

= Throwdown ( Glee ) =

" Throwdown " is the seventh episode of the American television series Glee . The episode premiered on the Fox network on October 14 , 2009 . It was directed by series creator Ryan Murphy and written by Brad Falchuk . The episode includes a clash between glee club director Will Schuester ( Matthew Morrison ) and cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester ( Jane Lynch ) when she is named co @-@ director of the glee club . As Sue tries to divide the club by turning the students against Will , his wife Terri ( Jessalyn Gilsig ) blackmails her OB / GYN into colluding with her over her fake pregnancy .

The episode features covers of five songs . Studio recordings of four of the songs performed were released as singles , available for digital download , and were also included on the album Glee : The Music , Volume 1 . " Throwdown " was watched by 7 @.@ 65 million US viewers and received mixed reviews from critics . The pregnancy storyline was criticized by both Ken Tucker of Entertainment Weekly and Shawna Malcom of the Los Angeles Times . Raymund Flandez of The Wall Street Journal was unimpressed by Quinn 's solo performance of The Supremes ' " You Keep Me Hangin ' On " , though the group performance of " Keep Holding On " was generally better received by reviewers . Lynch as Sue in particular was widely praised , with Flandez and Zap2it 's Liz Pardue both writing that Lynch gave an Emmy @-@ worthy performance .

= = Plot = =

When cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester ( Jane Lynch ) is named co @-@ director of the McKinley High glee club , she divides the group in two , hoping to turn the students against director Will Schuester ( Matthew Morrison ) . Sue takes the minority students ? Santana ( Naya Rivera ) , Artie ( Kevin McHale ) , Kurt ( Chris Colfer ) , Tina ( Jenna Ushkowitz ) , Mike ( Harry Shum , Jr . ) , Mercedes ( Amber Riley ) and Matt ( Dijon Talton ) ? for her group , leaving Will with only Finn ( Cory Monteith ) , Rachel ( Lea Michele ) , Quinn ( Dianna Agron ) , Puck ( Mark Salling ) and Brittany ( Heather Morris ) in his group . Sue names her part of the club " Sue 's Kids " and tries to convince them that Will is discriminating against the students by making them sing backup . Will retaliates by failing all of Sue 's cheerleaders in Spanish , which only exacerbates their hostilities .

Quinn and Finn go together for her ultrasound appointment , and they learn that she is expecting a girl . Finn , trying to be supportive , suggests they name the baby Drizzle , but Quinn is adamant she is having it adopted and is annoyed at his lack of understanding . Will , tired of his wife Terri 's ( Jessalyn Gilsig ) refusal to let him participate in the pregnancy , sets up an appointment with Terri 's OB / GYN so he can see their own baby on the ultrasound . With the help of her sister Kendra ( Jennifer Aspen ) , Terri blackmails her doctor into faking the sonogram using Quinn 's ultrasound DVD , in order to continue hiding the fact she isn 't really pregnant . Meanwhile , Quinn angrily confronts Rachel about her relationship with Finn and threatens her . Rachel confronts Quinn about being a spy in the glee club for Sue and tells her that she will be kicked of the Cheerios once Sue finds out about her pregnancy .

School reporter Jacob Ben Israel ( Josh Sussman ) uncovers news of Quinn 's pregnancy . To protect Quinn and ensure Jacob will not release the story , Rachel agrees to give him her underwear . When both sections of the glee club stage a walkout in protest against Sue and Will 's constant arguing , the two make amends and Sue steps down as co @-@ director . Sue discovers the underwear in Jacob 's locker and the reason for it , and makes him run the story about Quinn 's pregnancy . She reveals her knowledge of the pregnancy to the club , and tells them that the whole school will soon know . Quinn breaks down in tears in the hallway , and New Directions does a performance of " Keep Holding On " to show their support for her .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by series creator Brad Falchuk and directed by co @-@ creator Ryan Murphy . Recurring characters who appear in " Throwdown " are Principal Figgins ( Iqbal Theba ) ,

Terri 's sister Kendra Giardi , her OB / GYN Dr. Wu ( Ken Choi ) , school reporter Jacob Ben Israel , and glee club members Santana Lopez , Brittany Pierce , Matt Rutherford and Mike Chang . Amy Hill guest stars as Dr. Wu 's rival OB / GYN , Dr. Chin .

" Throwdown " features cover versions of " Hate on Me " by Jill Scott , " No Air " by Jordin Sparks , " You Keep Me Hangin ' On " by The Supremes , " Keep Holding On " by Avril Lavigne , and " Ride wit Me " by Nelly . Studio recordings of " Hate on Me " , " No Air " , " You Keep Me Hangin ' On " and " Keep Holding On " were released as singles , available for digital download , and are also included on the album *Glee : The Music , Volume 1* . " No Air " charted at number 52 in Australia , and 65 in America and Canada , while " Keep Holding On " reached number 56 in Australia and America , and 58 in Canada . " Ride with Me " was recorded live in the episode , as , according to Shum , Jr . , Murphy " wanted to get the chill vibe , that spur @-@ of @-@ the @-@ moment singing . "

= = Reception = =

" Throwdown " was watched by 7 @. @ 65 million US viewers and attained a 3 @. @ 4 / 9 rating / share in the 18 @-@ 49 demographic . It was the 26th most watched show of the week in Canada , with 1 @. @ 4 million viewers . In the UK , the episode was watched by 2 @. @ 066 million viewers ( 1 @. @ 674 million on E4 , and 388 @, @ 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 , as well as the most @-@ watched episode of the series at the time . The episode received mixed reviews from critics . Mike Hale of the New York Times felt that " Throwdown " : " emphasized the show 's increasingly dual nature " whereby " the students are in a pretty good musical , and the adults are in a below @-@ average dramedy . " Wendy Mitchell of Entertainment Weekly deemed the episode " welcome light relief " , while Shawna Malcom of the Los Angeles Times called it " perhaps Glee 's sharpest episode yet " , describing it as " chock @-@ full of standout scenes " . Eric Goldman for IGN rated the episode 8 @. @ 8 / 10 , criticizing it for " overly earnest , saccharine moments " but commenting that it was a " great example " of Glee " just being damn funny " .

Lynch 's performance as Sue attracted praise , with Raymund Flandez of The Wall Street Journal and Liz Pardue of Zap2it both calling her portrayal Emmy @-@ worthy . Entertainment Weekly writer Ken Tucker called her " the greatest Broadway @-@ musical villain to ever co @-@ star in a TV series " , deeming " Throwdown " " possibly the best showcase yet for Jane Lynch " , while Malcom praised the interaction between Lynch and Morrison , writing that their scenes " crackled with electric wit " . The pregnancy storyline drew criticism , with Tucker opining that it " nearly derailed an otherwise @-@ excellent episode " and writing : " there 's got to be a better way to ground the series in a serious plot @-@ line that doesn 't make you wish the pregnancy plot was all just a non @-@ musical dream sequence . " Malcom also criticized the storyline , asking if it could " please just go away already ? " and writing that her patience with it was running out .

Musical performances received mixed reviews . Flandez deemed the cover of " Keep Holding On " an " emotionally satisfying showstopper " , however was critical of Quinn 's cover of " You Keep Me Hangin On " , which he called " thin and jarring " . Mitchell enjoyed the " No Air " duet , however felt it would be nice to see characters besides Finn and Rachel take the lead on the majority of songs . Reviewing musical performances in the series so far on October 21 , 2009 , Denise Martin for the Los Angeles Times rated " Hate On Me " the fourth best performance to date , writing that Riley : " blew [ her ] away . " In December 2012 , TV Guide also named the rendition one of Glee 's best performances , describing it as " a real Beyoncé moment " . Aly Semigran of MTV observed that Quinn spontaneously bursting into song brought Glee " dangerously close to High School Musical territory " .