

= Sally ( Flight of the Conchords ) =

" Sally " is the pilot episode of the American television sitcom Flight of the Conchords . It first aired on HBO on June 17 , 2007 . In this episode , New Zealanders Jemaine Clement and Bret McKenzie of the band Flight of the Conchords have moved to New York City to try to make it in the United States . At a party , Jemaine falls for , and subsequently begins dating , Sally ? Bret 's former girlfriend . As Jemaine 's attentions focus on Sally , a lonely Bret is forced to deal with the advances of Mel ( Kristen Schaal ) , the band 's obsessed ? and only ? fan . Meanwhile , Murray ( Rhys Darby ) , the band 's manager , helps the band film their first music video , although they cannot afford decent costumes or proper video equipment .

" Sally " received largely positive reviews from critics . According to Nielsen Media Research , " Sally " drew over 1 @. @ 2 million viewers . Several of the songs from the episode , most notably " Robots " , " Not Crying " , and " Most Beautiful Girl ( In the Room ) " received positive critical acclaim . All three songs were released on the band 's EP The Distant Future , although " Robots " appeared in a live form . " Robots " later was re @- @ recorded and released on the band 's debut album Flight of the Conchords , along with " Most Beautiful Girl ( In the Room ) . " The latter was later nominated for an Emmy award for Outstanding Original Music And Lyrics .

= = Plot = =

Jemaine ( Jemaine Clement ) and Bret ( Bret McKenzie ) attend a party thrown by their friend Dave ( Arj Barker ) . In the crowd Jemaine spots a beautiful woman , Sally ( Rachel Blanchard ) , inspiring him to sing " Most Beautiful Girl ( In the Room ) " . Jemaine and Sally leave the party and eventually go back to the band 's apartment , but just as they begin kissing , Bret disturbs them by turning on the light , and an embarrassed Sally leaves . The next morning , Jemaine blames her departure on " the whole situation with the light " . However , Bret suggests it was because he used to date her himself .

Bret and Jemaine go to a band meeting with their manager Murray ( Rhys Darby ) in his office in the New Zealand Consulate . Murray criticizes Jemaine for dating his bandmate 's ex , and discusses the need to increase the group 's fan base , which currently consists of only one person : the obsessive Mel ( Kristen Schaal ) . Bret suggests they film a music video . However , unable to afford real video equipment and robot costumes like Daft Punk , they are forced to rely on a camera phone and disappointing cardboard costumes made by Murray . Regardless , they manage to film a video for " Robots " .

Over the following week , Jemaine spends more time with Sally , leaving Bret feeling lonely and neglected . When Bret suggests hanging out sometime , Jemaine invites him along on a dinner date with Sally , but they all feel a " bit weird " and Bret leaves early . On the way home , Mel tries to cheer him up but fails miserably . Immediately after dinner , Sally breaks up with Jemaine , leading him to sing " Not Crying " with Bret .

= = Production = =

" Sally " was written by series co @- @ creators James Bobin , Jemaine Clement , and Bret McKenzie , the latter two starring as the titular Flight of the Conchords . Bobin directed the episode . The episode is the first of the series to feature Rachel Blanchard as Sally . The character returns to disrupt Bret and Jemaine 's lives in the fifth episode , " Sally Returns " . In " Sally " , the character Mel shows Bret that she carries around a picture of Jemaine 's lips in her wallet . This was inspired by an incident that happened to the band during the filming of their documentary A Texan Odyssey which covered their trip to the 2006 South by Southwest ( SXSW ) festival in Austin , Texas . The incident was caught on camera and is included in the documentary . Judah Friedlander has a cameo appearance in this episode , playing the role of the man who tries to sell Dave a cake .

The episode contains several cultural references . Murray is wearing a New Zealand All Blacks rugby shirt when the band is in Dave 's pawn shop obtaining a camera . In the same scene , Murray

and Bret have a conversation about the band Fleetwood Mac and their album " Rumours " . Rhys Darby , who played Murray , later asked Mick Fleetwood , the drummer for the band , if he heard the joke and whether or not he enjoyed it . Fleetwood admitted that he " appreciate [ d ] " the joke . During the filming of the video for " Robots " , Jemaine tells Murray that he wanted robot costumes " like Daft Punk " rather than the amateur versions hand @-@ crafted by Murray . Murray replies with a characteristic lack of musical knowledge : " I don 't know who he is . "

= = = Songs = = =

The first song featured in the episode is " The Most Beautiful Girl ( In the Room ) . " The song , also known as " Part @-@ Time Model " , was based on the conceit of a man " who 's not very good at compliments . " The song begins after Jemaine sees Sally from across the room at Dave 's party . Jemaine details his seduction of Sally , describing her as being so beautiful she could be a " part @-@ time model " . This song was voted number 60 in the 2008 Triple J Hottest 100 . Later , the song was nominated for an Emmy award for Outstanding Original Music And Lyrics .

The second song featured in the episode is " Robots " . The song , also known as " Humans Are Dead " , is sung by both Bret and Jemaine . It is set in a post @-@ apocalyptic " distant future " , humorously stated to be the year 2000 , where all humans are dead and robots have taken over the world . Within the context of the plot of the show , it is the band 's first music video . Since the band has very limited funds , Murray constructs the robot costumes himself and films the video using a cell phone .

The third and final song featured is " Not Crying " . The song begins as Sally breaks up with Jemaine . Jemaine denies that he is crying by offering excuses such as " it 's just been raining on my face " . All three of the songs were released on The Distant Future EP in 2007 , however , " The Most Beautiful Girl ( In the Room ) " and " Robots " appeared in live form . The two were subsequently re @-@ recorded in studio form for the band 's debut album , Flight of the Conchords in 2008 .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" Sally " debuted on the internet , a month before the show premiered on HBO . The network , in conjunction with MySpace , iTunes , Yahoo ! TV , Movielink , Comcast.net and Roadrunner.com , allowed a promotional version of the episode to be streamed as part of an online marketing campaign to build up word @-@ of @-@ mouth for the series . On television , " Sally " debuted on the HBO in the United States at 10 : 30 PM on Sunday , June 17 , 2007 in the time slot preceded by Entourage , and vacated by the last episode of the final season of The Sopranos . The episode received over 1 @.@ 2 million viewers .

The episode received largely positive reviews from critics . IGN , in an advanced review of the episode , awarded " Sally " an " amazing " 9 @.@ 2 out of 10 rating and called the series " The funniest show you haven 't seen yet . " The review noted that , " Flight of the Conchords deserves the buzz it is slowly building . This is a very funny show . " Blogcritics reviewer Daniel J. Stasiewski noted that the series was different for HBO , writing , " Flight of the Conchords isn 't Entourage or Sex in the City or even Extras . It 's different . And sometimes different is just good . " Stasiewski , however , did note that the availability of the band 's music on video sites like YouTube meant that watching the series was not worth the cost of a cable subscription . Further more , Stasiweski noted that while " the fun , quirky music videos that pop @-@ up can make this long half @-@ hour worth watching [ ... ] the 10 or so minutes in between numbers aren 't groundbreaking comedy . " Chris Schonberger from Entertainment Weekly gave the episode a largely positive review . He called the new series " the funniest hour of comedy on television " and noted that the performance of Rhys Darby as Murray Hewitt was excellent , calling his character " scene @-@ stealing " . Finally , Schonberger positively compared the episode to the 2004 comedy film Napoleon Dynamite , writing , " Indeed , the whole pilot vaguely reminded me of Napoleon in the way that the characters just sort of lurk around and pour their limited energy into absurd activities " .

