tenth most watched show in Canada for the week , with 1 @.@ 44 million viewers . In the UK , the episode was shown straight after the pilot episode , and was watched by 1 @.@ 68 million viewers (1 @.@ 29 million on E4 , and 398 @,@ 000 on timeshift) , becoming the most @-@ watched show on cable for the week .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The episode received mixed reviews from critics . Tim Stack for Entertainment Weekly reviewed the episode positively , deeming it potentially even better than the season premiere . Stack wrote that the best aspect of the episode was the focus placed on previously more minor characters , such as Puck , Mercedes and Kurt . He praised Lynch as Sue and wrote , " Stephen Tobolowsky 's Sandy is also becoming one of the most reliable characters for great lines and laughs . " He was disappointed that Garber did not sing in his role as Will 's father , but hoped he would return for future episodes . Ryan Brockington for the New York Post stated that " the key to this show lies directly within the female leads " , praising Michele as Rachel , Agron as Quinn and Riley as Mercedes , noting that in " Acafellas " , Riley " finally got a chance to shine " . Raymund Flandez of The Wall Street Journal praised Riley 's rendition of " Bust Your Windows " as " showstopping " , Vocal Adrenaline 's " Mercy " as " leg @-@ splits @-@ over @-@ shoulders exciting " , and deemed the Acafellas performance of " I Wanna Sex You Up " " corny " but noted : " this is about high school . Corny is de rigueur . " Shawna Malcom for the Los Angeles Times wrote that although " Bust Your Windows " was " over the top [...] the emotion behind the whole thing felt appropriately real . "

Mike Hale of the New York Times was critical of the episode , discussing the show 's " increasingly rapid march toward Hallmark country . " He commented that while " Acafellas " did not match the standard of the pilot episode , it was funnier than " Showmance " , and praised the return of Stephen Tobolowsky as Sandy Ryerson . Hale called Groban 's cameo the " most fun of all " in the episode , but overall noted that : " The humor can ? t make up for the lack of big production numbers [...] The problem for this show is always going to be how to fill the gaps between songs . A lot of the current plot lines , like Will and his wife 's phantom baby , are already getting old , so it would behoove the producers to keep those gaps as short as possible . " Rachel Ray , reviewing the episode for The Independent deemed Glee " overhyped [...] uninspired , confusing and with a simple plot to boot . " Ray wrote , Glee 's " upbeat message " was " overridden by the show 's attempt to be darker than the run @-@ of @-@ the mill high school drama . " As with Hale , Ray commented that : " Music should be the redeeming feature of Glee but it 's not , because the viewer never gets a satisfying taste of the cast members ' musical talents " . Shawna Malcom criticized Terri and Will 's characterization in the episode , deeming Terri " beyond annoying " , but wrote : " I have confidence that creator Ryan Murphy will flesh out Jessalyn Gilsig ? s character over time . Her seemingly sincere apology to Will for not being more supportive of his boy band was a nice first step . " Of Will , Malcom posed the question : " didn ? t it feel as though his commitment to the glee club melted away rather quickly ? [...] How could he turn his back so easily ? " More positively , Malcom called Kurt 's coming out scene " lovely " . She wrote that Groban 's appearance was " laugh out loud " funny , while Stack commented : " It was a little random , but it 's all worth it for the scene when Groban was hitting on Will 's mom . "