

= Time Has Come Today (Grey 's Anatomy) =

" Time Has Come Today " is the first episode of the third season of the American television medical drama Grey 's Anatomy , and the show 's 37th episode overall . Written by Shonda Rhimes and directed by Daniel Minahan , the episode aired on the American Broadcasting Company (ABC) in the United States on September 21 , 2006 . The episode primarily focuses on Dr. Izzie Stevens (Katherine Heigl) coping with the unexpected death of her fiancé , Denny Duquette (Jeffrey Dean Morgan) , while dealing with the decision to quit the internship program . Further storylines include Dr. Preston Burke (Isaiah Washington) facing the repercussions of his being shot , and Dr. Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo) dealing with the aftermath of her affair with Dr. Derek Shepherd (Patrick Dempsey) , which puts a strain in his already troubled marriage to Dr. Addison Montgomery @-@ Shepherd (Kate Walsh) .

Although the episode was fictionally set in Seattle , Washington , filming occurred in Los Angeles , California . The recurring characters of Adele Webber (Loretta Devine) , Finn Dandridge (Chris O 'Donnell) , Dr. Ellis Grey (Kate Burton) and Olivia Harper (Sarah Utterback) were portrayed with guest star billing . The title of the episode refers to the song , " Time Has Come Today " , by the soul music band , The Chambers Brothers . The episode received mixed to favorable reviews , with Heigl being particularly praised . The episode was viewed by 25 @.@ 41 million Americans in the United States upon its original airing , ranked first in weekly viewership and garnered a 9 @.@ 0 Nielsen rating in the 18 ? 49 demographic .

= = Plot = =

" Time Has Come Today " opens to a voice @-@ over narration from Dr. Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo) about the rapid passing of time . Dr. Izzie Stevens (Katherine Heigl) has a mental collapse after the loss of her fiancé , Denny Duquette (Jeffrey Dean Morgan) , as she refuses to deal with the repercussions of her decision to leave the internship program , by lying on the bathroom floor . Dr. Cristina Yang (Sandra Oh) , Dr. Alex Karev (Justin Chambers) and Dr. George O 'Malley (T.R. Knight) support Stevens during her grieving , becoming influential in her recovering . Dr. Addison Montgomery @-@ Shepherd (Kate Walsh) finds Grey 's underwear in Dr. Derek Shepherd 's (Patrick Dempsey) shirt , and finds difficulty in conceiving a future for their already troubled marriage . Grey unwillingly finds herself in a love triangle involving Shepherd and Finn Dandridge (Chris O 'Donnell) . Dr. Richard Webber 's (James Pickens , Jr .) wife , Adele Webber (Loretta Devine) , gives him an ultimatum after spending the night in his office , giving him a choice between his career as a surgeon and his marriage to her . Dr. Preston Burke (Isaiah Washington) faces the aftermath of being shot , which leads to him experiencing hand tremors that could lead to his giving up cardiothoracic surgery .

An infant with a severe heart condition is admitted in neonatology , and is revealed to have been abandoned in a schoolyard by his biological mother , whose identity lies between four pre @-@ adolescents . Montgomery quickly becomes emotionally involved in the case , reliving the feelings she went through after aborting the child conceived with Dr. Mark Sloan (Eric Dane) . Shepherd and O 'Malley get quarantined after an outburst at the hospital , due to a patient suspected of having the plague . Their incapacity to leave the hospital leads to numerous confessions between the two , including Shepherd 's reveal of his desire to divorce his wife and reconcile with Grey . Dr. Callie Torres (Sara Ramirez) takes a leave of absence from the hospital , in a continuous attempt to bond with the grieving interns , who do not approve of her relationship with O 'Malley . When a patient , Giselle Toussant (Elizabeth Goldstein) , is admitted to the hospital , and ultimately dies in Dr. Miranda Bailey (Chandra Wilson) ' s care , she begins to question her abilities as a surgeon , due to the guilt over the death of both Toussant and Duquette , whom she also performed surgery on . At the conclusion of the episode , Stevens overcomes her grief and gets off the floor , which metaphorically expresses her desire to move on .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by show runner and executive producer Shonda Rhimes , while filmmaker Daniel Minahan directed it . Sara Ramirez began receiving star billing in the season premiere , after numerous appearances during the last episodes of the second season . Although the episode was fictionally set in Seattle , Washington , it was filmed in Los Angeles , California . Fisher Plaza , which is the headquarters building for Fisher Communications and Fisher 's ABC affiliated Komo radio and television stations for Seattle , is used for some exterior shots of Seattle Grace Mercy West Hospital , such as air ambulances landing on the Komo Television newscopter 's helipad . This puts Seattle Grace conveniently close to the Space Needle , which is directly across the street from Fisher Plaza , the Seattle Monorail , and other local landmarks . However , the hospital used for most other exterior and many interior shots is not in Seattle , are shot at the VA Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center in North Hills , California . Most scenes are primarily filmed in Los Feliz , Los Angeles , at the Prospect Studios , and the set occupies two stages , including the hospital pieces , but some outside scenes are shot at the Warren G. Magnuson Park in Seattle .

Featured music includes The Dixie Chicks ' " Lullaby " , Tegan and Sara 's " Take Me Anywhere " , Sleeping at Last 's " Quicksand " , Emiliana Torrini 's " Nothing Brings Me Down " , Gnarls Barkley 's " Gone Daddy Gone " , Grant Lee Phillips 's " Under the Milky Way " and Matt Kearney 's " All I Need " . Rhimes disclosed that the main concept for the episode was to " go in places the audience can imagine , but doesn 't expect " , in an attempt to " freshen up " the series for the new season . Rhimes stated that she originally planned to move the timeline three months after the conclusion of the second season , but the process did not occur , due to her not wanting the audience to miss significant moments from the character 's complex lives . " I feel like so much happened at the end of last season that I owe it to the characters to have them deal with the aftermath . And I owe it to the audience to let them watch the aftermath " , stated Rhimes , in response to her decision to continue the storyline from where the previous season left off . Rhimes also described the prominence which Grey 's underwear has in the first episode of the season , noting how they are " a key element " in the development of her character : " Meredith never put them back on . She rushed out to deal with Izzie and left Derek who was asking what that meant , and she never had a chance to put those panties back on . " Prior to the episode 's broadcast , Rhimes described it as achieving a balance between the aftermath of the recent events and the past experiences that define each character . In addition , she noted how the episode marked the transition to a new chapter in the personal backgrounds of the protagonists , stating : " It was mean to bring us to a place where we can say goodbye to Denny , as well as deal with Meredith 's love triangle . Just remember that nothing is ever wrapped up easily on this show . Because things aren 't neat and clean in real life . "

= = Reception = =

The episode was originally broadcast on September 21 , 2006 at 9 : 00 ET , and averaged 25 @. @ 41 million viewers , ranking first in weekly viewership with a 9 @. @ 0 rating , according to Nielsen ratings . The episode was the third most @-@ watched episode of the season , airing in the first week of the seasonal prime time schedule . Showing a significant increase in ratings , the episode attracted approximately 2 @. @ 91 more million viewers than the previous season finale , which was watched by 22 @. @ 50 and garnered an 8 @. @ 0 rating . " Time Has Come Today " was also the lead in weekly viewership , and , therefore , the lead in the time slot , with approximately 2 @. @ 84 more million viewers than CBS 's juggernaut CSI , which ranked third in weekly viewership with an 8 @. @ 0 rating .

Oscar Dahl of BuddyTV had a generally mixed to positive perspective on the episode , expressing hope in its further development . Although originally criticizing the predictability of the event , Dahl noted an " undeniable sense of originality " , deeming the episode a portal to the series becoming " a medical chick flick , but a damn good one " . Highly praising the " big and attractive " cast , Dahl positively received the interaction between the characters , noting the " smart " dialogue that helps each character evolve . However , Dahl expressed disappointment in the over emotional scenes , describing them as " off @-@ putting " and " not believable " , while comparing them to real life

interactions between people who emote in a more subtle manner than displayed on television . " Emotions ran high in the premiere and there was much crying " , stated Dahl , but noted that the dialogue , who he had previously been worried would be " too cutesy " , was not bothering , and rather realistic , noting how the show is " smartly written " . He also described the Pompeo and Heigl 's as " worthy of attention " . After the episode 's broadcast , Robert Rorke of the New York Post deemed Stevens " the heart and soul " of the series , due to the episode mostly focusing on the events that come to define her as a person . Rorke named her the show 's heroine , and wrote that " Izzie is a welcome , calming presence , despite the devastation she experienced when she failed to save her patient and fiance Denny Duquette " , considering her to have been more prominent than the title character , Grey , whose storyline received negative critiques : " She used to be the queen of the romantic dilemmas . But lately , she 's been a little dopey , with that endless McDreamy soliloquies . " Abigail Chao of Television Without Pity had a positive outlook on the episode . She praised the storyline of Izzie lying on the bathroom floor , describing it as " a perfect opportunity for flashbacks " , which proved the strong friendship the five interns share . Montgomery 's reaction to the discovery of Grey 's underwear was deemed by Chao " hilarious " , whereas Bailey 's interaction with the quarantined patient was described as " touching " . " Now it 's Meredith 's turn to be feckless and indecisive " , stated Chao , noting the lack of realism in Grey 's love triangle with Shepherd and Dandrige . However , she praised the interaction of the three characters , who she deemed " lovely adolescents " .