

= New York (Glee) =

" New York " is the twenty @-@ second episode and season finale of the second season of the American musical television series Glee , and the forty @-@ fourth overall . The episode was written and directed by series creator Brad Falchuk , filmed in part on location in New York City , and first aired on May 24 , 2011 on Fox in the United States . With a \$ 6 million budget , it was reportedly the most expensive episode of Glee at the time of broadcast . It garnered a Primetime Emmy nomination for Outstanding Costumes for a Series . The episode features an appearance by Patti LuPone as herself and guest stars Jonathan Groff , Cheyenne Jackson , and Charice . The McKinley High School glee club , New Directions , performs at the National show choir competition in New York City and finishes in twelfth place . While they are there , the glee club members see the sights , including Times Square and Central Park . Rachel (Lea Michele) and Kurt (Chris Colfer) sing a song from a Broadway stage , as does their director , Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) .

The episode , and the musical performances featured , received mixed reviews from critics . While a number of scenes were praised , including the epilogue after the club 's return to Lima , Ohio , reviewers excoriated the fact that New Directions arrived in New York with their songs for the competition unwritten , and deemed it completely illogical . The original songs in the competition were met with a wide range of opinions , as were most of the covers . Five original songs and five covers were performed , all but one of which were released as singles ; three of the originals and two of the covers charted on the Billboard Hot 100 . Upon its initial airing , this episode was viewed by 11 @. @ 80 million American viewers and garnered a 4 @. @ 6 / 11 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . The total viewership and ratings for this episode were up significantly from the previous episode , " Funeral " .

= = Plot = =

The McKinley High School glee club , New Directions , travels to New York City to compete in the National show choir competition . Glee club director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) tasks the students with writing two original songs , then leaves on an errand . After spending hours trying to compose music , their only creation is " My Cup " by Brittany (Heather Morris) , Artie (Kevin McHale) , and Puck (Mark Salling) . Seeking fresh inspiration for their songwriting , they explore the city as they sing a mash @-@ up of " I Love New York " and " New York , New York " .

Meanwhile , Will has been visiting the theater where CrossRhodes , the April Rhodes musical in which he is secretly involved , is located . He performs " Still Got Tonight " from the stage . When Will returns , he finds that the glee club has been shaken after learning of his Broadway plans from Dustin Goolsby (Cheyenne Jackson) , the coach of rival club Vocal Adrenaline . He reassures them that he has now fulfilled his dream of singing on a Broadway stage and chooses to stay with New Directions .

Encouraged by his fellow male glee club members , Finn (Cory Monteith) asks Rachel on a date in Central Park . The two enjoy dinner at Sardi 's where they meet Patti LuPone . As the date draws to a close with Puck , Artie , Sam (Chord Overstreet) , and Mike (Harry Shum , Jr .) serenading the two with " Bella Notte " , Rachel feels torn between Finn and her dreams of being on Broadway , and leaves after refusing to kiss him . The next morning , after breakfast at Tiffany 's , Rachel and Kurt (Chris Colfer) sneak onto the stage of Wicked and sing a duet of " For Good " . Rachel realizes that her true love is Broadway and they vow to return to New York City for college .

At Nationals , Rachel encounters a nervous Sunshine Corazon (Charice) . She apologizes for having made Sunshine feel unwelcome at McKinley , and admits that she was jealous of her talent . She offers Sunshine her support , and reassures her as she opens for Vocal Adrenaline with " As Long As You 're There " .

The New Directions set begins with Rachel and Finn singing the duet he wrote , " Pretending " , and an enthusiastic audience falls silent when the two of them kiss at its conclusion . The glee club closes with " Light Up the World " and receives a standing ovation . A jealous Jesse St. James (Jonathan Groff) confronts Finn after the performance , and asserts that the unprofessional kiss will

cost them the championship . New Directions is not one of the ten groups named to advance to the finals the next day , and finishes in twelfth place out of fifty competing show choirs .

Back in Ohio , Kurt recounts his experiences in New York City to Blaine (Darren Criss) , and they profess their love to each other . It is revealed that Sam and Mercedes (Amber Riley) are secretly dating . Santana (Naya Rivera) and Brittany reaffirm their friendship , and Brittany tells Santana she loves her more than she has ever loved anyone . Rachel meets up with Finn and the two contemplate their Nationals kiss ; Finn reminds her that she still has a year until graduation and kisses her .

= = Production = =

This was the most expensive Glee episode yet , at a reported \$ 6 million . The budget exceeded the previous record @-@ holder , " The Sue Sylvester Shuffle " , which was the episode that followed the 2011 Super Bowl . It was also the show 's first major out @-@ of @-@ state location shoot . The cast and crew filmed for five weekdays in New York City , from April 25 through April 29 , 2011 . Forty members of the crew were flown to New York along with the cast , and were joined there by sixty local crew members . All three of the show 's creators ? who also serve as executive or co @-@ executive producers ? were present : Ryan Murphy , Ian Brennan and episode writer and director Brad Falchuk , along with executive producer Dante Di Loreto and first assistant director Leo Bauer .

Ten locations were used during the New York filming , including Times Square , Lincoln Center , the Gershwin Theatre , Central Park , and Sardi 's . LuPone made a guest appearance as herself in the Sardi 's scene , which was shot in the morning on Thursday to accommodate her schedule ? she had an 11 : 00 am rehearsal for another show . Washington Square Park , which was used on the final day of filming , had not been approved as a location by the city until after the production team arrived in New York . Di Loreto noted that the biggest challenge of shooting in the city was " the amount of people who can say no . "

While some of the costumes for the New York shoot were prepared ahead of time , much of the costuming was done in New York , and the costumes for the episode received an Emmy Award nomination . Costume designer Lou Eyrich revealed that the plan was to have the costuming be a " little nod " to the " iconic New York places we were going to shoot " , and with a " little bit of ' 50s , ' 60s flair " , but not too " vintage " . She said , " We landed in New York on a Saturday night , shopped all day Sunday , threw them in the clothes " for the filming that began on Monday . According to an article in The Hollywood Reporter , twenty @-@ six outfits were found in a single day .

Filming continued back in Los Angeles , where episodes are typically shot , including a location shoot at the Million Dollar Theater to film Morrison 's scene where he sings " Still Got Tonight " on a Broadway stage . The shooting for the episode ? and the season ? wrapped up in the early hours of May 12 , 2011 .

Recurring guest star Groff appeared in this episode as Jesse , as did Jackson as Vocal Adrenaline coach Dustin Goolsby and Charice as his star vocalist Sunshine . Other recurring characters included glee club members Mike Chang , Sam Evans and Lauren Zizes (Ashley Fink) , and Kurt 's boyfriend Blaine Anderson .

The episode featured five original songs and five musical cover versions . Of the original songs , Morris and McHale performed " My Cup " , Morrison sang " Still Got Tonight " , a track from his solo album , Charice performed " As Long As You 're There " , Michele and Monteith sang " Pretending " , and New Directions performed " Light Up the World " , with solo vocals by Rivera , Morris , McHale and Monteith , and a short duet with McHale and Jenna Ushkowitz . The cover versions included a brief performance of Frank Sinatra 's " Theme from New York , New York , a mash @-@ up of Madonna 's " I Love New York " and " New York , New York " from On the Town , " Bella Notte " from Lady and the Tramp , Michele and Colfer on " For Good " from Wicked , and Usher 's " Yeah ! " . All but the Sinatra number were released as singles , available for digital download , though " Still Got Tonight " had been released in late April in the lead @-@ up to the debut of Morrison 's album

on May 10 , 2011 .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" New York " was first broadcast on May 24 , 2011 in the United States on Fox . It garnered a 4 @. @ 6 / 11 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , and received 11 @. @ 80 million American viewers during its initial airing . With an American Idol lead @- @ in , and despite strong competition from the first hour of Dancing With the Stars Results on ABC , which matched the Glee Nielsen rating / share for its two @- @ hour broadcast , the total viewership and ratings for this episode were up by a third from those of the previous episode , " Funeral " , which was watched by 8 @. @ 97 million American viewers and acquired a 3 @. @ 6 / 10 rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic upon first airing . The episode was the top scripted show of the week among all viewers .

The episode 's Canadian broadcast , also on May 24 , 2011 , drew 1 @. @ 77 million viewers . It was the seventh most @- @ watched show of the week , and ranked twice as high as " Funeral " , which was watched by 1 @. @ 58 million viewers . In the UK , the episode aired on June 13 , 2011 , and was watched by 2 @. @ 61 million viewers (2 @. @ 03 million on E4 , and 573 @, @ 000 on E4 + 1) . It was the most watched show on cable for the week , and again increased viewership on " Funeral " , which was watched by 2 @. @ 19 million viewers . In Australia , " New York " aired on June 15 , 2011 , and was watched by 987 @, @ 000 viewers , which made Glee the tenth most @- @ watched show of the night . Viewership here declined from " Funeral " , which was watched by 1 @. @ 07 million and ranked seventh .

= = = Critical response = = =

" New York " was met with mixed reviews by many critics . Erica Futterman of Rolling Stone wrote , " We didn 't actually expect the New Directions to win nationals , but the episode just felt like it was going through the motions rather than seizing the opportunity to do something truly spectacular . " A.V. Club 's Todd VanDerWerff called the episode a " good piece of television " , and gave it a " B + " . He said it " wasn 't as good " as the first @- @ season finale , " Journey to Regionals " , " largely because it wasted a lot of time on performances designed solely to show off how the show was actually in New York and also because it borrowed a lot of that episode 's set pieces without finding anything remotely as powerful as the performance of ' Bohemian Rhapsody ' " . Robert Canning of IGN gave " New York " a " good " grade of 7 @. @ 5 out of 10 and stated , " while not as epic as Nationals in New York should have been , ' New York ' was a decent close to an enjoyable season . " The Atlantic 's Meghan Brown said the episode was " an uneven end to an uneven season , with a few killer numbers , strange resolutions , and head @- @ scratching plot devices " , while her colleague Kevin Fallon opined that the season finale was " no exception " to Glee having " been undeniably frustrating in season two " , though " there was still ample reason to tune in and enjoy " .

Several elements of the episode were highlighted for their implausibility . The arrival of New Directions in New York without having their songs already prepared received widespread condemnation , including from VanDerWerff and the Houston Chronicle 's Bobby Hankinson , and led Brown to write , " there is absolutely no universe in which that makes sense . At all . It was so logically unsound that it was distracting . " The notion that Rachel would not know that Cats had closed eleven years before was derided by Brown and Amy Reiter of the Los Angeles Times , while Rachel and Kurt 's encounter with " the only friendly security guard in New York City " was mocked by Anthony Benigno of The Faster Times and Entertainment Weekly 's Sandra Gonzalez . Several critics were disappointed that Quinn 's ominous mention of plans for New York in " Funeral " came to nothing , including Benigno , who called her actual idea a " cockamamie sabotage plot " , though he credited Agron 's scene as a " great , wasted job in a great , wasted character " , sentiments echoed

by VanDerWerff and James Poniewozik of Time . Terron R. Moore of Ology.com gave the episode a " C + " , and likened Quinn 's dropped plot to Will leaving for Broadway and Rachel disowning her love for Finn : " the fact that none of this happened ? and the fact that we know none of it would ever happen ? is just another issue I have with the show . I hope that next season , it actually grows a pair . "

Finn and Rachel 's date in New York was praised , though not everyone was happy with its ending . Gonzalez liked LuPone 's short guest spot , and hoped it would be " a lesson to producers in how to deal with guest appearances in the future " . Canning said the date had a " sweet comical tone " , and thought the episode was " the best the series has done so far with this couple " . Reiter felt Rachel was making a " false " choice in her refusal of Finn at the end of the date , and wondered " couldn 't she at least have asked him " if he would consider coming to New York . At the competition performance , Poniewozik said of the end of " Pretending " , " I may not be that invested in Finn / Rachel , but the startling moment where the audience disappeared in the middle of their kiss made me feel like I was . " Benigno called the moment " awesome " , and VanDerWerff was also pleased .

Those reviewers who singled out the show 's final segment , set after the return to Ohio , did so with compliments . Poniewozik wrote that the episode " did a really fine job handling its epilogue , in which New Directions had their hopes crushed , went back to Lima ? and found that it was a pretty awesome experience regardless . Brittany connected with Santana , a brief scene that reminded me how far both characters have come this season . Kurt didn 't get a championship , but he has Blaine , and he has a taste of what life can be like for him after graduation . " Canning said it was a " nice denouement , putting everyone at peace for having failed to reach the top ten at Nationals and getting their hopes high for next year . " Hankinson credited Brittany with some of the funniest lines in the episode as well as the most important scene ? in the epilogue with Santana ? and he was impressed with her lead vocals throughout . He concluded , " She 's the M.V.P. of the night and possibly the season . "

= = = Music and performances = = =

The musical performances received a mixed reaction from critics , both as a whole and individually . Poniewozik said the songs " mostly felt like padding , without anything that offered a strong connection of contrast with the story . " VanDerWerff called the music his least favorite element of the episode , and was only complimentary about " Bella Notte " . Brittany 's original song , " My Cup " , was called " light and fun " by Benigno . Kubicek characterized it as " another brilliantly absurd original song " , and Canning said it was a " hilarious performance " . While Brett Berk of Vanity Fair stated that it was " amazingly horrible " , he nevertheless gave it three stars out of five .

The mash @-@ up of " I Love New York " and " New York , New York " was typical of the range of reactions songs received . Benigno gave it a " C " and wondered whether it was bad that he " thought this was a joke song before [he] realized it was a mash @-@ up " . Gonzalez gave it a " B " and said it was " not [her] favorite " . Futterman called it an " infectious , high @-@ speed mash @-@ up " and Hankinson listed it as one of the four favorite songs from the episode , though Kubicek said the on @-@ screen performance " would make any real New Yorker want to kick [New Directions] in the shins " .

Most reviewers were highly critical of the inclusion of Morrison 's " Still Got Tonight " , the second single from his solo album . VanDerWerff called it " way too self @-@ indulgent " and Kubicek characterized it as " shameless self promotion " . Gonzalez said the song " isn 't half bad " and gave it a " B ? " , while Benigno was more generous with a " B + " , despite his belief that it did not belong in the episode . Futterman called it " a generic @-@ sounding pop melody " . The use of " Bella Notte " , by contrast , was generally approved of , though Kubicek thought it was " kind of weird that they weren 't really there " , and Berk gave both of its two stars out of five solely due to the " spectral singers " . VanDerWerff thought the song was " well @-@ performed " , and Benigno gave it a " B + " ; he had a very different take from Kubicek , as he found the imaginary appearance by the male club members hilarious .

Although Kurt and Rachel being allowed on the stage of a Broadway theater was deemed improbable in the extreme by many critics , most were willing to suspend disbelief and enjoy their duet of " For Good " . Futterman wrote that the performance brought events " full circle from their season one drama around singing ' Defying Gravity ' . It 's a fitting song for friendship and Kurt and Rachel nail it . " The Wall Street Journal 's Raymund Flandez described it as " so sublime that it could have fit so easily in the cast version of the musical 's CD " . While Benigno wished the song had started two @-@ voice harmony sooner , he gave it an " A ? " and called it " friggin ' lovely " . Among the less favorable comments , VanDerWerff felt that the song itself was " pretty weak " .

Usher 's " Yeah ! " by an unnamed all @-@ female a cappella group received variant opinions . Aly Semigran of MTV said that the group " nailed " the song , but Benigno found the track and performers annoying and gave it a " D ? " . Futterman noted , " the arrangement feels flat and the dancing is overexaggerated " , and Hankinson called this song and the Vocal Adrenaline offering , " As Long As You 're There " , " meh " . The latter song also garnered divergent opinions , from Kubicek 's " neither fun nor interesting " to Gonzalez 's award of an " A + " , her best grade of the show . Futterman wrote that Sunshine handled her ballad with " masterful skill and unbelievable ease " .

The two original songs sung by New Directions were rated from excellent to abysmal . Benigno gave each song a " B + " ; he called the duet , " Pretending " , " lovely " . The nicest thing Kubicek wrote of it was that it sounded as if the lyrics had been " written by a lovesick teenage boy " , and he called " Light Up the World " a " trainwreck " . Berk was even harsher : " When the show has carte blanche access to every amazing song in the history of popular music , there 's something terribly humiliating about watching the kids sing this shit tune as their finale , and do so with such desperate conviction . " Gonzalez gave " Light Up the World " a " B + " , but said it sounded a " bit too much " like " Loser Like Me " , and while Benigno thought it had a better melody than " Loser " and also made " much better use of the Gleeeks as a whole " , he criticized the chorus for its similarity to " Let It Rock " by Kevin Rudolf . Semigran said it was an " uplifting , if not rather lackluster pop song " , yet Hankinson called it his favorite number in the episode .

= = = Chart history = = =

Three original songs and two cover versions that were featured in the episode debuted on numerous musical charts . The two original songs sung by the main Glee cast did best , with " Light Up the World " debuting at number thirty @-@ three on the Billboard Hot 100 , on an issue dated for June 11 , 2011 . It sold 86 @,@ 000 copies in the United States in its first week since its release as a digitally downloadable single , and " Pretending " was in fortieth with 79 @,@ 000 sold . The third single , a cover of " For Good " from Wicked , charted at number fifty @-@ eight , and the other cover , the mash @-@ up " I Love New York / New York , New York " , debuted at number eighty @-@ one . The third original song , " As Long As You 're There " , sung by Charice , was number ninety @-@ three . In the Canadian Top 100 , " Light Up the World " debuted at number twenty @-@ six , " Pretending " at number forty , " For Good " at number seventy @-@ nine , and " I Love New York / New York , New York " at number eighty @-@ one .

Of the nine songs that were performed in the episode , four were featured on the eighth soundtrack album of the series , Glee : The Music , Volume 6 : the three original songs , " Light Up the World " , " Pretending " , and " As Long As You 're There " , plus the cover of " Bella Notte " . The album was released the day before the episode aired , and debuted at number four on the US Billboard 200 and number one on Billboard 's Soundtracks chart . It sold 80 @,@ 000 copies in its first week , which was the second @-@ lowest opening sales figure for a Glee release next to the extended play Glee : The Music , The Rocky Horror Glee Show , and lower than the 86 @,@ 000 sold by Glee : The Music Presents the Warblers in its first week the previous month . The album was also at number four on the Billboard Canadian Albums chart .