

= Funk ( Glee ) =

" Funk " is the twenty @-@ first episode of the American television series Glee . The episode was written by series creator Ian Brennan and directed by Elodie Keene . It premiered on the Fox network on June 1 , 2010 and was watched by 9 million viewers . In " Funk " , New Directions is intimidated by rival glee club Vocal Adrenaline . Jesse St. James ( Jonathan Groff ) defects back to Vocal Adrenaline , and New Directions explores funk music , knowing it is their rival club 's weakness . The episode features cover versions of six songs , all of which were released as singles , available for download , and two of which are included on the soundtrack album Glee : The Music , Volume 3 Showstoppers .

The episode received mixed reviews from critics . Lisa Respers France of CNN and Blair Baldwin of Zap2it both received the episode positively . Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club , Entertainment Weekly 's Tim Stack and James Poniewozic of Time highlighted continuity issues with the show , while VanDerWerff and Henrik Batallones of BuddyTV deemed " Funk " a set @-@ up episode for the season finale . Bobby Hankinson of the Houston Chronicle gave a more positive review , but still found " Funk " lacking compared to previous episodes , a sentiment shared by Aly Semigran of MTV .

= = Plot = =

Jesse ( Jonathan Groff ) returns to rival glee club Vocal Adrenaline , claiming that he was not appreciated in New Directions . In a successful attempt at intimidation ahead of the Regionals competition , Vocal Adrenaline gives a performance of " Another One Bites the Dust " in the McKinley High auditorium , and toilet paper New Directions ' choir room . The New Directions members become depressed , and club director Will Schuester ( Matthew Morrison ) tries to reinvigorate them by asking them to perform funk numbers . Quinn ( Dianna Agron ) performs " It 's a Man 's Man 's Man 's World " to vent her frustration of being an unwed teenage mother . Mercedes ( Amber Riley ) sympathizes with Quinn and invites her to move in with her . Later , Mercedes , Puck ( Mark Salling ) and Finn ( Cory Monteith ) perform " Good Vibrations " as their own " funk " number , based on Marky Mark 's band name being the Funky Bunch .

Will and Terri ( Jessalyn Gilsig ) finalize their divorce . Attempting to deal with his sorrow and cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester 's ( Jane Lynch ) incessant bullying , Will seduces Sue with a performance of " Tell Me Something Good " and asks her out on a date , standing her up to humiliate her . Sue withdraws the cheerleading squad from the upcoming Nationals competition and becomes bed @-@ bound . Will sees the negative impact on the cheerleaders and realizes that some of them might lose their college scholarships . Will knows that hurting his nemesis did not make him feel any better , and encourages her to be there for her girls . Sue reenters and wins Nationals , but later gives Will two options : either house her new trophy inside New Directions ' choir room , or kiss her . As Will is about to kiss her , Sue backs out and decides she prefers that the trophy be set up in the choir room as a reminder of her superiority .

In retaliation to Vocal Adrenaline 's vandalism , Puck and Finn slash the tires of their rivals ' Range Rovers . Principal Figgins ( Iqbal Theba ) thinks they should be expelled , but Vocal Adrenaline director Shelby Corcoran ( Idina Menzel ) disagrees : she decides not to press charges , but she insists they pay for the damages . She then recommends taking the money out of Glee 's budget , but Will says that the club will go bankrupt . Finn then says that he and Puck will get jobs , and Shelby agrees . They begin working with Terri at Sheets @-@ N @-@ Things . Expressing the dissatisfaction in their lives , Puck , Finn , Terri , customer Sandy Ryerson ( Stephen Tobolowsky ) , and employee Howard Bamboo ( Kent Avenido ) perform " Loser " in a dream sequence . Terri finds that Finn reminds her of Will , and befriends him , helping him with his funk assignment .

Jesse further breaks Rachel 's ( Lea Michele ) heart when he lures her to the parking lot , where he and the other Vocal Adrenaline members throw eggs at her , which leaves Rachel distraught . The male New Directions members , led by Puck , are talked out of violent retaliation by Will , and instead the group performs " Give Up the Funk " to show Vocal Adrenaline that they have not been

defeated by their bullying . The performance intimidates their rivals , who unlike New Directions have never been able to master a funk number .

= = Production = =

" Funk " was originally intended to air on May 25 , 2010 , but was switched in the schedule with the episode " Theatricality " . Series creator Ryan Murphy has stated that there are three relationships which are the cornerstone of Glee : those between Finn and Rachel , Will and Emma ( Jayma Mays ) , and Will and Sue . Murphy explained that Will 's seduction of Sue in " Funk " is an attempt to get her to leave the Glee club alone , expanding : " I think he 's just done getting pushed around by Sue , but they had great fun with that . "

Will 's wife , Terri , returns to the series in " Funk " , giving her first vocal performance . Murphy planned a redemptive storyline for Terri , in which she realizes that Finn is similar to Will . He explained : " She met Will at 16 , so she sees a way to redemption ... a way to redo that relationship in a positive way [ by acting ] almost as Finn 's guardian angel , his fairy godmother . She gives him proper moral advice . " Murphy enjoyed seeing Gilsig and Monteith work together , so much so that he stated their friendship will continue into the show 's second season . On June 2 , 2010 , Megan Masters of E ! Online reported that Gilsig had yet to be officially invited back for the second season , but was confident that she would be . Discussing Terri 's relationship with Finn , Gilsig explained : " She sees in Finn so much of what she saw in Will when she first met him because he 's the same age as Will was . It 's her way of remembering happier times ? when she used to be kind to Will . And she realizes , here 's a chance to be supportive of this kid . "

The episode features cover versions of six songs : " Another One Bites the Dust " by Queen , " Tell Me Something Good " by Rufus , " Loser " by Beck , " It 's a Man 's Man 's Man 's World " by James Brown , " Good Vibrations " by Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch featuring Loleatta Holloway and " Give Up the Funk ( Tear the Roof off the Sucker ) " by Parliament " . All of the songs performed in the episode were released as singles , available for download . " Loser " is Gilsig 's only vocal performance on the show , and is included on the deluxe edition of the soundtrack album Glee : The Music , Volume 3 Showstoppers . " Give Up the Funk " is included on both the deluxe and standard editions of the album .

= = Reception = =

In its original broadcast , " Funk " was watched by an average of 9 million American viewers . The episode began with a 3 @. @ 6 / 10 rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , rising to 4 @. @ 1 / 11 in the last 30 minutes . It was down 21 % on the previous episode , but was Glee 's best 18 ? 49 rating for an episode not following American Idol . It was the third most @-@ watched show of the week in the 18 @-@ 49 demographic ( losing to America 's Got Talent the night of the broadcast ) , the highest scripted show , and the eleventh most @-@ watched program amongst all viewers . " Funk " received mixed reviews from critics . CNN 's Lisa Respers France called it " incredible " , and was pleased to see New Directions performing funk music , although noted that she was " slightly disturbed " by Quinn 's " weird " performance of " It 's a Man 's Man 's Man 's World " utilizing pregnant teenagers as backing dancers . In December 2012 , TV Guide named Quinn 's cover one of Glee 's worst performances . Blair Baldwin of Zap2it stated : " While it didn 't have the poignant vocals of previous episodes , it was fresh and fun ... a nice change of pace for the series . " Bobby Hankinson of the Houston Chronicle called it a " pretty good " and " solid " episode , albeit noting that it lacked the " emotional punch " of previous episodes .

Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club graded the episode " C " , writing that it felt like " a frantic attempt to raise a bunch of potential storylines for season two and an attempt to put things in place for the season finale " . He criticized the show 's lack of continuity , particularly with regard to the Jesse and Rachel storyline . Entertainment Weekly 's Tim Stack also observed the lack of continuity in the Jesse storyline , calling it " slightly confusing " and " a little half @-@ baked " ; continuity errors in his storyline may have been the result of the change in episode broadcast order . He felt

that the episode was " a slight let down " , noting : " There wasn't as much tension as I would have hoped going into the finale but there were still plenty of fun moments to enjoy . " James Poniewozik of Time attributed part of the episode 's problems to it being " an episode that could air easily out of order " , explaining : " Glee is a very serial show , after all , but this episode largely consisted of moments that felt dropped in and random , in a way that undermined even the good moments . "

Henrik Batallones of BuddyTV deemed " Funk " a bridge between " Theatricality " and the season finale , writing : " It feels like the episode got itself in a funk , and when things get close to being awesome , it pulls back . " Eric Goldman of IGN rated the episode 6 @. @ 8 / 10 for " Passable " , but deemed it the weakest episode of Glee thus far , while Gerrick D. Kennedy of the Los Angeles Times called it " just one big funky @-@ up mess . " Broadway World 's Mary Hanrahan felt that : " While " Funk " had some redeeming , even charming , moments , it did nothing to make up for the perplexing episode that preceded it and ultimately left much to be desired . " In contrast , Aly Semigran of MTV had enjoyed the preceding episode , yet still received " Funk " poorly , calling it : " a step down from last week 's strong ' Theatricality ' . " As with Respers France , Semigran noted that Quinn 's performance " felt a little uncomfortable and borderline ' offensive ' . " In contrast , Raymund Flandez of the Wall Street Journal enjoyed Quinn 's song , which he called a " magnificent surprise " , praising the " perfect jazzy ? funk choreography " . Flandez criticized the " Good Vibrations " performance , however , deeming it a " song so bad it can 't be saved by irony or nostalgia " , and felt that " Give Up the Funk " was " underdeveloped " asking : " Where 's the soul ? Anger ? Passion ? Emotion ? Isn't that what this was supposed to be about ? "