

= The Power of Madonna =

" The Power of Madonna " is the fifteenth episode of the American television series Glee . The episode premiered on the Fox network on April 20 , 2010 . When cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) demands that Madonna 's music be played over the school intercom system , glee club director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) sets the club a Madonna @-@ themed assignment , hoping to empower the female club members . " The Power of Madonna " was written and directed by series creator Ryan Murphy , and serves as a musical tribute to Madonna , featuring cover versions of eight of her songs , with the singer having granted Glee the rights to her entire catalogue of music . Glee : The Music , The Power of Madonna , an album containing studio recordings of songs performed in the episode , was released on April 20 , 2010 .

The episode was watched by 12 @.@ 98 million American viewers , and was generally well received by critics . Tim Stack of Entertainment Weekly and Aly Semigran of MTV both deemed it the best episode of the show thus far , and the Houston Chronicle 's Bobby Hankinson called it potentially " the most @-@ enjoyable hour of television of all time . " Other reviews were more mixed , with Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club criticizing the increasing number of musical performances for disrupting the tonal balance of the show , and IGN 's Eric Goldman questioning the series ' writing . Madonna herself approved of the episode , calling it " brilliant on every level " .

The episode won " Outstanding Sound Mixing For A Comedy Or Drama Series (One Hour) " at the Creative Arts Emmy Awards , while Jane Lynch won the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for her performance in this episode .

= = Plot = =

Cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) has the Cheerios emulate Madonna , so that they will be more empowered in their cheerleading routines . Continuing her blackmail of Principal Figgins (Iqbal Theba) , Sue has Madonna tracks played over the school intercom throughout the day . Glee club director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) overhears the girls in the club discussing difficulties they are having in relationships and life . Rachel (Lea Michele) asks the other girls for advice on a boy pressuring her to have sex , while Tina (Jenna Ushkowitz) tells them that Artie (Kevin McHale) has asked her to start wearing more revealing clothes if she wants to be with him . When Will observes the Cheerios performing a routine with stilts to " Ray of Light " , he is inspired to set a Madonna @-@ themed assignment to restore the girls to equal status . Most of the male club members are unimpressed , even when the girls perform " Express Yourself " . Club co @-@ captains Rachel and Finn (Cory Monteith) practice performing a mash @-@ up of " Borderline " and " Open Your Heart " .

When Will ridicules Sue 's fashion sense , Kurt (Chris Colfer) and Mercedes (Amber Riley) give her a makeover , recreating Madonna 's " Vogue " video . Guidance counsellor Emma Pillsbury (Jayma Mays) is inspired by Madonna 's example , and tells Will that she intends to lose her virginity to him that evening . Santana (Naya Rivera) offers to take Finn 's virginity , and Rachel and her boyfriend Jesse St. James (Jonathan Groff) also decide to have sex , leading to a dream performance of " Like a Virgin " between all three couples . Ultimately , Emma and Rachel do not go through with it , but Finn does have sex with Santana . He later hides this from Rachel , having concluded that the sex was meaningless , and that he truly regretted it , in contrasted with Rachel , who despite not going through with it , claims she did as she said and it was no big deal .

Jesse transfers to William McKinley High School , leaving the Vocal Adrenaline glee club to join New Directions , so that he and Rachel can be openly together . There is resistance from the group , who believe that this will result in them getting even fewer solos than they had been , and they suspect that Jesse is a spy for his former club . Kurt and Mercedes are recruited by Sue to join the Cheerios and perform " 4 Minutes " with them during a school assembly . They tell Will that they are unhappy about never being given solos , and will be in both groups . The boys sing " What It Feels Like for a Girl " , and decide to treat the girls better . Artie apologizes to Tina for his prior behavior , and they kiss . Finn formally welcomes Jesse into New Directions and tells him and Rachel that he

won't interfere in their relationship . The entire glee club sings " Like a Prayer " backed by a gospel choir , and Kurt and Mercedes each have a solo in the song .

= = Production = =

In 2009 , Madonna granted Glee the rights to her entire catalogue of music , and the producers planned an episode which would feature Madonna songs exclusively . Series creator Ryan Murphy had worked with Madonna in the past , and wished to produce a Glee tribute to her . Madonna agreed and " cooperated in every way possible . " The episode was filmed in January 2010 . Lynch performed Madonna 's " Vogue " , her first vocal performance on the show . Rehearsals for the routine began in December 2009 . It was filmed in black and white , with the original video playing in front of the performers as they worked . Lynch also wore a conical bra in the episode , emulating Madonna 's image .

Before the episode 's track listing was announced , Morrison hoped that his character , glee club director Will Schuester , would sing " Like a Virgin " , believing it befit Will 's relationship with guidance counsellor Emma Pillsbury . TV Guide 's William Keck later confirmed that Emma would be involved in the staging of " Like a Virgin " , with Mays ' agreement that the song is " very appropriate and fitting " for her character .

Glee : The Music , The Power of Madonna , an EP containing studio recordings of songs performed in the episode , was released on April 20 , 2010 . Its tracklist encompasses " Express Yourself " , a mash @-@ up of " Borderline " and " Open Your Heart " , " Vogue " , " Like A Virgin " , " 4 Minutes " , " What it Feels Like for a Girl " , and " Like a Prayer " . The iTunes edition features a bonus track , " Burning Up " , which was not performed in the episode . Although they were not performed by the show 's cast , Madonna 's " Ray of Light " , " Burning Up " , " Justify My Love " , and " Frozen " were also used as backing tracks in the episode . All songs on the EP apart from the bonus track were also released as singles , available for digital download . In its first week of release , Glee : The Music , The Power of Madonna reached number one on the Billboard 200 , with 98 @ ,@ 000 copies sold .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " The Power of Madonna " was watched by 12 @ .@ 98 million American viewers and attained a 5 @ .@ 3 / 13 rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . In the United Kingdom , the episode was watched by 1 @ .@ 98 million viewers , and was the most @-@ watched show of the week on the non @-@ terrestrial channels . It attained the highest audience share in the 16 ? 34 demographic in its timeslot . In Canada , the episode was watched by 2 @ .@ 096 million viewers and was the sixth most @-@ viewed program of the week . In Australia , Glee attained a new ratings high , winning its timeslot in all key demographics . It was watched by 1 @ .@ 42 million viewers , making Glee the eleventh most @-@ viewed show of the week .

Lynch received the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for her performance in the episode . At the 2010 Creative Arts Emmy Awards , Phillip W. Palmer , Doug Andham and Joseph H. Earle won the " Outstanding Sound Mixing For A Comedy Or Drama Series (One Hour) " award . Lou A. Eyrich and Marisa Aboitiz were additionally nominated for the " Outstanding Costumes for a Series " award . Competing against the Glee episode " Hairgraphy " , Stacey K. Black , Mary G. Stultz , Roxanne N. Sutphen and Gina Bonacquisti were nominated for " Outstanding Hairstyling for a Single @-@ Camera Series " , and competing against the episode " Theatricality " , Eryn Krueger Mekash , Kelley Mitchell , Jennifer Greenberg , Robin Neal @-@ Luce , Kelcey Fry and Zoe Haywas were nominated for " Outstanding Makeup For A Single @-@ Camera Series (Non @-@ Prosthetic) " .

Madonna approved of the episode , telling Us Weekly that she found it " brilliant on every level " , praising the scripting and the message of equality . The episode also received positive reviews from critics . Ken Tucker of Entertainment Weekly called it " one of the best hours of TV you ? re likely to see all year " , writing that the episode pays Madonna " the highest compliment possible " in not just

expressing admiration for the singer , but " demonstrat [ing] a potent understanding of why Madonna matters . " Fellow Entertainment Weekly writer Tim Stack deemed it the best episode of Glee thus far , grading each of the songs performed " B + " through to " A + " . Stack felt that the episode lived up to its hype , an opinion concurred with by Aly Semigran of MTV , who also deemed " The Power of Madonna " the show 's best episode to date . Bobby Hankinson of the Houston Chronicle went further in his praise , calling " The Power of Madonna " potentially " the most @-@ enjoyable hour of television of all time . " Kevin Coll of Fused Film felt that the episode redeemed the series following its " dismal comeback " with " Hell @-@ O " , calling it " a great story that explored the characters of Glee in much better depth than they ever have . "

Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club graded the episode " B " , however was less positive than other critics . While he stated that the musical numbers were " among the best things the show has ever done " , he felt that " just about everything else around them gets short shrift " , criticizing the increase in performances on the first half of the season for upsetting the balance of the series . Eric Goldman of IGN rated the episode 8 / 10 , observing that while he was in the minority of reviewers for not " absolutely loving it " , he found " The Power of Madonna " to be " a bit messy in the writing department , even while it delivered several really great scenes and moments along the way . "