

= Goodbye ( Glee ) =

" Goodbye " is the twenty @-@ second episode and season finale of the third season of the American musical television series Glee , and the sixty @-@ sixth overall . Written and directed by Brad Falchuk , it aired on Fox in the United States on May 22 , 2012 . It features the graduation of the McKinley High class of 2012 , and with it , eight members of the New Directions glee club . The episode introduces special guest star Gloria Estefan as Maribel Lopez , Santana 's ( Naya Rivera ) mother , and has appearances by six other parents of graduating seniors .

The episode was well received by many reviewers , though some were not as happy with it . The enthusiastic ones cited the combination of humor and tears , past events and present revelation , while those who were more critical felt there was not enough time to wrap up all the storylines or that it strayed into sappiness . Particular praise was given to the scene with Burt and Kurt Hummel that featured the former 's " Single Ladies ( Put a Ring On It ) " number , which was the favorite performance of the reviewers , and the scene when Finn tells Rachel he 's sending her to New York instead of marrying her , which was described as Monteith 's and Michele 's best acting on the show . Monteith was also praised for his solo in the song " You Get What You Give " , and Michele 's rendition of " Roots Before Branches " received even higher marks . Other songs were given a less enthusiastic reception .

" Goodbye " attracted 7 @.@ 46 million American viewers during its initial broadcast and received a 2 @.@ 9 / 8 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , a significant increase over the prior episode 's 2 @.@ 5 / 7 rating / share and 6 @.@ 03 million viewers on May 15 , 2012 .

= = Plot = =

Will ( Matthew Morrison ) gives the members of New Directions one final assignment : perform songs to say goodbye to each other . He starts by singing " Forever Young " . The graduating seniors as a group perform " You Get What You Give " , and tell the underclassmen that it is now their glee club . The underclassmen , joined by Will , sing " In My Life " to express their gratitude to the seniors .

Kurt ( Chris Colfer ) reflects on how his experience at McKinley High has enabled other students to be openly gay . His father ( Mike O 'Malley ) meets him in the school auditorium and recalls the evolution of their relationship . Tina ( Jenna Ushkowitz ) and Brittany ( Heather Morris ) then join him on the stage to help him re @-@ enact the turning point , which serves as Kurt 's graduation gift : the " Single Ladies " dance . Kurt and Blaine ( Darren Criss ) pledge to remain a couple , despite being in different cities in the fall .

Mercedes ( Amber Riley ) has been offered a recording contract as a backup singer and will be moving to Los Angeles ; Mike ( Harry Shum , Jr . ) has accepted a scholarship to the Joffrey Ballet in Chicago . Both revelations upset Santana ( Naya Rivera ) , who has a cheerleading scholarship from the University of Louisville , yet wants to be a performer like them . Brittany announces that she will not be graduating , and Santana tells her mother , Maribel ( Gloria Estefan ) , that she will stay in Lima . Maribel later gives Santana the money that she had been saving for Santana 's college education , saying she trusts her to follow her dreams .

Quinn ( Dianna Agron ) helps Puck ( Mark Salling ) study for the test he needs to pass in order to graduate . She tells him that with all they went through , they are bonded for life , and she kisses him . Emboldened , Puck passes his test . Later , Quinn returns her cheerleading uniform to Sue ( Jane Lynch ) , and the two have a tearful farewell .

Will tells Finn ( Cory Monteith ) that he had planted marijuana in Finn 's locker in order to blackmail him into joining the glee club , which Finn thinks makes him " even cooler " . Finn is disappointed that the Army refused to change his late father 's dishonorable discharge to an honorable one , and wonders to his mother ( Romy Rosemont ) whether his father would be proud of him if he became an actor .

After the graduation ceremony , Finn , Kurt , and Rachel ( Lea Michele ) gather to open their acceptance letters ? Finn for the Actors Studio and Kurt and Rachel for NYADA . Finn and Kurt are

rejected , while Rachel is admitted ; she decides to defer her admission for a year to help the other two reapply so the trio can go to New York together . She gets into Finn 's car to go to their wedding , but instead of driving to the wedding venue , Finn drives her to the train station . He tells her that he loves her too much to marry her if it means she has to give up her dreams ; he also reveals that he will be joining the Army . Will and the glee club meet them on the train platform to say goodbye , and a crying Rachel sings " Roots Before Branches " as she boards the train for New York .

= = Production = =

The season 's final episode was written and directed by series co @-@ creator Brad Falchuk . Shooting began on April 30 , 2012 , and was scheduled to take two weeks . The cast recorded their final vocal tracks for the episode 's songs on April 21 , 2012 , and the final scene was shot late on the evening of May 10 , 2012 .

Some scenes for the episode have been filmed on location in New York City . Falchuk tweeted two photos on the evening of Monday , May 7 , 2012 . One was a photo of Lea Michele sitting on a suitcase on a sidewalk , along with the message , " Two from yesterday . Yep . NYC Sunday , back in LA Monday . "

It was originally announced that this episode would include eight songs from the album *Glee : The Music , The Graduation Album* . However , only five of the album 's tracks are used in the episode , none of which have been released separately as singles . These are Bruce Springsteen 's " Glory Days " performed by Monteith and Salling , Madonna 's " I 'll Remember " performed by Colfer , New Radicals ' " You Get What You Give " performed by the graduating members of New Directions , Rod Stewart 's " Forever Young " performed by Morrison , and Room for Two 's " Roots Before Branches " performed by Michele and Monteith . The episode also has new performances of three songs that are not on the album . " In My Life " by The Beatles , performed by the non @-@ graduating members of New Directions , is the only song that has been released as a single available for digital download . The other two are repeat performances of " Sit Down , You 're Rockin ' the Boat " from Guys and Dolls , first sung in the series ' pilot by Colfer , Michele , Kevin McHale , Ushkowitz and Riley , and Beyoncé 's " Single Ladies ( Put a Ring on It ) " from " Peggys " , performed by O 'Malley , Ushkowitz , and Morris ; both numbers include flashbacks to the original performances , which for " Single Ladies " included Colfer rather than O 'Malley . There is another flashback to the pilot episode showing Monteith 's a cappella performance of " Can 't Fight This Feeling " by REO Speedwagon .

Gloria Estefan makes a special guest appearance as Maribel Lopez , the mother of Santana Lopez ( Naya Rivera ) . Estefan was reported to be in talks to play Santana 's mother as early as November 30 , 2011 , the morning after the episode " I Kissed a Girl " aired . After the episode , in which Santana comes out as a lesbian and her grandmother ? the only relative of hers shown on screen ? disowns her , though Santana says her parents accepted the news , Estefan tweeted , " Did anyone see Glee last night ? Santana could really use a sympathetic mommy right about now , don 't you think ? ? Lol ! " Estefan was definitively reported as having signed to be a guest star on December 8 , 2011 , and as being scheduled to appear in one of the then @-@ upcoming winter episodes , but this episode marks her debut on the show .

Many recurring guest stars appeared in the episode . These include glee club members Sam Evans ( Chord Overstreet ) , Joe Hart ( Samuel Larsen ) , Rory Flanagan ( Damian McGinty ) and Sugar Motta ( Vanessa Lengies ) , Principal Figgins ( Iqbal Theba ) , football coach Shannon Beiste ( Dot @-@ Marie Jones ) , synchronized swimming coach Roz Washington ( NeNe Leakes ) , European geography teacher Eleanor Doosenbury ( Kathleen M. Darcy ) , and the parents of many other graduating students : Kurt 's father Burt Hummel ( Mike O 'Malley ) , Finn 's mother Carole Hudson @-@ Hummel ( Romy Rosemont ) , Mike 's parents Michael Chang , Sr. ( Keong Sim ) and Julia Chang ( Tamlyn Tomita ) , Quinn 's mother Judy Fabray ( Charlotte Ross ) and Puck 's mother ( Gina Hecht ) . James Lipton of the Actors Studio makes an appearance as himself .

On August 6 , 2012 , co @-@ creator Ryan Murphy uploaded a deleted scene from this episode to YouTube in which Kurt reads a message Rachel wrote in his yearbook . On August 9 , 2012 ,

Murphy uploaded a second deleted scene , this one featuring Mike and Tina , in which Mike 's parents give him a graduation present . Murphy noted that the episode had initially run " 15 minutes long " , and these were two of the scenes that were cut from the finished version .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Goodbye " was first broadcast on May 22 , 2012 in the United States on Fox , an hour later than its usual time , in order to air after the first day of the two @-@ day American Idol finale . This was the same time that the previous episode , " Nationals " aired the week before as the second hour in a two @-@ hour special evening . " Goodbye " received a 2 @.@ 9 / 8 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic and attracted 7 @.@ 46 million American viewers during its initial broadcast , a significant increase over the prior episode 's 2 @.@ 5 / 7 rating / share and 6 @.@ 03 million viewers on May 15 , 2012 .

In Canada , which also aired the episode an hour later than usual on the same day as its American premiere and immediately following American Idol , viewership rose by over 4 % to 1 @.@ 63 million viewers from the 1 @.@ 56 million viewers who watched " Nationals " at the same hour the week before . " Goodbye " was the seventh most @-@ viewed show of the week , an improvement of three slots over " Nationals " , which had been the tenth most @-@ viewed .

In the United Kingdom , " Goodbye " first aired on May 24 , 2012 , at the show 's usual time , which was the same time that " Nationals " had aired the previous week . It was watched on Sky 1 by 776 @,@ 000 viewers , the same number as had watched " Nationals " . In Australia , " Goodbye " was broadcast on May 31 , 2012 . It was watched by 657 @,@ 000 viewers , up over 6 % from the 618 @,@ 000 viewers for " Nationals " on May 24 , 2012 . Glee was the twelfth most @-@ watched program of the night , up from seventeenth the week before .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The episode was well received by many critics , though some were not as happy with it . The A.V. Club 's Todd VanDerWerff gave it an " A " grade , and wrote that what he " liked most of all " was it being " remarkably clear @-@ eyed about who these people are and what they 're capable of " . Crystal Ball of Huffington Post described it as " heartfelt , comical and , yes , absolutely ridiculous " , and The Hollywood Reporter 's Lesley Goldberg called it a " tearful and touching finale " . Though she acknowledged exceptions , Erica Futterman of Rolling Stone characterized the episode as a " nonstop sapfest of too many tears and not enough nostalgia " , while Entertainment Weekly 's Erin Strecker said it had " the perfect amount of flashbacks and revelations " and described it as " a season finale that sure felt like a series finale " . Rae Votta of Billboard wrote that " there simply isn 't enough time to settle the fates of so many seniors in a mere hour " , a sentiment also expressed by Houston Chronicle 's Bobby Hankinson , who thought the episode might have " felt a little more logical if it was given a full two hours to breathe " . Hankinson also said it left him with " mostly questions " but also " some fury " . TV Guide 's two reviewers were both enthusiastic : Kate Stanhope described it as a " perfect mix of the kids ' past , present and future " , and Damian Holbrook wrote that the " class of 2012 went out on a high note with a season finale so solid , emotional and entertaining , you would have thought you were watching one of the show 's first 13 episodes " .

VanDerWerff called Kurt opening his NYADA rejection letter " as good a gut @-@ punch as I can think of for this series " , though John Kubicek of BuddyTV characterized it as " the most unbelievable plot twist ever on this show " . Bell hoped that this would extend his stay in Lima because it could give " more screen time for Burt Hummel , who is arguably the best character on Glee " . The scene where Burt gives Kurt his present was described as a " gift " by many reviewers . Kubicek wrote , " Kudos to Glee for turning a sappy moment into a funny one " , and Strecker noted

how powerful scenes typically were between the Hummels before she added " last night was no exception " , and ended by quoting Kurt : " Best . Graduation Gift . Ever . "

The Wall Street Journal 's Raymund Flandez deemed " unrealistic " the notion that Santana 's mother would allow the money she had saved for Santana 's college expenses to be " wasted on a dream " , and Bell described it as " too good to be true " . Michael Slezak of TVLine agreed and called Maribel " crazily lenient " , but said Estefan had done " good work " . Kubicek , however , maintained that Estefan was wasted in the role , and Futterman wrote that the " choppy , random scenes would have been a lot better with some Gloria Estefan singing " .

The scene where Finn tells Rachel he 's sending her to New York instead of marrying her both surprised and impressed reviewers . Strecker called it one of her " favorite non @-@ singing scenes of the year , possibly the series " , and VanDerWerff put it even more strongly : " It 's one of the best things I 've seen on TV this year " . Both Monteith and Michele were praised for their acting : Slezak said it was their " best work " , VanDerWerff said they " kill [ ed ] " the scene , and Bell said it was " some of Cory Monteith 's finest acting " . Rachel 's arrival in New York brought comparisons to Mary Tyler Moore from Bell and Strecker ; as the latter put it , " she 's going to make it after all " .

= = = Music and performances = = =

The performances were given generally good marks by reviewers , and the one that received the most enthusiastic reception was not for singing at all , but Burt 's lipsynch and dance to " Single Ladies ( Put a Ring On It ) " with the aid of Tina and Brittany . Futterman called it the " best gift of the season " and Slezak said it was " another shining ( albeit silly ) moment for Glee 's best parental unit " and gave it an " A ? " . Bell wrote " I loved every second of it " , and E ! Online 's Jenna Mullins described it as the episode 's " rewind moment " . Jen Chaney of The Washington Post was fond of the other flashback number , " Sit Down You 're Rockin ' the Boat " , to which she gave an " A ? " and commented , " it was a nice reminder of how far these plucky Glee kids have come " . MTV 's Fallon Prinzivalli was not as enthusiastic about the repeat performance , and said it was " not much better " than the pilot rendition and he was " happy to see their version of the song retired " .

" Forever Young " generated differing reactions from reviewers . Slezak wondered whether Will 's " diminished role this year " reduced the impact of his farewell song and gave it a " B " , and Futterman wrote that " while the bare @-@ bones guitar arrangement is suitably melancholy , Schue 's voice never quite settles in , seeming forced the whole way through " . Strecker thought " it sounded lovely " , gave it a " B + " and asked for more in the next season , and Chaney graded it an " A " and said that it was " sweet " . The same word , " sweet " , was applied by Slezak to Kurt 's rendition of " I 'll Remember " ; he called the song an " underrated Madonna ballad " and graded it a " B + " . Chaney , however , said it was " not one of Madonna 's best " and the performance " not particularly memorable " , so she gave it a " B ? " , while Pinzivalli wrote " leave this one to Madge " . Futterman characterized Kurt as " dapper and emotional while singing in a crisp , clear and natural voice " , though she wanted the performance to be " more than everyone 's sad faces " . Strecker 's grade was an " A ? " , and she wrote that " Colfer sold it " and that it was a " nice arrangement for his voice " .

" You Get What You Give " by the graduating seniors was welcomed by reviewers . Prinzivalli called it " one of Cory Monteith 's best solos all season " and a fun cover , while Futterman described it as " fine and fun , but nothing really spectacular " . Slezak gave it an " A " and wrote , " this spirited rendition captured [ the song 's ] jaunty essence " , and Strecker noted with her " B + " that " this was the moment when it really kicked in that the show will never be the same " . Chaney also complimented Finn for having gotten " the hang of this whole singing @-@ and @-@ dancing thing in the last three episodes of this season " and gave a grade of " B " . She gave an " A " to " In My Life " , sung by the underclassmen , and said " the harmonies sounded lovely " ; Bell called it " a perfect song to signify graduation " . Others were less enthusiastic : Futterman described it as " a blended @-@ past @-@ recognition , laden @-@ with @-@ harmonies Beatles tune " and the point where the show " entered sappy hour " , and Slezak said it was " not the most ringing endorsement for the National Champions ' 2013 chances " and graded it a " C + " .

Reviewers wondered at the inclusion of " Glory Days " . Chaney stated , " There is no way anyone should have been blaring Springsteen in the middle of a commencement ceremony " , and Slezak called the song " a tone @-@ deaf choice for modern teenagers on their big day " ; their grades were " B " and " C + " respectively . Strecker merely noted that the ceremony " doubled as a performance " when she gave her " B + " , and Futterman thought it looked " more like a fashion show than a graduation ceremony " .

The show 's final number , " Roots Before Branches " , was greatly praised . Although Hankinson was " hoping for a Journey reprise " or some other big group number , he noted that Rachel " kill [ ed ] it " , and Prinzivalli said " Lea Michele shines as always " . Strecker , Slezak and Chaney each gave the performance an " A " : Chaney called it a " well @-@ chosen song " and Slezak wrote that he was glad to be introduced to it at the episode 's " triumphant ending for a girl chasing her dreams , not her delusions , in the streets of New York City " .