

= My Musical =

" My Musical " is a musical episode of the American comedy @-@ drama television series Scrubs . It is the 123rd episode of the show , and was originally aired as episode 6 of season 6 on January 18 , 2007 .

The episode follows the story of Patti Miller , (Stephanie D 'Abruzzo) , a patient who mysteriously starts hearing everyone 's speech as singing . It was written by Debra Fordham , who also wrote most of the lyrics . The episode 's music was composed by Fordham , Scrubs ' resident composer Jan Stevens , The Worthless Peons ' Paul Perry , Tony Award @-@ winning Broadway orchestrator Doug Besterman , and the Avenue Q writing team of Jeff Marx and Robert Lopez . The episode was directed by Will Mackenzie .

In 2009 , TV Guide ranked " My Musical " # 86 on its list of the 100 Greatest Episodes . The episode received five Emmy Award nominations , winning one of them .

= = Plot = =

In the style of a traditional musical , this episode follows a two @-@ act structure ? with the acts separated by a commercial break instead of an intermission . However , in the style of a traditional Scrubs episode , this is preceded by a cold open .

= = = Cold open = = =

Turk and Carla are deciding whether Carla should take parental leave from the hospital . Turk says he doesn 't mind either way , but as Carla decides she 'll take a year off , he starts celebrating .

Then , the scene changes to J.D. and Elliot in the park , when a woman , Patti Miller (D 'Abruzzo) , abruptly falls unconscious . As she returns to consciousness , she sees Elliot , J.D. , and a worried group of onlookers singing to her (" All Right ") . When she tries to respond , she sings too . In reality , no one is actually singing ; Ms. Miller is hallucinating . She drifts out of consciousness , and wakes up being wheeled out of an ambulance in the parking lot of Sacred Heart Hospital , with all the hospital employees singing to her , " Welcome to Sacred Heart , " led by Dr. Kelso .

= = = Act one = = =

Dr. Cox tells J.D. he believes Ms. Miller is suffering from a psychological problem (as opposed to a neurological one) , and tells him to run some tests and " turf her to Psych . " Turk and J.D. approach Ms. Miller for a stool sample , explaining that " Everything Comes Down to Poo . "

Carla has brought Isabella to the hospital , and everyone is cooing over the new baby , when Elliot comes in and announces happily that she just bought a new house . Turk exits with Isabella , and Elliot expresses concern that J.D. thinks he 's moving into the house with her . Carla has decided to take one year parental leave , and Laverne , Ted , and The Worthless Peons wonder how they can go on at the hospital without Carla 's help (" Gonna Miss You , Carla ") . Carla begins to realize that she does not want to separate herself from her work for so long .

Ms. Miller stops Dr. Cox in the hall to insist that she is not crazy , when they are interrupted by J.D. Cox breaks into a rapid @-@ fire delivery (" The Rant Song ") of the litany of annoying things J.D. does , with some help from Janitor . Dr. Cox tells Ms. Miller that if she can get J.D. to leave him alone , she 'll get the tests she wants . Ms. Miller yells at J.D. , and an impressed Dr. Cox agrees to schedule a CT scan .

Elliot and Carla worry about the difficult conversations they have to have with J.D. and Turk , respectively (" Options ") . In the Act One finale (" When the Truth Comes Out ") , all the plotlines come together . Dr. Kelso offers Carla her job back , but she worries how to tell Turk . Elliot worries how to tell J.D. he 's not moving in . And Ms. Miller goes in for her CT scan , which turns up a gigantic aneurysm in her temporal lobe . Dr. Cox breaks the news to Ms. Miller , pulling a curtain for privacy that also signals the end of the act .

= = = Act two = = =

Carla and Elliot decide to confront Turk and J.D. Carla thinks that Turk and J.D. will help each other through the respective problems , but Elliot believes that men cannot be open about their feelings . Quite the contrary , Turk and J.D. sing about their " Guy Love . " Elliot breaks the news to J.D. , who walks out of the room , refusing to talk to her . Carla tells Turk she wants to return to work . Turk responds by saying , " I always thought family was the most important thing to Puerto Ricans . " She becomes angry , singing that " For the Last Time , I 'm Dominican " . Turk tries to explain himself , and finally , agrees to support her decision . Elliot catches up with J.D. , feeling awful , and offers to let him move in . He declines , and tells her they 'll be " Friends Forever . "

Ms. Miller interrupts them , afraid about her upcoming surgery , and asks , " What 's Going to Happen ? " The staff , led by Dr. Cox reassure her that she will be fine ; she finally gets calm and the staff stays by her side when she 's taken to surgery ; the staff repeats she will be fine , which J.D. qualifies with " we hope , " as she goes under anesthesia .

When she awakes , she asks Dr. Cox if the surgery works , but Cox replies " you 're gonna have to tell us " , and they take a step back ; Ms. Miller realized that the surgery was a success , she no longer hears singing , and thanks Dr. Cox and the others . J.D. breaks the moment asking her who was the best singer in her head , much to the rest of the staff 's (and especially Dr. Cox 's) dismay . J.D. reflects in voiceover that in musicals everyone get what they want , but in reality , after having made a choice we may miss the way things were ; as Elliot realizes she misses her roommate , Carla realizes she wishes she spent more time with her daughter , and Ms. Miller realizes she misses the music in her head .

= = Production details = =

It had long been a dream in the Scrubs writer 's room to do a musical episode . Scrubs creator Bill Lawrence is a self @-@ confessed musical theatre " nerd , " as are many of the writers . In addition , many of the cast members have had backgrounds in musical theatre . According to Lawrence , " I knew that Donald [Faison] and Judy [Reyes] were Broadway @-@ style singers and dancers . I knew Sarah [Chalke] could dance , because she danced when she was young . I knew Zach [Braff] loved musical theater . I had actually seen Ken Jenkins in Big River on Broadway when I was a kid . Neil Flynn and John C. McGinley were the last two guys to admit that they 'd done a lot of musicals and stuff , but being actors , they had . Johnny C. knew how to do a Gilbert and Sullivan number , and Neil had a big baritone voice . "

Scrubs had previously dabbled in the musical genre , including a West Side Story parody in the episode " My Way or the Highway , " and a Broadway @-@ style finale in " My Philosophy . " However , Lawrence had long been unwilling to do full musical episode , because of difficulties making it " organic to the show , " and because of the amount of work that would inevitably be involved . Finally , at the end of Season 5 , with Season 6 looking like it would probably be the last season ; Lawrence told the writers that if they were ever going to do a musical episode , it should be in Season 6 .

Long @-@ time Scrubs writer Debra Fordham took the challenge , and contacted the show 's medical consultant , Jonathan Doris , who provided her with several case studies , one of which (" Musical hallucinations associated with seizures originating from an intracranial aneurysm , " published in the Mayo Clinic Proceedings) became the basis for Ms. Miller 's condition . Unlike most episodes , which were products of the entire writers ' room , " My Musical " was written almost entirely by Fordham - including most of the lyrics , even though Fordham had never written lyrics .

The music , however , was not written by Fordham , but rather by several composers , including Paul Perry (a member of The Worthless Peons) , Scrubs composer Jan Stevens , and Tony Award @-@ winner Doug Besterman , each of whom helped write and arrange several songs . But , perhaps the most notable contributors were Jeff Marx and Robert Lopez , the writers of hit Broadway musical Avenue Q. Marx and Lopez 's involvement came at the suggestion of Braff , who

overheard Fordham asking producer Randall Winston if it would be possible to get actual Broadway composers to work on the episode . Fordham did have some contribution to the music , in the form of musical genre suggestions , but during the actual composition process , she and the composers were almost never in the same room .

D 'Abruzzo was cast independently of her starring role in Avenue Q. Fordham wrote the part of Ms. Miller with D 'Abruzzo in mind after seeing her in the off @-@ Broadway show I Love You Because , after D 'Abruzzo had left Avenue Q. In another coincidence , D 'Abruzzo had long been a fan of the show , and was overjoyed to have the chance to be on it .

Fordham suggested Will Mackenzie to direct the episode , because of his Broadway experience as Cornelius Hackle in Hello , Dolly ! during the show 's original Broadway run , opposite Carol Channing . Lance Macdonald , the longtime choreographer of the show , was retained once again for the musical episode .

The filming of the episode was , as expected , a long process . Prior to the episode , the cast underwent a full week of rehearsals , something never before done for a Scrubs episode . A group of eight core dancers were brought in for the dance numbers , while over fifty dancers were involved in the " Welcome To Sacred Heart " scene . There are some notable cameos in the episode , including episode composer Jeff Marx as a pharmacist in " Gonna Miss You , Carla ; " occasional Scrubs musical contributor Keren DeBerg as an extra in " Are You Okay ? " ; and Broadway actress Karen Ziemba (a friend of Mackenzie 's) as the neurologist . Further complicating matters was the fact that Judy Reyes had recently fractured her pelvis , and so had to film all her scenes sitting down , and not dancing , aside from her number with Donald Faison (" For the Last Time , I 'm Dominican ") , which was filmed approximately 2 months after the rest of the episode . The bald cap D 'Abruzzo wore during the end of the episode took four hours to put on , and she described it as very uncomfortable .

= = Musical numbers = =

The show features ten musical numbers , whose titles appear in the closing credits : " All Right " , " Welcome to Sacred Heart " , " Everything Comes Down to Poo " , " Gonna Miss You , Carla " , " The Rant Song " , " Options " , " When the Truth Comes Out " , " Guy Love " , " For the Last Time , I 'm Dominican " , and " Friends Forever / What 's Going to Happen " .

= = = " Welcome to Sacred Heart " = = =

" Welcome to Sacred Heart " was composed by Fordham , Marx , and Lopez . Fordham considers " Welcome to Sacred Heart " to be Dr. Kelso 's song ; Kelso (and especially Jenkins ' performance of Kelso) being Sacred Heart 's Jerry Orbach / Robert Preston @-@ type showman , as in " Lullaby of Broadway " from 42nd Street . " Be Our Guest " from Beauty and the Beast was also cited as an influence . Filming the sequence involved over 50 extras and Busby Berkeley @-@ style top shot kaleidoscopic choreography , which was achieved with a crane @-@ mounted camera .

= = = " Everything Comes Down to Poo " = = =

" Everything Comes Down to Poo " was composed by Fordham , Marx , and Lopez . The inspiration for the song came when one of the show 's medical advisors , Jonathan Doris , shared his observation with Fordham that stool samples seemed to be asked for at hospitals no matter what was being diagnosed . The number was the latter of two music videos released by NBC on YouTube in advance of the episode 's airdate ? the other video being ? Guy Love . ? The videos were deleted on YouTube , but have now reappeared on the website .

The song 's lyrics underwent many changes , in order to find the right level of vulgarity . The initial version was much more ? genteel , ? while later versions included references to ? turtleheads ? and other slang for feces ; as was the line ? It may sound gross , it may sound crass , but we need to see what comes out of your ass ? ; which was changed to ? It may sound gross , you may say

shush , but we need to see what comes out of your tush . ?

= = = " Gonna Miss You , Carla " = = =

" Gonna Miss You , Carla " was composed by Fordham and Perry (who sings during the song , as a member of The Worthless Peons) . D 'Abruzzo has called this her favorite song in the episode . Carla sits throughout the song because of Reyes ' fractured pelvis . It features most of the secondary characters , including Laverne , Todd , Ted and Doug .

= = = " The Rant Song " = = =

" The Rant Song " was composed by Fordham and Perry . The song is a Gilbert and Sullivan @-@ style patter song , in order to complement Dr. Cox 's normal rapid @-@ fire rants . Bill Lawrence has mentioned " Major @-@ General 's Song " from The Pirates of Penzance as a specific influence . " We were mortified because Studio 60 did [a ' Modern Major General ' spoof] first . But theirs isn 't funny . " Fordham has described D 'Abruzzo 's section in this song as the episode 's " Patti LuPone moment . " Fordham had long been a LuPone fan (which is the reason D 'Abruzzo 's character was named Patti Miller) .

Janitor 's section in this song (" It all started with a penny in the door ") refers to an incident in Scrubs ' pilot , " My First Day , " when he became convinced J.D. had broken a door by wedging a penny in it .

= = = " When the Truth Comes Out " = = =

" When the Truth Comes Out " was composed by Fordham , Marx , and Lopez . Unlike the other songs in the episode , this song was always intended as a direct parody of a single song : " Do You Hear the People Sing ? " from Les Misérables . It also serves the same dramatic purpose as " One Day More " : it is a showstopper finale to Act One that reprises all previous songs , summarizes Act One 's events , and teases the events to come in Act Two . Carla does not march during this song , except for a few " painful steps " in this sequence , due to Reyes ' aforementioned fractured pelvis . When Carla is seen from the back , she is portrayed by a double .

= = = " Guy Love " = = =

" Guy Love " was composed by Fordham and Perry . It was a late addition to the episode , brought on because , according to Bill Lawrence , " All the modern musicals like Jekyll & Hyde have these really overwrought love songs , so we really wanted to have one between J.D. and Turk . " It was the hardest song for Fordham to write . She met with Perry for help with the lyrics , and he gave her the hook , " It 's guy love , between two guys . " The writing became easier , but she still wanted a reference to a tender moment between Turk and J.D. She emailed D 'Abruzzo , who she knew to be a big fan of the show , " and , no exaggeration , five minutes later , she sent me a list of 30 [moments] " , including Turk performing an appendectomy on J.D. in " My Day Off " . At first , the song was meant to be a power ballad .

" Guy Love " was the first of two music videos released by NBC on YouTube in advance of the episode 's air date ? the other being " Everything Comes Down To Poo " . The videos have since been removed from YouTube . In addition , the night before " My Musical " aired , actors Zach Braff and Donald Faison appeared on Jimmy Kimmel Live ! and after an interview with the host , Braff grabbed a hand held microphone that was hidden in his chair and the two began singing " Guy Love " . The song also appeared in " My Road to Nowhere " , as Turk 's cell phone ring tone for Carla , and as an arranged incidental version in " My Words of Wisdom " , and was played as background music while Turk and J.D. hugged in " My Comedy Show " . The song was also used in the season 9 premiere " Our First Day of School . "

== = " For the Last Time , I 'm Dominican " == =

" For the Last Time , I 'm Dominican " was composed by Fordham , Perry , and Stevens . Fordham knew she wanted to write a Latin @-@ themed number for Carla , but could not decide on a style ; so she " literally was on iTunes listening to every Latin style of music she could think of , " before settling on a tango . The song also parodies " Tango : Maureen " from " Rent . " The sequence was filmed two months after principal photography , to give Judy Reyes ' pelvis enough time to heal for her to be able to tango .

Every question Carla asks during the first verse was an issue in a previous episode - she grew up in Chicago , she was in medicine eight years before meeting Turk , their wedding song was The Beatles ' " Eight Days a Week " , and Turk struggled with remembering her middle name . Additionally , Turk has called Carla Puerto Rican on several occasions and in " My Last Chance " she angrily responded , " For the last time , Turk , I 'm Dominican ! "

== = " Friends Forever / What 's Going to Happen " == =

" Friends Forever / What 's Going to Happen " was composed by Fordham , Marx and Lopez . " Friends Forever " is a parody of 1950s @-@ style musical numbers in general , and " We Go Together " from Grease in particular . However , this was not the original plan . According to Fordham , " I was really shocked when I got the demo back , because I had never envisioned a ' 50s number . I did mention ' We Go Together , ' just as an example of I wanted a cheesy , fun , happy ending kind of a thing . "

The song " What 's Going to Happen " resembles one of the more " serious " numbers from Rent , specifically " Life Support " and " Will I ? " . Fordham has called Ms. Miller 's solo in " What 's Going to Happen " the easiest part of the episode for her to write .

== Soundtrack ==

A digital soundtrack to the episode was released on various music download websites such as the iTunes Store , featuring 11 tracks of songs from the Scrubs episode .

" All Right " ? 0 : 43

" Welcome to Sacred Heart " ? 2 : 06

" Everything Comes Down to Poo " ? 2 : 10

" Gonna Miss You Carla " ? 2 : 09

" The Rant Song " ? 2 : 25

" Options " ? 0 : 17

" When the Truth Comes Out " ? 2 : 25

" Guy Love " ? 2 : 34

" For the Last Time I 'm Dominican " ? 1 : 56

Finale : " Friends Forever " / " What 's Going to Happen " ? 2 : 37

" Welcome to Sacred Heart " (Reprise) ? 0 : 43

== Reception ==

The episode was received very well by critics and audiences alike . Many described initial misgivings that the musical concept would make the episode seem gimmicky , but these fears were , for the most part , put to rest by the fact that the episode was " logically insane " ; the singing came about organically (through the brain aneurysm) , and , despite the singing , the episode fit into the Scrubs continuity . Many noted that the songs fit the characters (like Dr. Cox 's " Rant Song ") , and that story arcs actually advanced in the episode (Carla returning to the hospital , and J.D. and Elliot no longer living together) .

On the other hand , others thought the music felt forced . Inevitably , almost all reviews , both positive and negative , compared the episode to Buffy the Vampire Slayer 's musical episode , "

Once More , with Feeling " . This comparison was also made by Bill Lawrence , who credits Buffy for inspiring Scrubs ' propensity for " big " episodes (such as this one , the multi @-@ camera " My Life in Four Cameras " , and the Wizard of Oz parody " My Way Home ") . The singing abilities of the cast (Chalke in particular) came under some fire , but most critics agreed that most were competent , and that anything beyond that simply did not matter . Reyes and Faison were the only members of the cast (besides the Broadway star D 'Abruzzo) to receive praise for their singing abilities . In general , the final assessments were positive . The episode was called " the show 's best episode thus far this season " , " worth all the hype " , and " a heck of a lot of fun " . The episode is also the most popular download of the entire series of Scrubs in the iTunes Store .

The episode also received praise from those who worked on it . D 'Abruzzo described being on Scrubs as a " really great experience " , and called the crew " one of the friendliest crews I 've ever worked with " . Marx , who had previously had misgivings about working in Hollywood , loved working on the show so much he cited it as influencing his move to Los Angeles . Chalke described the episode as a unifying experience for the struggling show , mentioning that , for the first time in six years , the entire cast and crew met up to watch the episode together .

At the 59th Primetime Emmy Awards , the episode " My Musical " was nominated for five awards in four categories . It received nominations for Outstanding Directing for a Comedy Series (Will Mackenzie) , Outstanding Original Music and Lyrics (" Everything Comes Down to Poo " and " Guy Love ") , Outstanding Music Direction (Jan Stevens) ; while it tied for the award for Outstanding Sound Mixing for a Comedy or Drama Series (Half @-@ Hour) and Animation (Joe Foglia , Peter J. Nusbaum , and John W. Cook II) with Entourage . These were Scrubs ' only nominations that year .