

= Brittany Pierce =

Brittany Susan Pierce is a fictional character from the Fox musical comedy @-@ drama series Glee . The character is portrayed by actress Heather Morris , and first appeared in the show 's second episode , " Showmance " . Brittany was developed by Glee creators Ryan Murphy , Brad Falchuk , and Ian Brennan . In Glee , Brittany is a cheerleader , or " Cheerio " for the fictional William McKinley High School , and a member of the school 's glee club led by Will Schuester . Morris was originally hired to teach Beyoncé 's " Single Ladies " dance to the Glee cast . The show at the time was looking for a third cheerleader , and Morris landed the role . Morris was upgraded to a series regular in the series ' second season , in which Brittany is given a larger storyline , solos and dance routines to perform .

Morris plays Brittany as " literally insane " , but also entirely well @-@ meaning and goodhearted . She has said that Brittany " love [ s ] everybody , no matter who they are " ; she is frequently smiling and being nice to people . Brittany 's character traits include her finding recipes confusing , cheating off intellectually disabled classmates , thinking her cat , Lord Tubbington , is reading her diary , and not knowing her right hand from her left . These facts are often presented in one @-@ liners delivered by Morris , many of which she has ad @-@ libbed . Brittany 's one @-@ liners are regularly celebrated in reviews of Glee . The character 's lack of intelligence and forthright manner of speaking means , as Morris puts it , that " Brittany is used by the series ' writers to say things no other character would " . The character has also received positive reviews related to her romantic storyline with her closeted best friend Santana ( Naya Rivera ) . While Brittany is bisexual , and is unashamed of that , Santana has trouble accepting her lesbianism . Brittany has continued to support Santana and urged her to be true to herself .

The character has been received favorably with television critics . Jarrett Wieselman of the New York Post has compared Morris as Brittany to Lynch as Sue , and has opined that she has " emerged as one of the funniest second bananas on TV right now " . Wieselman wrote that since her introduction , Brittany has been given " more and more to do [ and ] less and less to think " , and that the result has been " one of the most clueless characters that 's ever figured out how to dress herself in the morning . " Snarker called Brittany and Santana her " new favourite Glee pairing " , and commented : " While Heather Morris ( Brittany ) and Naya Rivera ( Santana ) have had minimal screen time , they ? ve made it count . Heather in particular has brought the laughs as the Cheerio least likely to get a Mensa invitation . " Brittany has attracted comparison to Amanda Seyfried 's character from the 2004 hit teen comedy Mean Girls . Morris also receives acclaim for her dancing and her portrayal as Brittany .

= = Storylines = =

= = = Season 1 = = =

Brittany first appears in Glee during the show 's second episode , as a member of William McKinley High 's cheerleading team , the Cheerios . She joins the glee club , New Directions , with her friends and fellow cheerleaders Quinn Fabray ( Dianna Agron ) and Santana Lopez ( Naya Rivera ) . Cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester ( Jane Lynch ) then enlists the three of them to help her destroy the club from the inside . When the club is due to compete at the sectionals round of show choir competition , Brittany unknowingly leaks their set list to Sue , who leaks the routines to competing glee clubs . New Directions put a new set list together at the last minute , and go on to win the competition regardless . Brittany also reveals that she and Santana have had sex , but are not dating . Following the club 's victory at sectionals , Sue renews her effort to bring them down , and enlists Brittany and Santana to break up co @-@ captains Rachel Berry ( Lea Michele ) and Finn Hudson ( Cory Monteith ) . They invite Finn on a date with the both of them , but ignore him throughout the evening and ultimately request that he sit in the car and leave them to finish their meal alone . She mentions in the episode " Bad Reputation " that she has made out with almost

everyone in the school ? guys and girls alike , and the school janitor . She also briefly dates Kurt Hummel ( Chris Colfer ) in the episode " Laryngitis " as he wants to appear more masculine to impress his father and he is the only guy she has not made out with in the school .

= = = Season 2 = = =

In the second season episode " Duets " , she asks Santana to be her partner for the duet competition while they are making out . Santana rejects her , so Brittany attempts to make her jealous by dating fellow glee club member Artie Abrams ( Kevin McHale ) . She sleeps with Artie , but Santana tells him that Brittany was just using him for his voice , so he breaks up with her , to Brittany 's dismay . Brittany 's relationship with Artie continues to develop ; in " Never Been Kissed " , he gets her to go out with him again . As of " Furt " , they are officially dating . In " Sexy " , following her performance of " Landslide " with Santana and Holly Holliday ( Gwyneth Paltrow ) , Santana admits her true feelings for Brittany . Although Santana fears being ostracized by the McKinley High student body for being in a same @-@ sex relationship , she confesses her romantic love to Brittany , feelings which are reciprocated . However , Brittany states that she loves Artie too , and would never do anything to hurt him , even if it means not being able to be with Santana . She says that if she and Artie ever break up , she would be Santana 's , proudly so .

= = = Season 3 = = =

Brittany runs for senior class president in the third season , starting in " I Am Unicorn " , and wins the election in " I Kissed A Girl " , defeating Kurt in the balloting . She and Santana join the Troubletones , a rival all @-@ girls show choir at McKinley , and formally begin dating ; after Santana is outed by Finn , they are open about their relationship . The two rejoin New Directions after the Troubletones lose to them at Sectionals . Santana sends Brittany a singing valentine in " Heart " , and the two publicly kiss afterward . In " Saturday Night Glee @-@ ver " , concerned about Santana 's future plans , Brittany gets the idea to ask Sue to arrange for Santana to get a full scholarship to the top college cheerleading program in the country . After a year of being a do @-@ nothing class president , Brittany puts on a dinosaur @-@ themed senior prom . In the season finale , Brittany reveals that her grades are so bad she is not graduating , but will have to repeat her senior year .

= = = Season 4 = = =

In the first episode of the fourth season , Brittany competes to become the lead singer of New Directions , but loses to Blaine ( Darren Criss ) . She then loses to him again when she runs to be a second @-@ term senior class president . Santana formally breaks up with Brittany because she feels that their long @-@ distance relationship is not working , though the two remain friends . She then becomes ' blonde buddies ' with Sam Evans ( Chord Overstreet ) , and then starts to date him . Santana comes back to try and break them up , however fails . Brittany visits MIT , where she is dubbed a mathematical genius . Returning to Lima , she becomes arrogant , refuses to perform at Regionals , leaves the Cheerios , and breaks up with Sam . After Will and Sue fail to get Brittany to change her attitude , Sam gets Santana to return to Lima to intervene . After talking with Santana , Brittany decides to perform at Regionals . Brittany reveals to the glee club she has been offered early admission to MIT and delivers an emotional goodbye , as she will be leaving after Regionals .

= = = Season 5 = = =

Brittany returns to McKinley in " 100 " along with other New Directions alumni following the closure of the Glee club . Brittany states her unhappiness at being a math genius and kisses her ex @-@ girlfriend Santana . In " New Directions " , Brittany agrees to dropping out of MIT before going on a trip to Lesbos with Santana . Santana asks Brittany to go with her to New York after their trip ,

Brittany accepts . Brittany finally graduates in the episode , one year late . Brittany returns to New York in the last episode of the season " The Untitled Rachel Berry Project " but she finds out that Santana is out of town shooting another Yeast @-@ I @-@ Stat commercial .

= = = Season 6 = = =

At the beginning of season six , Brittany returns with Santana and the rest of Glee club alumni to McKinley High School in " Homecoming " to help Rachel and Kurt recruit for New Directions . In " Jagged Little Tapestry " , while the alumni stick around for another week , Brittany is surprised by Santana 's marriage proposal and gladly accepts . Brittany and Santana then return in " What The World Needs Now " to deal with Santana 's disapproving grandmother Alma ? with whom she hasn't spoken since coming out as a lesbian . Brittany takes matters into her own hands and tries to invite Alma to the wedding , but Alma 's prejudice is too strong and she rejects their engagement , and Brittany tells her off for doing so . Later the New Directions serenade them in an attempt to be invited to their upcoming wedding . Brittany and Santana are wed in a double ceremony with Kurt and Blaine in the eighth episode " A Wedding " . Before the ceremony , Sue arrives with Alma , who she has helped to realize that although she may not believe females should marry each other , family is the most important thing , leading her and Santana to reconcile . Brittany and Santana return briefly in the last minutes of the series finale " Dreams Come True " for a last performance with the rest of the Glee Cast to take a bow .

= = Creation and casting = =

Brittany first appears as a guest character in the second episode of the first season of Glee . She was brought in as a member of William McKinley High 's cheerleading team , the Cheerios . Brittany is regularly played by actress Heather Morris . Morris grew up with a strong background in choreography . She was taking acting classes and actively pursuing an acting career when she was offered a spot on recording artist Beyoncé Knowles world tour as a dancer . Morris , however , turned down the job . Shortly thereafter , she was asked by Glee 's choreographer Zach Woodlee to teach the choreography for Beyoncé 's " Single Ladies " dance to the Glee actors . At the same time , the show was looking for a third cheerleader , they originally wanted to have the third be African American , but Morris ended up landing the role of Brittany Pierce . Initially a background character who hardly ever spoke , the role grew as writers discovered Morris had a gift for delivering one @-@ liners . In an interview with Brandon Voss of The Advocate.com , Morris said of her casting :

" About six months after I first moved to L.A. , I got a job doing Beyoncé 's tour . After I finished the tour , I started working with choreographer Zach Woodlee , who started hiring me to do things like Fired Up ! and Eli Stone . Prior to the Single Ladies tour I was supposed to move to New York to do West Side Story , but then I dropped dancing and started acting classes because I didn't want to dance anymore and I really wanted to fulfill my lifelong dream of acting . Zach called me and was like , ' Are you in New York ? ' I was like , ' No , I'm still here in L.A. and I'm acting . ' He was like , ' OK , I need you to come in and teach the " Single Ladies " dance to Chris Colfer and Jenna Ushkowitz for this TV show I'm doing , Glee . Since you're acting now , I know Ryan Murphy would love to consider you for a part . Look as cute as you can so he'll love you even more . ? So I went in to teach the kids with a full @-@ on outfit . I was scheduled to read with Ryan Murphy twice , but he canceled both times . After that , Zach called me and said they might not hire me anyway because they wanted the third cheerleader to be black , so my hopes were shot . But then my agent called a week later and said , ' You're now cast as Brittany in Glee . ' So it was nuts . "

Brittany 's role in the show was initially intended to be minor , but grew towards the end of the first season . She does not have any solo musical performances during season one , but Morris hoped she would have one in the second season . On April 27 , 2010 , Michael Ausiello of Entertainment Weekly reported that Morris would be upgraded to a series regular for season two . Speaking to E ! Online , Morris commented : " It's so fun . I literally just stand there and doze off and then I'm like , ' Oh yeah , I have to speak now ! ' " At the 2010 Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour ,

Murphy stated that Brittany would have " big storylines " in the new season , as viewers want to know more about her .

#### = = Characterization = =

Some of Brittany 's most memorable lines are unscripted , and are instead devised by Murphy during filming , or improvised by Morris . Morris portrays Brittany as being " literally insane . " She is used by the series ' writers to say things no other character would , to the point that Morris considers some of her lines nonsensical . Brittany 's character traits include her finding recipes confusing , cheating off intellectually disabled classmates , thinking her cat is reading her diary , and not knowing her right hand from her left . She is friendly towards all the other characters , and Morris has explained that Brittany " love [ s ] everybody , no matter who they are " , so she is frequently smiling and being nice to people . Morris bases her portrayal of Brittany on the character Karen Smith from the film Mean Girls . She plays Brittany as being very innocent , rather than stupid . In the episode " A Night of Neglect " , Brittany participates in an academic decathlon as a seat warmer , but surprisingly ends up contributing to the win due to the fact that she is somewhat of an idiot savant on the topic of cat diseases . It is also revealed in " Britney / Brittany " that Brittany is also " Britney Spears " as her middle initial is " S " making her " Brittany S. Pierce . "

At the Paley Festival Glee panel in March 2010 , Murphy stated that Brittany and Santana would be seen to make out during the show 's first season . Morris and Rivera only became aware of this after reading a Paley Festival report online . When they asked Murphy about the development , he claimed to have made the statement " to get a kick " out of the " dirty guy " asking about them . Murphy told Morris and Rivera that Glee would not push relationships to appease the show 's fans , but would only pursue those which were " organic and natural . " While there are moments on the show which depict Brittany and Santana as being very close to one another , Morris attributes these to her close relationship with Rivera : " that is just Naya and I joking around with each other and being really close . It 's always her and I just messing around and they end up using it . "

Later in 2010 , when interviewed by After Ellen and discussing the large lesbian audience of Glee , Ryan Murphy confirmed that season two would contain at least one kiss between Brittany and Santana . In January 2011 , several months after Brittany and Santana are seen in bed together , Glee co @-@ creator Brad Falchuk further confirmed that " Brittana is on . Brittana was always on . "

#### = = Musical performances = =

Brittany performs in many of the series ' musical numbers , though she does not have a solo line until the second season . In that season 's second episode " Britney / Brittany " , Brittany performs " I 'm a Slave 4 U " as a solo and " Me Against the Music " as a duet with Santana . Songs by Morris as Brittany have been released as singles , available for digital download , and have also featured on the show 's soundtrack albums . Brittany sings lead for Kesha 's " Tik @-@ Tok " in the episode " Blame It on the Alcohol " . Candace Bulter of ScreenCrave praised the New Directions performance of the song and wrote , " Ke \$ ha might be able to out @-@ drink the Glee members , but their cover of her song was phenomenal . " She went on to praise Brittany 's choreography and voice , calling it " mad " and " awesome " . Sandra Gonzalez of Entertainment Weekly praised all of the musical performances and covers of that episode . In the season finale , she sings solo lines in the glee club 's Nationals performance of the original song " Light Up the World " . In the third season , Brittany 's first major performance was in the third episode " Asian F " , where she sings lead on Beyoncé 's " Run the World ( Girls ) " , which garnered superlatives from many reviewers including Kevin Fallon of The Atlantic , who wrote , " Brittany 's performance of ' Run the World ( Girls ) ' was thrilling . It was the most adrenaline @-@ pumping musical number the series has produced : intricately choreographed , expertly shot and edited , perfectly woven into the story , and performed exquisitely by Heather Morris . " She also performs a duet with Santana on " I Wanna Dance With Somebody ( Who Loves Me ) " in the Whitney Houston tribute episode " Dance With Somebody " .

= = Critical reception = =

Jarrett Wieselman of the New York Post has compared Morris as Brittany to Lynch as Sue , and noted that she has " emerged as one of the funniest second bananas on TV right now " . Wieselman wrote that since her introduction , Brittany has been given " more and more to do [ and ] less and less to think " , and that the result has been " one of the most clueless characters that 's ever figured out how to dress herself in the morning . " E ! Online 's Megan Masters has also compared Brittany to Sue , and stated that Brittany 's one @-@ liners " easily rival " Sue 's . She deemed Brittany " brainlessly brilliant " , and thanked the Glee producers for creating her : " Never before have we had the pleasure of enjoying such a ridiculously dumb ? yet always loveable ? character on television . " When a promotional clip for the episode " Sectionals " indicated that Brittany and Santana had slept together , Dorothy Snarker , when writing for lesbian entertainment website AfterEllen.com , praised the pairing and referred to it by the portmanteau " Brittana " . Snarker called the two her " new favourite Glee pairing " , and commented : " While Heather Morris ( Brittany ) and Naya Rivera ( Santana ) have had minimal screen time , they ? ve made it count . Heather in particular has brought the laughs as the Cheerio least likely to get a Mensa invitation . Never mind Finn and Rachel ? I ? m on Team Brittana now . "

Morris ' performance in Britney / Brittany attracted critical praise ; Lisa de Moraes called " Britney / Brittany " a " great showcase " for the actress , and praised her " spectacular dance moves " and " deadpan flare " . In his otherwise negative review , Todd VanDerWerff deemed Morris " hysterical throughout " and the cast 's best dancer . He stated , " Murphy seems intent on running this character into the ground , but Morris isn 't going to have her stop being funny without a fight . " Jenna Mullins of E ! Online observed , " When Ryan Murphy said this episode was a celebration of Heather , he wasn 't kidding " , and commended her musical performances . Robert Canning of IGN was initially concerned that the episode would diminish Morris ' appeal by elevating her from a background role , but was ultimately pleased that it managed to retain her " fan favorite " secondary character status . While Poniewozik asked " have we gotten to the point as a society where it 's unremarkable that the most popular scripted TV show in the 18 to 49 demographic is also ? almost without comment or controversy ? the gayest show on broadcast TV ? " , Ann Oldenburg of USA Today questioned whether Glee had gone too far by its depiction of Brittany and Santana kissing and their reference to the sexual act called " scissoring " . Christie Keith , in writing for the lesbian and bisexual media website AfterEllen.com , suggested that " Duets " was the " queerest episode of any series that 's ever been on television " , and stated that she was moved to tears by the final scene of Brittany forlorn without Santana . AfterEllen.com also listed her in their Top 50 Favorite Female TV Characters .

Robert Canning praised Morris for her performance in " A Very Glee Christmas " , and wrote : " The heart of " A Very Glee Christmas " was found in Artie Abrams attempt to keep Brittany 's belief in Santa Claus alive . Heather Morris perfectly played up Brittany 's innocence and joy surrounding everything Santa . Her interaction with the black mall Santa was a highlight . Watching Artie , and eventually the rest of the club , work to keep Brittany 's belief intact was truly in the spirit of Christmas and should have been made into a fuller part of the episode . Also shining in this storyline was Dot Jones as Coach Bieste . Her scene as Santa , and then her knowing expression as she watched Artie walk , were the best moments of the episode . " In January 2010 , Morris and her co @-@ stars won the " Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series . Later that year , Brittany and Santana were nominated for the " Favorite Fictional Lesbian Couple " award at the AfterEllen.com Visibility Awards .