

= Hell @-@ O (Glee) =

" Hell @-@ O " is the fourteenth episode of the American television series Glee . The episode premiered on the Fox network on April 13 , 2010 . It was written by series creator Ian Brennan and directed by Brad Falchuk . In " Hell @-@ O " , cheer @-@ leading coach Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) attempts to sabotage the relationship between glee club members Finn Hudson (Cory Monteith) and Rachel Berry (Lea Michele) . Glee club director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) attempts to begin a relationship with school guidance counsellor Emma Pillsbury (Jayma Mays) , but several obstacles come between them , including the coach of rival glee club Vocal Adrenaline .

" Hell @-@ O " introduces special guest stars Idina Menzel as Shelby Corcoran , the coach of Vocal Adrenaline , and Jonathan Groff as Jesse St. James , the group 's lead singer . Glee fans had previously lobbied for Menzel to be cast as Rachel 's biological mother . The episode features cover versions of six songs , five of which were released as singles , available for digital download .

The episode was watched by 13 @.@ 66 million American viewers , making it the second @-@ highest rated episode of the series thus far , after the post @-@ Super Bowl XLV episode " The Sue Sylvester Shuffle " , and received mixed reviews from television critics . Vanity Fair 's Brett Berk and the Houston Chronicle 's Bobby Hankinson felt the episode was haphazard and uneven , while IGN 's Eric Goldman observed that " Hell @-@ O " reset the events of the preceding episode " Sectionals " , and in doing so felt rushed . David Hinckley of the Daily News agreed with this assessment , but felt that resetting character development was a positive move in the long @-@ term .

= = Plot = =

Following the suspension from her position at William McKinley High School , cheer @-@ leading coach Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) blackmails Principal Figgins (Iqbal Theba) , slipping him a date rape drug and taking an incriminating photograph of them in a compromising position . He allows her to return to work at the school , where she immediately returns to plotting to bring down the New Directions . Finn Hudson (Cory Monteith) and Rachel Berry (Lea Michele) are now dating , although Finn still is not over his ex @-@ girlfriend Quinn Fabray (Dianna Agron) . He expresses his feelings through a performance of " Hello , I Love You " as part of the week assignment of performing songs with the word " Hello " .

Sue enlists cheerleaders Santana Lopez (Naya Rivera) and Brittany Pierce (Heather Morris) to seduce Finn . He breaks up with Rachel , who angrily sings " Gives You Hell " in retaliation , and goes on a date with both Brittany and Santana , but comes to the realization that he does want to be with Rachel . In the interim , Rachel meets Jesse St. James (Jonathan Groff) , the lead singer of New Directions ' rival glee club Vocal Adrenaline , at a local music library . The two perform an impromptu duet of Lionel Richie 's " Hello " , and Rachel becomes enamoured with him . Eventually , the New Directions members learn about the blossoming relationship and conclude that Jesse is using Rachel , and threaten to expel her from the club unless she breaks up with him . Rachel asks Jesse to keep their relationship a secret and turns Finn down when he asks her to get back together with him .

Glee club director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) begins dating guidance counselor Emma Pillsbury (Jayma Mays) . Emma suffers from mysophobia and is uncomfortable kissing Will . She admits that she is still a virgin , and requests that they take their relationship slowly . While dancing , Will sings Neil Diamond 's " Hello Again " to her . When Emma is preparing dinner for Will several nights later , his ex @-@ wife Terri Schuester (Jessalyn Gilsig) arrives at the apartment , and tells Emma that she and Will danced to " Hello Again " at their prom in 1993 , leaving Emma distressed .

On a visit to Carmel High School , Will meets Shelby Corcoran (Idina Menzel) , the coach of Vocal Adrenaline , while she has the club perform a rendition of " Highway to Hell " . She and Will end up at his apartment making out , but Will is unable to continue and tells her about his relationship problems . Shelby suggests that as Will had been with Terri since he was 15 and has immediately moved on to a new relationship , he ought to take some time out for himself . She later observes as

Jesse and Rachel kiss , and exchanges knowing looks with Jesse .

When Emma later confronts Will with a copy of his high school yearbook , confirming that " Hello Again " was his and Terri 's song , he is apologetic . He and Emma decide to put their relationship on hold in order to deal with their separate issues . New Directions performs " Hello , Goodbye " , with Emma watching .

= = Production = =

Glee was originally commissioned by Fox for a thirteen episode run , culminating with " Sectionals " . On September 21 , 2009 , the network announced an extension of the first season , ordering a further nine episodes , of which " Hell @-@ O " is the first . The episode 's airdate was set for April 13 , 2010 , with the announcement made that Glee would move from Wednesdays to the 9 : 00 pm Tuesday time @-@ slot . However , due to a scheduling conflict with American Idol , Glee 's return was pushed back to 9 : 30 pm , and then later to 9 : 28 pm for " Hell @-@ O " , before moving to the earlier timeslot from the next episode , " The Power of Madonna " , onwards . " Hell @-@ O " was written by Ian Brennan and directed by Brad Falchuk . It was exclusively screened for the first time for around 2 @, @ 000 Glee fans at the Paley Festival on March 13 , 2010 , which was Paley 's largest ever audience .

During its initial run of episodes , Glee fans lobbied for Broadway actress Idina Menzel to be cast as the biological mother of Rachel Berry , due to the strong resemblance between Menzel and Michele . On December 17 , 2009 , series creator Ryan Murphy commented that he had met with Menzel , but had not yet decided upon a role for her . The actress was ultimately cast as the coach of rival glee club Vocal Adrenaline , with Murphy comparing her character to Faye Dunaway 's character Diana Christensen in Network . Menzel makes her first appearance in " Hell @-@ O " . The episode also introduces Groff as Jesse St. James , the lead singer of Vocal Adrenaline , and Rachel 's new love @-@ interest .

" Hell @-@ O " features cover versions of six songs , five of which were released as singles , available for digital download . Monteith performs The Doors ' " Hello , I Love You " , Michele sings " Gives You Hell " by The All @-@ American Rejects , Michele and Groff duet on Lionel Richie 's " Hello " , Jesse and Vocal Adrenaline perform AC / DC 's " Highway to Hell " , and New Directions sing " Hello , Goodbye " by The Beatles . Each of these songs were released as singles . The episode also includes Morrison performing Neil Diamond 's " Hello Again " . Diamond previously licensed his song " Sweet Caroline " for use in the Glee episode " Mash @-@ Up " . He experienced some trepidation over the decision , and retracted clearance after the performance had already been recorded . Glee 's music supervisor P.J. Bloom was able to convince him to reverse his decision , and Diamond went on to also license Glee the song " Hello Again " . " Gives You Hell " charted at number 1 on the Irish Singles Chart , while " Hello , Goodbye " reached number 45 .

A scene with Rachel and Jesse that included a performance of the song " Montage , Part 1 : Hello Twelve , Hello Thirteen , Hello Love " from A Chorus Line was filmed for the episode , but was cut before it aired . Over two years later , on August 3 , 2012 , Murphy uploaded the complete scene to his YouTube page . An instrumental version of the song was played in the following episode , " The Power of Madonna " , as background in the scene near the beginning in which Rachel and Jesse were making out .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original broadcast , " Hell @-@ O " was watched by 13 @. @ 66 million American viewers and attained a 5 @. @ 6 / 15 rating / share in the 18 @-@ 49 demographic . This was a 46 percent increase on Glee 's previous series high , and made it the most watched episode of the series since its premiere . In Canada , Glee was the ninth most @-@ watched show of the week , bringing in 2

@. @ 12 million viewers . In the United Kingdom , " Hell @-@ O " also attained Glee 's ratings high at the time . It was watched by 2 @. @ 041 million viewers , and was the second most @-@ watched show of the week on the non @-@ terrestrial channels , beaten only by the Sky News general election debate . In Australia , Glee again attained a new ratings high , watched by 1 @. @ 27 million viewers , making " Hell @-@ O " the 17th most @-@ viewed program of the week .

= = = Critical response = = =

The episode received mixed reviews from critics . Lisa Respers France of CNN was pleased with the series ' return , and praised the " drama , treachery , tension , romance , and best of all , the diabolical deliciousness that is Cheerio coach Sue Sylvester . " Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club graded the episode " A- " . He felt that " Hell @-@ O " had " clumsy moments " but overall found it " a vastly enjoyable hour of television , reintroducing a show that 's starting to realize just how far it can go . "

IGN 's Eric Goldman rated the episode 8 @. @ 5 / 10 . He commented that in resetting the events of " Sectionals " , it " felt a bit rushed " , but concluded : " Glee continues to work because it has its cake and eats it too . It 's an over the top , overly cheerful musical ? but also a biting comedy that always winks at the audience and acknowledges how cheesy musical theater can be , even while also proving how fun it is . " The Daily News ' David Hinckley shared Goldman 's concerns about resetting the characters , and while he believed that doing so was the right long @-@ term move , he commented that : " the immediate effect is to make the episode feel a little jerky . " Hinckley felt that the episode 's greatest problems were its pace and execution , observing : " Too many twists and turns feel a little too sudden , leaving us not quite sure how we got from here to there . "

Bobby Hankinson of The Houston Chronicle wrote that he was " only so @-@ so " about the episode , which he deemed " uneven " , but was still pleased that the series was back . Vanity Fair 's Brett Berk called the episode " a bit haphazard " , and commented : " this kind of spiraling frenzy is not only unsustainable , but ultimately dizzying and , dare I say it , a little boring . " Randee Dawn of The Hollywood Reporter reported that " Hell @-@ O " had a " stagy quality " , and was " not an episode that would have sold the series early on " . Dawn felt that there were too many musical performances , commenting : " They might be fun performances , but they 're not all necessary , and yes , it is possible to have too much music even on a successful narrative musical TV series . "