

= Pot o ' Gold (Glee) =

" Pot o ' Gold " is the fourth episode of the third season of the American musical television series Glee , and the forty @-@ eighth overall . It was written by Ali Adler , directed by Adam Shankman , and was first broadcast on Fox in the United States on November 1 , 2011 . The episode featured the arrival of Irish foreign exchange student Rory Flanagan (Glee Project prizewinner Damian McGinty) at McKinley High , a new challenger to Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) in her congressional race , and the ongoing fragmentation of the show 's central glee club , New Directions .

The episode as a whole received mixed reviews from reviewers . The storyline involving Quinn , Puck and Shelby was extensively criticized , while the injection of Burt Hummel (Mike O 'Malley) into the congressional race as Sue 's opponent was greeted with enthusiasm . The music was received with somewhat more favor than the episode itself , especially " Candyman " , sung by the newly constituted Troubletones .

All five song covers performed in the episode were released as singles , available for download , and one of them , " Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.) " , charted on the Billboard Hot 100 . Upon its initial airing , this episode was viewed by 7 @. @ 47 million American viewers and earned a 3 @. @ 0 / 8 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . The total viewership numbers and rating / share were down significantly from the previous episode , " Asian F " , which had been broadcast four weeks earlier on October 4 , 2011 .

= = Plot = =

Rory Flanagan (Damian McGinty) , a foreign exchange student from Ireland , has begun attending McKinley High and is regularly being bullied . He is staying at Brittany 's (Heather Morris) house ; she believes that he is a leprechaun . Rory , who has a crush on Brittany , does not disabuse her of this belief because she has promised to let him into her " pot o ' gold " if he grants her three wishes . He easily fulfills her first two wishes in mundane ways .

Mercedes (Amber Riley) is recruiting for the new all @-@ girl show choir directed by Shelby Corcoran (Idina Menzel) , and asks Santana (Naya Rivera) ? a member of the school 's existing glee club , New Directions ? to join . Santana balks at leaving Brittany behind , and when she and Brittany go out on a dinner date , Santana tries to recruit her , but Brittany is unwilling to leave her New Directions friends . She tells Santana of Rory 's supposed magical powers , and Santana later coerces Rory into telling Brittany that Santana has wished for her to join Shelby 's glee club . Brittany believes she must obey that wish , but her third wish is that doing so does not hurt anybody 's feelings . New Directions co @-@ captain Finn Hudson (Cory Monteith) tries to persuade Brittany not to leave : he tells her that leprechauns are not real and that she is being stupid . Brittany , insulted , quits anyway .

Quinn (Dianna Agron) and Puck (Mark Salling) offer to babysit Beth , their biological daughter who they gave up to Shelby for adoption . While babysitting , Quinn hides hot sauce , sharp knives , books on child cannibalism and other items to make Shelby look like an unfit mother ; she subsequently calls Child Protective Services , under the assumption that they will ultimately restore Beth to her after they investigate and find the evidence . Puck later returns to secretly gather up the items . He also sings " Waiting for a Girl Like You " to calm a crying Beth and to comfort Shelby , who confesses she is extremely lonely . In the episode 's closing moments , Puck and Shelby kiss .

Congressional candidate and cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) ? whose campaign platform includes the elimination of funding for school arts programs ? editorializes on television to rescind the budget of the school 's production of West Side Story . She succeeds after an angry mother throws a brick at Principal Figgins (Iqbal Theba) . Glee club director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) recruits the members to sell advertising space in the program book to raise money ; when Kurt (Chris Colfer) asks his father Burt Hummel (Mike O 'Malley) to purchase an ad , he instead gathers a group of businessmen to fund the musical . He then announces that he is running for congress against Sue .

At a meeting of Shelby 's group , which is dubbed the Troubletones , a newly arrived Santana

overawes Sugar Motta (Vanessa Lengies) into surrendering her central role . The Troubletones later give a dynamic performance of " Candyman " , which is witnessed by a dismayed Finn and Will . Finn later apologizes to Brittany for his insensitive remarks and wishes her and the Troubletones the best , after which Rory claims that he has fulfilled Brittany 's third wish . However , she chastises him , saying that Finn 's feelings clearly were hurt by the defection and that she now knows leprechauns are not real . Later , when Rory is being harassed by bullies , Finn comes to his rescue and invites him to join New Directions ; he successfully auditions with the song " Take Care of Yourself " .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by co @-@ executive producer Ali Adler , making it the first episode not to be written by any of the co @-@ creators of Glee ? Ryan Murphy , Brad Falchuk and Ian Brennan ? and it was the second to be directed by choreographer Adam Shankman , who helmed " The Rocky Horror Glee Show " in the second season . Shankman started working on the episode on September 2 , 2011 , and filming ended on September 22 , 2011 . This episode and the prior one were shot in parallel for several days until " Asian F " finished filming its musical finale on September 16 , 2011 .

McGinty , one of the two winners of The Glee Project 's top prize of a seven @-@ episode recurring character role on Glee , makes his first appearance in this episode as Rory Flanagan , an Irish exchange student . Murphy revealed that on McGinty 's first day of filming " he was shoved into a locker 25 times " , and that on " his first take in his first song , the crew gave him a huge ovation . " Rory is living with Brittany 's family , and the idea of McGinty 's character interacting with Brittany was first broached in the penultimate episode of The Glee Project , with the judges speculating that Brittany would not be able to understand a word the character said due to his Irish accent .

Additional recurring guest stars appearing in this episode include Menzel as Shelby Corcoran , Principal Figgins (Iqbal Theba) , Kurt 's father Burt Hummel , Burt 's wife and Finn 's mother Carole Hudson @-@ Hummel (Romy Rosemont) , student Sugar Motta (Vanessa Lengies) , and TV news co @-@ anchors Rod Remington (Bill A. Jones) and Andrea Carmichael (Earlene Davis) .

This episode features five covers , all of which were made available for download as digital singles : Christina Aguilera 's " Candyman " performed by Rivera , Morris , and Riley , Katy Perry 's " Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.) " with Criss on lead vocals , Foreigner 's " Waiting for a Girl Like You " performed by Salling , and " Bein ' Green " from Sesame Street and Teddy Thompson 's " Take Care of Yourself " , both performed by McGinty .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Pot o ' Gold " was first broadcast on November 1 , 2011 in the United States on Fox . It garnered a 3 @. @ 0 / 8 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , and received 7 @. @ 47 million American viewers during its initial airing . It continued the streak of coming in second in its timeslot to NCIS on CBS , which earned a 3 @. @ 9 / 11 rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . It had been four weeks since the previous Glee episode was broadcast , and the show 's viewership numbers were down over 11 % from the 3 @. @ 6 / 10 rating / share and 8 @. @ 42 million viewers from the " Asian F " broadcast on October 4 , 2011 . " Pot o ' Gold " tied for the second @-@ lowest rating / share Glee had ever received in the 18 ? 49 demographic ? the fourth episode of the first season , " Peggys " , also earned 3 @. @ 0 / 8 rating / share , though it only had 6 @. @ 62 million viewers . It was still ahead of the eleventh episode of the first season , " Hairgraphy " , which received a 2 @. @ 5 / 7 rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic and 6 @. @ 08 million viewers when broadcast on November 25 , 2009 , the night before Thanksgiving .

Viewership also decreased in other countries . In the United Kingdom , " Pot o ' Gold " was watched

on Sky1 by 1 @. @ 05 million viewers , down nearly 5 % compared to " Asian F " four weeks earlier , when 1 @. @ 10 million viewers were watching . In Australia , " Pot o ' Gold " was watched by 724 @, @ 000 viewers , which made Glee the fourteenth most @-@ watched program of the night . The viewership was down 11 % from " Asian F " , which was watched by 843 @, @ 000 viewers . It was the lowest number of viewers of the third season , just below the second episode , " I Am Unicorn " , which drew 729 @, @ 000 viewers . In Canada , 1 @. @ 62 million viewers watched the episode , and it was the eighteenth most @-@ viewed show of the week , down four slots and 11 % from the 1 @. @ 82 million viewers who watched " Asian F " , though up 8 % from the 1 @. @ 50 million viewers who watched " I Am Unicorn " .

= = = Critical reception = = =

" Pot o ' Gold " received mixed reviews from critics , which ranged from reasonably positive to very negative . In the latter camp were Bobby Hankinson of The Houston Chronicle , who called it " a disaster " , and Rolling Stone 's Erica Futterman , who said it was " stale and unfunny " and " outright failed to keep up the momentum started by the season 's first three episodes " . Robert Canning of IGN took the opposite view from Futterman with regard to the show 's progress : he gave it a " good " rating of 7 @. @ 5 out of 10 , and wrote that while it was not a " stunning return after four weeks off " , it " kept the momentum and focus of the first few episodes of this season intact " . The A.V. Club 's Todd VanDerWerff characterized it as " an episode that tries a lot of things " but " produced too many duds " , while Anthony Benigno of The Faster Times felt that the fact that it was the first episode not written by one of the show 's co @-@ creators meant it was " a lot more subtle " but " seemed a bit lifeless at times " . AOLTV 's Crystal Bell was " pleasantly surprised " and said the episode was " better than a majority " of those from the second season , and Abby West of Entertainment Weekly described it as a " pretty solid return " after the hiatus .

The entire storyline that centered around Quinn , Puck and Shelby was roundly criticized by reviewers . West wrote that it made her feel " queasy " , and she called Quinn 's actions " abhorrent " . Bell was one of several who thought it was highly implausible that Child Protective Services would be backed up , much less for two weeks , given the gravity of Quinn 's accusations . Hankinson wondered why they " made Quinn a total sociopath " who went from " dancing on desks " to " framing someone for child endangerment " with great ease ; VanDerWerff was also critical of these actions , and called Quinn 's sabotage of Shelby 's apartment " a move that takes a potentially good character , played by a fine actress , and just guts her " . Kevin P. Sullivan of MTV had a different view , and wrote that the " storyline stuck out throughout the episode as the most interesting " . He also noted that it was " cathartic and definitely nice to see a sweeter Puck balance out the earnest craziness of Quinn " . The final scene of the episode , when Puck kissed Shelby , was characterized as " creepy " and " super awkward " by Bell , as either " super creepy " or " romantic " by BuddyTV 's John Kubicek , as " groan @-@ inducing " in the " You 're actually going to go there ? " vein by Canning and " as realistic as Lord Tubbington pooping candy bars " by Michael Slezak of TVLine .

Sue 's campaign for congress in the third season has not heretofore found much favor with reviewers , though Futterman felt that the addition of Burt Hummel as a rival candidate " gives us a sliver of hope , mainly because Mike O 'Malley has managed to do no wrong thus far " as Burt , and VanDerWerff , while otherwise unimpressed , said he liked " the idea of the show pitting its most purely heroic figure against its most purely villainous " . Bell was pleased with the new development , and noted that in three seasons , " no character has grown more than Burt " . Canning said he loved having Burt as Sue 's nemesis , and Kubicek wrote that the two are " awesome together " .

Several reviewers felt that the introduction of Rory overdid his Irishness . Benigno called it " cheap stereotyping " , and " juvenile " on the part of the writers . West , while she admitted that " it may have been a little heavy @-@ handed " to have Rory in green , felt it " worked " , especially for his opening solo and " his isolation " during it . Jen Chaney of The Washington Post characterized the tweaking of that solo to be about " Irish exchange students being bullied " as " forced " , and VanDerWerff wrote that he was tired of " people just randomly getting shoved around for no real

reason " . Benigno noted that Sugar was also being bullied ? by Santana ? and wrote that he was " not a fan " of this " on a show that supposedly glorifies outcasts and promotes their successes " . Santana came in for praise from Kubicek , along with Brittany , for their " fantastic date " and their relationship which is " the most interesting one on the show " . The new show choir they join , the Troubletones , was acclaimed by Bell : " I 'm really loving Shelby 's diva troupe . "

The Hollywood Reporter 's Lesley Goldberg called the use of Katy Perry 's " Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.) " in the episode " completely out of place " , and Sullivan characterized its inclusion as " barely justified " . Raymund Flandez of The Wall Street Journal pointed out that both Criss and McHale had major roles in Perry 's video of the song , and the Glee performance " winks at [that] fact " . West was annoyed by Finn 's recent tendency to " succumb " to his less nice and less responsible side as exemplified in the episode by his failure to " stand up for Rory " and for blasting " Brittany 's simple , goofy belief system " , even if he does eventually do the right thing .

= = = Music and performances = = =

The musical performances in this episode were received with a bit more enthusiasm than the episode itself . Benigno described them as " decent songs " , but though Canning wrote that " Candyman " was " fun " , he also said that the " rest of the music " prevented the episode " from being much better " . Indeed , " Candyman " was a favorite of many reviewers : The Star @-@ Ledger 's Vicki Hyman called it " bouncy and fun " , Futterman praised the " tight harmonies " and the " diva notes from Mercedes and Santana " , and Slezak gave the number an " A " and said he loved the Troubletones " absolutely soaring " in their performance . Hankinson , Hyman , and Chaney singled out the production values of the number ? Hyman to call them " amazing " ; Chaney to note , as she gave the song an " A ? " , that the costuming cost for the number would have rivaled the \$ 2 @, @ 004 budget of West Side Story that had Sue so upset ; and Hankinson , although he said it would have been his favorite in a " blind test " , to call it " a classic example of the kind of inexplicably elaborate performance I hate the most on this show " .

Most of the reviewers had positive things to say about new character Rory Flanagan 's singing voice , including Futterman , who said his was " quite lovely " and had " rich tones " , and Rae Votta of Billboard , who called him a " smooth crooner " . Hankinson , however , said he had never been " floored " by McGinty 's voice , " so both of his numbers fell extremely flat to me " , and Futterman maintained that both songs were a " weird fit " for the episode , while Votta thought having him perform two solos was " overkill on his character introduction " . In general , " Bein ' Green " was considered less impressive than " Take Care of Yourself " , though it had its supporters : Votta and Bell both referred to it as " a nice introduction " , and West declared that his " simple , clear @-@ voiced ode to being an outsider rang true and was hauntingly beautiful " , and gave it an " A ? " . Canning was not impressed : " Perhaps if it had been sung with more feeling , it could have worked better . " For " Take Care of Yourself " , both West and Goldberg agreed with Rachel 's assessment that the performance was " magical " , and West graded it with an " A + " . The Los Angeles Times 's Amy Reiter was " blown away " , and Chaney gave it an " A " with the comment that Rory " handled it with adorable aplomb " . Slezak and VanDerWerff , however , thought the number was somewhat sleep @-@ inducing .

Puck 's rendition of " Waiting for a Girl Like You " was almost universally described as " sweet " . Flandez went further , and wrote " he oozes sweet and sexy , and you can ? t help but feel good " , and Goldberg still further when she stated that it " ends up being one of the episode ? s ? and season ? s ? sweetest moments thus far " . West praised the " lovely little guitar solo " and gave the song a " B " ; Chaney bestowed the same grade and called it a " cheesy moment " but a " nice job " by Salling . Futterman commented that Puck got to " showcase his nice falsetto " .

" Last Friday Night " evoked a wide range of opinions from reviewers . Chaney wrote that the performance " incorporated several Glee tropes " and was a routine seen before ; she gave it a " B ? " . Futterman characterized the choreography as " full of forced sunshine " and said " Blaine 's normally effortless voice sounds breathy " . West noted that the song " wasn 't the best showcase for his voice " but added that " it was exactly the playful little interlude it needed to be " , and gave it

a " B + " . Goldberg called it " fantastic " , and Kubicek said " it 's hard not to love his singing " . Slezak stated that " Darren Criss is better than this song " , and gave it a " D " . Votta pointed out that the song was " one of the first truly current pop hits on Glee this season " , described the performance as " pure Glee " and the dancing " disorganized and joyful " , and the whole number as why the show " connects with the youth of America " .

= = = Chart history = = =

One of the five cover versions released as singles debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 : " Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.) " debuted at number seventy @-@ two . " Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.) " also debuted on the Billboard Canadian Hot 100 chart , at number eighty @-@ six . In addition , it is the one single from the episode to be included on the soundtrack album Glee : The Music , Volume 7 . An additional song from the episode , " Take Care of Yourself " , was included as one of the five bonus tracks available on the Target edition of the album .