

= The Spanish Teacher =

" The Spanish Teacher " is the twelfth episode of the third season of the American musical television series Glee , and the fifty @-@ sixth overall . Written by co @-@ creator Ian Brennan and directed by Paris Barclay , the episode aired on Fox in the United States on February 7 , 2012 . It features special guest star Ricky Martin as a night @-@ school Spanish teacher whom Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) introduces to McKinley High , and shows several of McKinley 's teachers competing for a promotion when a tenured position unexpectedly becomes available .

The episode received mixed to positive reviews , and many critics considered Martin to be a highlight . Reaction to the music as a whole was less enthusiastic than for the episode itself , though " La Isla Bonita " and " Don 't Wanna Lose You " were given a generally favorable reception . The former song charted on both the Billboard Hot 100 and the Billboard Canadian Hot 100 ; of the remaining four singles , " Sexy and I Know It " debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 , and the other three singles did not chart .

Upon its initial airing , this episode was viewed by 7 @.@ 81 million American viewers and received a 3 @.@ 3 / 9 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . The total viewership was down significantly from the special tribute episode , " Michael " , which aired the previous week .

= = Plot = =

The retirement of a history teacher opens a tenured position at McKinley High . Spanish teacher Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) and cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) both want the promotion , but anonymous students have registered complaints about the pair . Determined to polish up his language skills , Will goes to night school for a refresher course and meets instructor David Martinez (Ricky Martin) , who points out that kids learn better through music . Will assigns a Spanish @-@ themed week to New Directions and David helps by singing " Sexy and I Know It " partially in Spanish . Santana (Naya Rivera) suggests that Will now has a rival and needs to defend his honor .

Rachel (Lea Michele) tells Kurt (Chris Colfer) and Mercedes (Amber Riley) that she has accepted Finn 's (Cory Monteith) marriage proposal . Kurt later tells Finn that he would be lucky to have Rachel some day , but he believes Finn is considering matrimony because he has given up too early on his own dreams .

Mercedes is torn between her feelings for Sam (Chord Overstreet) and her boyfriend Shane (LaMarcus Tinker) . Guidance counselor Emma Pillsbury (Jayma Mays) recommends that Mercedes and Sam stop speaking to each other for a week so they can hear what their hearts are telling them . Mercedes sings " Don 't Wanna Lose You " and Sam reciprocates by singing a mash @-@ up of " Bamboléo " and " Hero " .

Sue 's position as coach of the Cheerios is challenged by the synchronized swim coach , Roz Washington (NeNe Leakes) . Roz is also pursuing the tenured position , and she views herself as a serious competitor for tenure and for replacing Sue on the Cheerios . She believes Sue 's coaching style and cheerleading choreography is old @-@ fashioned , and plans to update the team if she becomes the new coach .

Sue reveals her desire to become a mother and asks Will to be the sperm donor . When Will 's fiancée , Emma , confronts her about this request , Sue admits that she wants Will 's capacity for kindness for her child . Emma and Will 's relationship becomes strained as he focuses on impressing Principal Figgins (Iqbal Theba) to win tenure , and denigrates her newest set of counseling pamphlets . He is surprised when Coach Beiste (Dot @-@ Marie Jones) enthusiastically praises Emma for her recent pamphlet on genital sanitation , which has just been adopted by the Big Ten football teams .

Santana and David duet with " La Isla Bonita " and Will responds with a bilingual rendition of " A Little Less Conversation " while dressed as a matador , which offends Santana . Will accuses her of complaining about him , and she says she did so because of the negative Latin stereotypes he has been perpetuating . Sue discovers that Cheerios co @-@ captain Becky Jackson (Lauren Potter)

was the one who complained about her coaching . Becky believed that Sue had become less focused on the squad , to its detriment , and Sue praises her devotion to the team .

Will arranges with Figgins to become the new history teacher , and successfully proposes David to be his replacement as Spanish teacher . Ultimately , Emma is the one who is given tenure .

= = Production = =

On November 29 , 2011 , the day news broke that Ricky Martin had " closed a deal " with Glee to guest star in an early 2012 episode , Martin himself tweeted , " I hear McKinley high has an opening for a Spanish teacher ... Maybe I ? ll apply . ; o) " .

The episode was written by co @-@ creator Ian Brennan and directed by Paris Barclay , and began filming on January 5 , 2012 , with Martin in attendance ; he had recorded his songs the day before . He finished filming his scenes that week , ending early in the morning of January 7 , 2012 . The previous episode ? the Michael Jackson tribute ? had not yet completed , and the two episodes continued in parallel until the final Michael Jackson number was shot on January 13 , 2012 , the same day that the thirteenth episode commenced filming .

One of the songs Martin performs is a Spanglish version of LMFAO 's " Sexy and I Know It " , as part of a competition with Morrison 's character , who sings an Elvis Presley song in Spanish , " A Little Less Conversation . Martin 's other musical number , Madonna 's " La Isla Bonita " , is a duet with Rivera . The two remaining numbers performed in the episode include a mash @-@ up of " Bamboleo " by the Gipsy Kings and " Hero " by Enrique Iglesias , performed by Overstreet with the other New Directions males , and Gloria Estefan 's " Don 't Wanna Lose You " performed by Riley . The six cover versions have been released as five singles for digital download , with the two @-@ song mash @-@ up in one single . The brief , flashback performance of " La Cucaracha " was not released as a single .

Recurring guest stars who appear in the episode include glee club members Sam Evans (Overstreet) , Rory Flanagan (Damian McGinty) and Sugar Motta (Vanessa Lengies) , Principal Figgins (Theba) , synchronized swimming coach Roz Washington (NeNe Leakes) , cheerleading co @-@ captain Becky Jackson (Potter) , football player Shane Tinsley (Tinker) , football coach Shannon Beiste (Jones) and tenured history teacher Mrs. Hagberg (Mary Gillis) .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" The Spanish Teacher " was first broadcast on February 7 , 2012 in the United States on Fox . It received a 3 @. @ 3 / 9 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , and attracted 7 @. @ 81 million American viewers during its initial airing , a significant decrease from the 3 @. @ 7 / 10 rating / share and 9 @. @ 07 million viewers of the previous episode , the Michael Jackson tribute " Michael " , which was broadcast on January 31 , 2012 . Viewership also decreased significantly in Canada , where 1 @. @ 57 million viewers watched the episode on the same day as its American premiere . It was the fifteenth most @-@ viewed show of the week , down five slots and 14 % from the 1 @. @ 84 million viewers who watched " Michael " the previous week .

In the United Kingdom , " The Spanish Teacher " first aired on March 15 , 2012 , and was watched on Sky 1 by 771 @, @ 000 viewers . Viewership was up over 13 % from " Michael " , which attracted 682 @, @ 000 viewers when it aired the week before . In Australia , " The Spanish Teacher " was broadcast on March 2 , 2012 . It was watched by 564 @, @ 000 viewers , which made Glee the twelfth most @-@ watched program of the night , up from thirteenth the week before . The viewership was up over 5 % from the previous episode , " Michael " , which was seen by 535 @, @ 000 viewers .

= = = Critical reception = = =

" The Spanish Teacher " was given mixed to positive reviews . Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club wrote that " much of this episode felt like a very deliberate throwback to season one , in some very good ways " , and IGN 's Robert Canning said that " the overarching storylines on Glee have become far more engaging than what we saw in the first half of the season " . John Kubicek of BuddyTV stated that the episode " does a lot of things right when it comes to the plot " , and Billboard 's Rae Votta described the plot as " consistent and well managed , with believable motivation , response and action all around " . However , Jen Chaney of The Washington Post wrote that the episode " brought more narrative developments that didn't make sense " , and Rolling Stone 's Erica Futterman stated that aside from Martin 's scenes , " the rest of the episode found us back in scatterbrained plot territory " . Amy Reiter of The Los Angeles Times liked the episode and described it as " the kind that makes you belly @-@ laugh and chortle and snicker despite your better judgment " .

The introduction of Ricky Martin as David Martinez was welcomed by most reviewers . Futterman wrote that " Ricky Martin carried on the Gwyneth Paltrow tradition of pretty great guest teacher cameos " , and TVLine 's Michael Slezak said that the episode was good " at least whenever Ricky Martin appeared on screen " . VanDerWerff called him " fun and infectious " , and Kate Stanhope of TV Guide said he " showed himself to be a guest star with mucho potential " . Kubicek , though he said Martin was " great at singing " , found him " kind of dull as an actor " , and Canning said Martin " felt out of place " in the episode .

Although Canning wrote that " the writers did a fine job of incorporating the tenure , Will 's terrible Spanish and the songs into the storylines " , Will 's lack of Spanish skills was questioned by other reviewers . Entertainment Weekly 's Joseph Brannigan Lynch said this did not " seem to gel with the passionate Will Schuester I remember from season 1 " , and Slezak expressed surprise that " he hadn't even mastered the basics of the language ! " , as did Chaney . Slezak also said Will , as evidenced by his " La Cucaracha " rendition for his class , was " suddenly dumb as the cardboard box that Finn winningly turned into a robot head " , and Chaney commented , " Mr. Schuester always seemed a bit more sensitive than this . " VanDerWerff wrote of " the weird , dark despair at the heart of Will 's plight : He 's a high school Spanish teacher , and he mostly is that because he doesn't know what else to do . " He added , " I think this was probably the best episode for the character since early season one . " Canning stated that " the tension between Will and Emma was a welcome change " , and Votta commented on the episode 's less dramatic ending with Will 's apology and " celebrating Emma 's new @-@ found tenure with a dinner " with the conclusion , " sometimes you don't need a big bang to get oomph out of an episode " . Chaney , however , was puzzled as to why Emma was given teaching tenure " when she 's been working at McKinley as a guidance counselor and handing out absolutely horrifying self @-@ made pamphlets " .

The scene between Sue and Roz was singled out by many reviewers . Bell wrote that she was " really loving the feisty dynamic " between them , and that it was " about time that Sue had a proper sparring partner " . Flandez called Roz " the delightfully colorful synchronized swimming teacher " , and said her " scathing remarks were expertly delivered " and that there were " too many good lines to savor " . Futterman said Roz reminded her of " what an entertaining spitfire Sue was during season one " , and that Sue is " a shadow of [her] former self " as evidenced by the fact that Roz has not been a victim of Sue 's " evil planning " . Lynch described the encounter as " one of the episode highlights " , though he felt that " the writers overdid it a touch " when Sue " barely got in any retorts " against Roz . Reiter called Roz " a great addition to the cast of characters " and Leakes " spot @-@ on " in the role , also hearkening back to the early Sue . Kubicek said he " might like this subplot " if Leakes did not mistake " shouting for acting " , and Slezak commented on Roz 's " particularly abhorrent assessment of Sue 's reproductive abilities " . Votta , however , declared that the show " should never let NeNe go " , and said she " delivers some of the best lines ever " . Chaney and Slezak thought that Sue should have been fired immediately for requesting sperm donations from New Directions males , while Lynch merely deemed it a possible detriment to her tenure bid . Kubicek thought the pregnancy storyline should move forward " because Sue becoming a mommy has comedic potential written all over it " .

A " highlight " for Lynch was the scene where Kurt , Mercedes and Rachel were watching Twilight together , not only because the " friendship between Kurt and Mercedes " has been " sadly downplayed " , but because it was " nice to see the Glee kids just being kids sometimes " . The subsequent conversation between Kurt and Finn in the locker room was described by Canning as " one of the truest moments of the season so far " . Votta wrote , " Chris Colfer and Cory Monteith often shine together in scenes , especially one @-@ on @-@ one , and this is no exception . " Another duo that reviewers complimented was Mercedes and Sam . Futterman , while she criticized the episode for setting " its scope too wide " , credited their storyline as the " only one played out strongly enough through dialogue and song " . Votta stated that " Glee is getting more romantic tension mileage out of this duo than you can shake a stick at , and it 's delicious , especially with Valentine 's around the corner " , and Canning noted that their week @-@ long verbal silence " helped build their relationship into something we care more about " . Chaney , however , could not see the sense in Mercedes bringing Sam with her " to see Miss Pillsbury to sort out her conflicted feelings for Sam and Shane " .

= = = Music and performances = = =

The musical performances received a mixed response from reviewers . Votta said that " the songs were mostly forgettable and generally useless to advancing the plot " , and Canning maintained that " the music this week was just okay " . Although VanDerWerff called the musical numbers " mostly superfluous " , he described many of them as " pretty fun " , while Bobby Hankinson of The Houston Chronicle said he " wasn't incredibly moved by this week's Spanish @-@ flavored selections " .

" Sexy and I Know It " was reviewed positively by HuffPost TV 's Crystal Bell , who cited Martin 's " incredibly sexy performance " . Slezak gave the number an enthusiastic " Oh dear God , please yes " , " bonus points " and an " A " grade . Chaney declared that " Martin did what he does very well : dance and sing with high intensity " , though she wished " they had chosen a better song " and gave it a " B ? " ; the latter sentiment was echoed by Lynch , who called the song " idiotic " and gave it a slightly lower " C + " . Futterman characterized it as a " rousing number that toes the line of being too risqué for a high school classroom " , though Kubicek thought that having " a teacher grinding with students " was " wildly inappropriate " if " hot and pretty entertaining " . MTV 's Kevin P. Sullivan , however , called it " one of the most eye @-@ brow @-@ raising musical numbers " in the show 's history , " bizarre " , and " a Rory @-@ dancing , Finn @-@ flailing fail " . VanDerWerff was also critical , and described it as " dumb and stupid and wrong " .

Slezak stated that " Mercedes ' musical moments in Season 3 have been really strong " and that " Don 't Wanna Lose You " was " no exception " ; he gave it a " B + " grade . Lynch gave an " A ? " and wrote , " It 's been a treat to hear her develop the softer side of her voice . " Chaney said that " the number was fine , just not particularly interesting " and gave it a " C " , but Futterman declared that Mercedes " brings a richness and power and commendable Spanish pronunciation to Gloria Estefan 's song " . Lynch called the " Bamboleo " / " Hero " mash @-@ up " another Samcedes winner " and gave it a " B " , and Chaney said it was a " fun choice " that " would have been a fun number " without the " constant " focus on the hipster boots , and graded it " C + " . Sullivan agreed that the boots were better not seen , but that " the song actually worked " ; he also noted that " Sam can sound a hell of a lot like " Iglesias . Futterman also heard the resemblance between Sam and Iglesias , though she said " the performance lacks the fire and sex appeal of the originals " . Raymund Flandez of The Wall Street Journal described it as " the corniest number in several seasons " .

Futterman called " La Isla Bonita " the " best number of the night " . She added that it " mixes slick dance moves and spot @-@ on singing with perhaps a touch too much sexual tension for a student / teacher pairing " . Slezak said that " the harmonies were sweet , and the dancing was sexy without crossing the line into disturbing April ? October territory " and gave it an " A ? " . Votta wrote that " the pair don 't have any chemistry " , but that " they 're both very pretty to look at and listen to " and " their interpretation of Latin culture is modern and sexy " . Both Chaney and Lynch noted what she called " inexplicably high production values " ; the fact that " these two looked great together " ,

danced the merengue " beautifully " and " sounded smooth " drew a " B + " grade from her , while his " B " was given because " the dancing wowed but their voices just didn 't connect for me on this empty club version " .

The two songs performed by Will Schuester received the most negative reviews . Chaney described " La Cucaracha " as " mercifully brief " , and Slezak gave it an " F " for being not only " intentionally awful " but " awful @-@ awful " . Chaney was more generously inclined toward " A Little Less Conversation " . She wrote , " Matthew Morrison managed to give his all to this Spanish @-@ infused Elvis Presley cover , even though he looked pretty ridiculous in that matador outfit " , and gave it a " B " . Futterman stated that the performance reached " a new low " with the appearance of " Mike and Brittany as his bulls " , and Lynch said that the number " was supposed to suck " and " did its job well " ; even so , he gave it a " C ? " . Slezak gave a one @-@ word summation to accompany his " D " grade : " No . "

= = = Chart history = = =

Two of the episode 's five released singles debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 : " Sexy and I Know It " debuted at number eighty @-@ three and " La Isla Bonita " at number ninety @-@ nine . The second of those songs , " La Isla Bonita " , also debuted on the Billboard Canadian Hot 100 at number ninety @-@ three , and was the one song from the episode to appear on that chart .