

= Remember Paul ? =

" Remember Paul ? " is the seventh season premiere episode of the American comedy @-@ drama television series Desperate Housewives , and the 135th overall episode of the series . It was originally broadcast in the United States on September 26 , 2010 , on the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) . In the episode , Paul (Mark Moses) announces his return to Wisteria Lane while Carlos (Ricardo Antonio Chavira) learns that his daughter was accidentally switched with another baby at the hospital eight years earlier .

The episode was written by series creator Marc Cherry and directed by David Grossman . It included the introduction of Renee Perry (Vanessa Williams) , Lynette 's (Felicity Huffman) former college roommate . " Remember Paul ? " also dealt with Bree 's (Marcia Cross) divorce and continued the storyline of the financial problems of Susan (Teri Hatcher) and Mike (James Denton) .

" Remember Paul ? " garnered generally mixed reviews . Many critics drew both favorable and unfavorable comparisons between Williams ' performance in the episode and her portrayal of Wilhelmina Slater in Ugly Betty . According to Nielsen ratings , the episode drew just over 13 million viewers , making it the least watched season premiere at the time .

= = Plot = =

= = = Background = = =

Desperate Housewives focuses on the lives of several residents in the suburban neighborhood of Wisteria Lane , as narrated by their deceased neighbor , Mary Alice Young (Brenda Strong) . In past episodes , a local hospital discovered that a nurse had accidentally switched two children at birth years earlier and that one of the involved families lives in town on Wisteria Lane . Bree Hodge (Marcia Cross) decided to confess to Gabrielle Solis (Eva Longoria) that her son , Andrew (Shawn Pyfrom) , was driving the car that killed Gabrielle 's mother @-@ in @-@ law eleven years earlier . As a result , her husband Orson (Kyle MacLachlan) decided to leave her . Susan (Teri Hatcher) and Mike Delfino (James Denton) slipped into financial crisis and decided to move into a small apartment across town . Mary Alice 's husband , Paul (Mark Moses) , avenged her suicide by killing her blackmailer , Martha Huber (Christine Estabrook) . In response , her sister , Felicia Tilman (Harriet Sansom Harris) , framed Paul for her own death and fled town . Ten years later , Paul was released from jail and returned to Wisteria Lane .

= = = Episode = = =

News of Paul 's return jolts the neighborhood , including Susan , who did not know that she had rented her home to him . Paul expresses interest in buying his old home across the street , despite just having signed a lease for Susan 's house . Felicia , whose plan was foiled when she was pulled over by a police officer for speeding , is now incarcerated and swears that Paul will be dead within six months .

Jack Pinkham (Kevin Symons) , a lawyer for Fairview Memorial Hospital , tells Carlos Solis (Ricardo Antonio Chavira) that his daughter , Juanita (Madison De La Garza) , is not their biological child and was accidentally switched at birth with their daughter . Carlos decides to keep this information from Gabrielle to spare her the pain . Meanwhile , Bree tells Gabrielle that Andrew ran over Carlos ' mother , but Gabrielle decides not to tell Carlos because she does not want to upset him .

Despite downsizing to a small apartment , Susan and Mike are still struggling financially . Susan receives an offer from her landlord , Maxine Rosen (Lainie Kazan) , to appear on her home @-@ run erotic website ? " Va @-@ Va @-@ Va @-@ Broom ! " ? for which she would film herself doing housework in lingerie . She initially refuses the offer , but when Mike considers taking a job on an oil

rig in Alaska , Susan agrees to appear on the website ; however , she conceals her new job from her friends and family .

Bree struggles with her impending divorce . However , when Orson reveals that he has already begun dating his physical therapist , Bree takes an interest in her contractor , Keith (Brian Austin Green) . Meanwhile , Lynette 's old college frenemy Renee Perry (Vanessa Williams) , wife of New York Yankees player Doug Perry , comes to visit her , but their friendly bickering quickly escalates into an argument . Lynette threatens to kick her out but changes her mind when Renee reveals that Doug has left her for another woman .

= = Production = =

" Remember Paul ? " was written by series creator and executive producer Marc Cherry and directed by David Grossman . It marked the debut of Vanessa Williams as Renee Perry , an old college rival of Lynette Scavo . The addition of Williams to the cast was announced after the close of the series ' sixth season , as well as the finale of the ABC series Ugly Betty , in which Williams starred as Wilhelmina Slater . The character , who was originally named Renee Filmore @-@ Jones , was conceived as a trouble @-@ making vixen , similar to the Edie Britt character (Nicollette Sheridan) , who appeared on the series until the fifth season . Following the casting announcement , Williams admitted to having been a fan of the series during its first year , but stopped watching because of the racially insensitive second season mystery storyline . It focused on Betty Applewhite (Alfre Woodard) , the series ' first black main character . Williams explained to Entertainment Weekly , " [Betty] had her son in chains in the basement . It was like , ' Really ? Do we have to go there with our first Black character ? ' I honestly fell off the show after that . I think it was just so implausible and just an image that Black folks don 't want to see their child chained and shackled in the basement . " Cast member Felicity Huffman commented on Williams ' addition to the cast , saying " She 's such a great dash of vinegar to Wisteria Lane ! It 's going brilliantly ? she 's a wonderful woman , she 's really smart , she 's really strong , a real team player . She 's a great addition . "

The episode also reintroduced the storyline of Paul Young and Felicia Tilman 's rivalry . Mark Moses returned to the series as a series regular after appearing briefly as Paul in the sixth season finale . On his return , Moses commented , " There was some talk about [me coming back] a year ago . And there ? s often talk in Hollywood . Sometimes it pans out , sometimes it doesn ? t . I don ? t get super @-@ excited about a ' maybe ' in this town , because there are lots of maybes that don ? t happen . But then this last year they called up my agent and said , ' We 're really thinking seriously about [this] . ' And eventually , they made an offer , and I was very pleased . " Harriet Samson Harris also returned to reprise her role as Felicia , while Steven Culp and Christine Estabrook returned as Rex Van de Kamp and Martha Huber respectively in flashback sequences . Kyle MacLachlan , who left Desperate Housewives as a series regular at the end of season six , reprised his role as Orson Hodge in this episode .

Kevin Rahm and Tuc Watkins , who have been portraying gay couple Bob Hunter and Lee McDermott since the series ' fourth season , were both promoted to series regulars for the seventh season . Darcy Rose Byrnes also joined the main cast as Penny Scavo , a role previously portrayed by Kendall Applegate . Brian Austin Green made his series debut in the episode as Keith Watson , " a new contractor and charming playboy " who catches the attention of both Bree and Renee , while Lainie Kazan began a multi @-@ episode guest appearance as Maxine Rosen , Susan 's landlady .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

According to Nielsen ratings , " Remember Paul ? " was watched by 13 @.@ 056 million viewers and held an 8 @.@ 1 rating / 12 share on its original American broadcast on September 26 , 2010 .

Among viewers between 18 and 49 years of age , the episode drew a 4 @. @ 3 rating , making it the twelfth most @- @ watched show for the week in that demographic . The premiere was outperformed by Sunday Night Football on NBC and Family Guy on Fox , which respectively drew a 7 @. @ 3 and 4 @. @ 5 rating in the 18 to 49 demographic in the Desperate Housewives time slot . At the time , the episode was the least @- @ watched season premiere of Desperate Housewives , with an eleven percent decrease in viewership from the sixth season premiere one year earlier . ABC reported that the episode gained an additional 2 @. @ 1 million viewers and 1 @. @ 0 rating in the week following the original broadcast due to DVR recordings . " Remember Paul ? " was outperformed by the following episode , " You Must Meet My Wife " , which drew 13 @. @ 234 million viewers and scored 8 @. @ 2 rating / 12 share in total viewers and a 4 @. @ 4 rating in viewers between 18 and 49 years of age .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The episode received mixed reviews . Tanner Stransky of Entertainment Weekly gave the premiere a positive review . He praised Williams ' performance , stating that she brought back a " brand of bitchery " that had been missing from the series since Nicollette Sheridan 's departure ; additionally , he favorably compared the performance to Williams ' portrayal of Wilhelmina Slater on Ugly Betty . He also complimented Harriet Sansom Harris ' performance , naming her " the creepiest character ... in the best possible way . " Stransky called the Gabrielle and Carlos storyline " sweet , " but criticized the ridiculousness of Susan 's storyline . Neal Justin of the Star Tribune said , " the premiere is packed with the zippy zingers that made us fall in love with the dramedy in the first place , " accrediting the series ' improved quality over season six to the return of Mark Moses as Paul Young . He also commented that Vanessa Williams gave " a repeat performance " of her character on Ugly Betty . Damian Holbrook of TV Guide also drew a comparison between Williams ' performances in the episode and on Ugly Betty , stating the two characters " have the same stiletto @- @ sharp tongue and prickly chemistry with everyone who enters her orbit . "

John Griffiths of Us Weekly gave the premiere a negative review , awarding it only two stars . He stated the show had turned into " a run @- @ of @- @ the @- @ mill sitcom " and criticized the writers for not being able to develop material to match the " venerable cast capable of great things . " He called the Paul storyline " corny " and the switched @- @ baby storyline " as compelling as a manicure , " and commented that both Williams and Brian Austin Greene deliver underwhelming performances . Isabelle Carreau of TV Squad called the episode " a solid season premiere for the series . " She was surprised by both the identity of the switched child and its early revelation . Carreau also praised Williams ' performance , writing : " The banter between Lynette and Renee was priceless ! "