

= Cherokee Rose (The Walking Dead) =

" Cherokee Rose " is the fourth episode of the second season of the post @-@ apocalyptic horror television series The Walking Dead , which aired on AMC in the United States on November 6 , 2011 . The episode was written by Evan Reilly and directed by Billy Gierhart . In the episode , the group of survivors move to the home of Hershel Greene (Scott Wilson) . While the group contemplates on what to do , Daryl Dixon (Norman Reedus) continues to search for Sophia Peletier (Madison Lintz) .

Major themes in " Cherokee Rose " includes Daryl Dixon 's gradual change into a lighter character and the beginning of his close relationship with Carol Peletier and the developing romantic relationship between Maggie and Glenn . Principal photography for the episode commenced in Coweta County , Georgia , where filming locations were set up in an abandoned late nineteenth century Gothic revival home in Senoia , Georgia and in downtown Sharpsburg , Georgia .

During a sequence in the episode , the survivors pull a bloated zombie ? commonly referred to by the group as a " walker " ? out of a water well , ultimately leading to the walker splitting apart . Greg Melton , the series ' production designer , collaborated with KNB Efx Group in producing the scene . Filming for the sequence arose over an approximate period of two days .

" Cherokee Rose " was well received by television critics , who praised the episode 's storylines and character development . Upon initial airing , it garnered 6 @.@ 29 million viewers and attained a 3 @.@ 4 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , according to Nielsen ratings . " Cherokee Rose " became the highest @-@ rated cable program of the day , as well as the second highest @-@ rated cable program of the week .

= = Plot = =

Carl Grimes (Chandler Riggs) recovers from his operation to remove fragments of a bullet , which he had received earlier when encountering a deer . He asks his father Rick (Andrew Lincoln) if his friend Sophia Peletier (Madison Lintz) is alright . Since Sophia is still missing , Rick reluctantly lies to Carl and tells him that she is fine . Dale Horvath (Jeffrey DeMunn) , Daryl Dixon (Norman Reedus) , Andrea (Laurie Holden) and Carol Peletier (Melissa McBride) move the vehicles and set up camp at the Greene home and are introduced to the Greene family . There , they lead a funeral procession for their ranch hand , Otis (Pruitt Taylor Vince) . Shane Walsh (Jon Bernthal) is asked to share Otis ' final moments ; Shane sticks to his lie that Otis had sacrificed his life to save Carl , while in reality Shane betrayed Otis .

Along with Hershel Greene (Scott Wilson) and his daughter Maggie (Lauren Cohan) , the group organize Sophia 's search . Since Shane is still injured and Rick is too weak from blood loss , Daryl ventures out on his own . Daryl eventually finds an abandoned house , but does not locate Sophia . He finds a cherokee rose , which is a Native American sign in which the gods protected their children , and gives it to Carol .

Maggie directs Dale and Theodore " T @-@ Dog " Douglas (IronE Singleton) to a nearby freshwater well , only to find a bloated zombie ? commonly referred by the group as a " walker " ? inside . Shane , Maggie , Andrea , Lori Grimes (Sarah Wayne Callies) and Glenn (Steven Yeun) join the two ; the group concludes that shooting it might further contaminate the water . They then decide to use Glenn as live bait and harness the walker to a rope to drag it out of the well . After a slight mishap , Glenn manages to saddle the walker . The group manages to pull the walker to the top of the well , but it becomes stuck at the top . Attempting to pull the walker free causes the walker 's body to get ripped in half , with the lower body , fluid , and organs spilling back into the well , contaminating the water . T @-@ Dog then kills the walker with an axe .

Maggie and Glenn decide to venture to the local pharmacy to find more supplies . Before he leaves , Lori asks Glenn to search for something in the feminine hygiene section . At the pharmacy , Glenn discovers the item is a pregnancy test . When Maggie asks him what he 's looking for , he tries to make an excuse and accidentally grabs a box of condoms . Maggie then seduces and has sex with Glenn . Rick and Hershel tour the farmland , where Hershel reveals that the group has to leave once

Carl fully recovers . Rick manages to convince Hershel for the group to stay for the meantime . However , there are rules they must follow . Rick pleads with Hershel to not force them to leave and to reconsider his request .

Later on , Rick is up in the room where Carl is recovering in bed . Once Carl wakes up , Rick admits that he lied to him about Sophia ; Carl reveals that his mother already told him the truth . Meanwhile , the pregnancy test reveals that Lori is pregnant .

= = Production = =

" Cherokee Rose " was written by Evan Reilly and directed by Billy Gierhart . Filming for the episode occurred in downtown Sharpsburg , Georgia on August 1 , 2011 . Preparation for filming initiated in July 2011 , when producers converted an empty building into a temporary drug store . Herb Bridges , who owned the building at the time , was first contacted by producers of the series ' in January 2011 , and again four months later in May . Bridges informed them that the space would be rented by a woman who would open a children 's store there ; however , she had not moved into the space yet . This episode contains a scene in which Daryl searches for Sophia in an abandoned home . Filming for the scene transpired at an abandoned late @-@ nineteenth century Gothic revival home in Senoia , Georgia . Gregory Melton , the series ' production designer , was the first crew member to locate the house . Melton took a picture of it with his cell phone , and sent the picture to creator Frank Darabont . Darabont reacted positively to the image , and later wrote it in the episode 's script .

This episode marked the climax of the relationship between Maggie Greene and Glenn , in which they engage in sexual intercourse at a pharmacy . Writer Robert Kirkman insisted that it was important to view the storyline in a different perspective , explaining , " I don 't think we wanted to turn that into some kind of steamy , pornographic sex romp . " " Cherokee Rose " marked a turning point in the character development of Daryl Dixon . It contains a monologue that references the cherokee rose and its association to the Trail of Tears . The scene was devised and written by Evan Rielly . " I was actually on set during the filming of that , " stated Kirkman . " Almost every actor in the cast showed up , because they absolutely loved that scene and they wanted to see Melissa and Norman ? s portrayal of it as it unfolded . "

The episode contains a scene in which the survivors pull a bloated walker out of a well in order to prevent contamination of the water . Such attempts prove to be unsuccessful , as all of the water retention severs the walker in half . Greg Nicotero , the special effects director for The Walking Dead , collaborated with KNB Efx Group to produce the sequence . Nicotero received a phone call from staff members of the company two hours after leaving production offices . They devised and expressed plans of creating a scenario in which a walker falls into a well . Nicotero worked with KNB Efx Group in several other films in the past . " One of the things we 've noticed ? looking at some morgue research and cadaver research ? is that everything gets really swollen , " he articulated . " The liquid saturates the skin so much that it swells up , and the skin starts to split . That was one of the things that we really wanted to play up . " A costume was sculpted using a body and a head cast . It was composed of three layers ; a thin skin @-@ like substance covers the exterior of the suit , followed by a layer of silicone and a layer of foam in the costume 's center . A mask that was previously utilized in the action horror film Grindhouse (2007) was used as part of the costume . Nicotero inserted water balloons between the silicone and foam layering . He explained that as the performer begins to move , the liquid transfers from one side of the costume to another . Nicotero added : " If we made it out of foam latex , it would 've been stiff . But we used silicone that was heavily plasticized ? which means that the silicone was really soft . " The suit weighed approximately sixty pounds .

Brian Hilliard , a member of the KNB Efx Group , was chosen by producers as the walker . Hilliard was favored in lieu of another actor , who fell ill shortly after being cast . In his interview with Entertainment Weekly , Greg Nicotero explained why he chose Hilliard for the part :

I needed somebody who could perform , and who also had a lot of endurance , because we were shooting in Atlanta at the end of July . Silicone doesn 't have cell structure , like foam does . It

doesn't breathe . So Brian was basically encased in a sixty @-@ pound wet @-@ suit . Every part of his body was covered . He had facial prosthetics , hands , full legs , feet . It was all glued down . It wasn't like we could take him out between takes . He was in .

The sequence was shot over a period of two days . Principal photography on the first day commenced inside a well , which was built by Gregory Melton in approximately four weeks . It measured over forty feet in height , and the base of the well was located in a swimming pool . Nicotero stated that " [they] could open the door , put the zombie actor in there , then close the door . The camera would shoot down . " Atop of the well was a lip that measured a height of six feet . Despite putting slime and K @-@ Y Jelly on a board inside of the well , Nicotero and his production team found the particular sequence to be difficult to shoot . " On ' action ' , we pulled him out , and he slid up and over the lip , " Nicotero stated . " It was challenging to get all those pieces to come together on a television schedule . " By the time Hilliard was pulled out of the well , producers used a second suit equipped with prosthetic legs and prosthetic body . Various blood bags were inserted in the torso of the suit ; each were filled with viscous liquids in a variety of colors . Entrails were lastly added inside the suit , as Nicotero asserted that his team wanted " a gigantic explosion of gore . "

To induce the splitting of the costume , the series ' special effect coordinator Darrell Pritchett inserted squibs inside of the suit . Nicotero stated : " On ' action ' , my makeup effects crew pulled the upper body apart , and the physical effects crew squibbed all the bags . Then visual effects guys went in and added those few little tendrils of stretching , ripping intestines . " Because rubber constituted a large percentage of the suit , weights were added on to ensure that it would sink in the water . While recording commenced , approximately 12 ? 15 gallons of liquid were poured into the well following the dropping of the prosthetic legs . Four takes were produced of that sequence .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Cherokee Rose " was originally broadcast on November 6 , 2011 in the United States on AMC . Upon airing , the episode garnered 6 @. @ 29 million viewers and attained a 3 @. @ 4 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic , according to Nielsen ratings . It became the highest @-@ rated cable program of the day , obtaining significantly higher ratings than Hell on Wheels on AMC and the Real Housewives of Atlanta on Bravo . " Cherokee Rose " was the second highest @-@ rated cable program of the week , edging out television movie John Sandford 's Certain Prey by a considerable margin , but attained lower ratings than a match between the San Diego Chargers and the Kansas City Chiefs as part of the 2011 NFL season . The episode 's total viewership and ratings moderately increased from the previous episode , " Save the Last One " , which was viewed by 6 @. @ 095 million viewers and achieved a 3 @. @ 1 rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic . In the United Kingdom , " Cherokee Rose " received 893 @, @ 000 viewers , subsequently becoming the highest @-@ rated cable program on FX of the week dated November 13 .

= = = Critical response = = =

" Cherokee Rose " attained favorable reviews from television critics . Zach Handlen of The A.V. Club gave the episode a B + , and felt that it gave an accurate depiction of the characters . He opined : " I had a problem with the show 's tendency to wander into cul @-@ de @-@ sacs in the first season , mainly because so much of it felt redundant , the work of writers who had no real idea how to construct narrative television . But this season , I 'm starting to think they 're getting a handle on things , and " Cherokee Rose " is the sort of episode I 'd like to see more off [sic] as The Walking Dead continues . " Paste 's Josh Jackson asserted that the episode was superior to preceding installments , describing it as " simply a catch of breath . " Similarly , Josh Wigler of MTV evaluated that despite less violence than usual , the quality of " Cherokee Rose " improved from the

previous episode . HitFix 's Alan Sepinwall echoed analogous sentiments , and argued that while the show 's character still need more development , the development displayed in the episode was a " definite step in the right direction on that front . " Time journalist Nate Rawlings concluded that the episode contained many powerful scenes . Eric Goldman of IGN was critical of the episode , ultimately giving it a seven out of ten rating , signifying a " good " rating . Goldman felt that " Cherokee Rose " was a disappointment , citing that it lack any focus or direction . Henry Hanks , writing for CNN , said that the episode was the weakest of the season .

Critics commended the development of the relationship between Maggie Green and Glenn . Andrew Conrad of The Baltimore Sun stated that the storyline epitomized a " steamy romance " , while The Wall Street Journal 's Aaron Rutkoff called it " the funniest moment of the series . " Goldman opined that their sexual encounter felt genuine ; " He 's a nice guy , she seems like a cool gal , and it felt genuine when she noted she felt plenty lonely too and ready for some companionship . " Nick Venable of Cinema Blend asserted that the interactions between Maggie and Glenn was the highlight of the episode . " I 'm glad the writers are introducing this comic book plot point , as this show seriously needs a couple without closets full of skeletons . When Glenn accidentally grabs a box of condoms for Maggie to see , I chuckled heartily . The ensuing conversation also made me smile , which makes me wonder why humor is paid the least amount of attention on the show . " Jackson was surprised with the scene , and called it " unexpected " . Jen Chenay of The Washington Post compared Glenn to Little Mikey from the Life advertisements , and summated : " He has assumed this role without much choice in the matter , but he has done so with a certain quiet , occasionally petrified , baseball @-@ cap @-@ wearing dignity that makes him admirable . "

The water well sequence was critically acclaimed by critics . Darren Franich of Entertainment Weekly described the scene as " hilarious " , and added , " I loved the horrific pointlessness of that entire plot , and it was yet more proof that makeup designer Greg Nicotero is the real star of [The Walking Dead] . I 'm not sure anything else TV can come up with this season will match the image of the bloated half @-@ zombie crawling across the ground with its water @-@ logged intestine hanging out . " Jackson , Rawlings , and the Houston Chronicle 's Pamela Mitchell felt that the sequence was one of the series ' most grotesque moments . Rawlings added : " Honestly , that right there is why many people watch The Walking Dead . " Wigler expressed that it was " very well done " , and noted that the walker was the " most vile , disgusting zombie that Greg Nicotero has ever created . "

The concluding sequence of " Cherokee Rose " was also well received by television critics . Morgan Jeffrey of Digital Spy admired the scene , and described it as " tense " . Halden opined that the scene was a reasonably solid storyline , and felt that it was the episode 's biggest foreshadowing event .