

= The New Cup =

" The New Cup " is the second episode of the second season of the HBO comedy series Flight of the Conchords , and the series ' fourteenth episode overall . This episode first aired in the United States on January 25 , 2009 . The episode was directed by James Bobin and written by Duncan Sarkies . In this episode , Bret and Jemaine 's fortunes unravel after Bret buys a new teacup . With emergency band funds unavailable , Jemaine takes desperate measures in hopes of supplementing their income .

" The New Cup " received largely positive reviews from critics , with many noting that both the episode 's plot and songs were particularly strong . According to Nielsen Media Research , on its initial broadcast , " The New Cup " was watched by over 500 @, @ 000 people . Two songs from the episode , " Sugulumps " and " You Don 't Have to be a Prostitute " , received positive critical acclaim and were later included on the band 's second album I Told You I Was Freaky .

= = Plot = =

Bret buys a new cup for \$ 2 @. @ 79 so that he and Jemaine no longer have to share one cup . A month later , they find out that their check for the phone bill bounced because their account was short \$ 2 @. @ 79 . The phone company charges them a \$ 30 overdraft fee , causing the cheque for their gas bill to bounce , and both services are scheduled to be cut off . Immediately after finding this out , their power goes off . Bret ends up selling his guitar to pay the bills , and he performs on stage with Jemaine while playing air guitar and making guitar sounds . Murray writes up his negative opinion of the show in the New Zealand consulate newsletter , giving them " two stars out of 100 " . When Bret asks Murray for some of the emergency band fund , Murray tells him that he invested the money with a Nigerian man named Nigel Seladu who contacted him over the internet . Nigel promised Murray his money back with " a thousand percent interest " and " a share of his family fortunes " . Jemaine and Bret are certain that this is merely a scam .

Later on , Bret and Jemaine are confronted by Mel . When she learns they 're having money troubles , she offers to pay them for a massage . Both Bret and Jemaine awkwardly try to give her a minimal contact massage while her husband , Doug , is nearby watching . Jemaine later suggests to Bret that they become male prostitutes , similar to the film Pretty Woman . They then launch into a parody of " My Humps " by The Black Eyed Peas called " Sugulumps " . Trying their idea out , Jemaine approaches women on the street and asks them if they want to pay money to have sex with Bret , who is standing across the street . They then switch roles , but are unable to drum up any business . At night , their apartment is still without power and Jemaine ends up selling his bass guitar . This results in them playing a gig with both members on air guitar performing " Robots " .

Jemaine , meanwhile , calls up an old girlfriend and leaves a message on her answering machine asking her if she wants to pay him for the sex they previously had during their relationship . He later ends up meeting his landlord , Eugene , who found his posting for a male prostitute service on the apartment 's bulletin board . Eugene advises him to go to a fancy hotel and try his luck . At a band meeting , Murray introduces Nigel Seladu , whose investment offer has turned out to be legitimate and not a scam , and results in Murray earning more than enough money for the Conchords to pay their bills and buy back their guitars . Jemaine is noticeably absent and Bret tells Murray that he is out trying to prostitute himself . Both Murray and Nigel tell Bret to go and stop him . On his way , Bret sings a song called " You Don 't Have to be A Prostitute " , similar to The Police 's " Roxanne " .

He finds Jemaine in a hotel room about to have sex with a " pretty woman " . He starts telling Jemaine that he doesn 't need to do this any more but is interrupted by a knock on the door . Bret explains that he called the police to come and save Jemaine . When they enter , they ask Jemaine and Bret if they are prostitutes , to which Jemaine replies " Yes " and Bret replies " No , no . I 'm just the guy that wears the big condom " . They are both put in jail . Murray comes to bail them out , telling them that he had to spend all of their newly acquired investment return on bail . In the closing scene , a desk @- @ fan knocks over the new cup , causing it to smash on the floor .

= = Production = =

" The New Cup " was written by writer Duncan Sarkies , his second writing credit for the series after season one 's " New Fans . " The episode was directed by series co @-@ creator James Bobin . The episode makes several noticeable references to the film Midnight Cowboy . In the scene wherein Jemaine and Bret ask women if they want to pay money to have sex with them , Bret quotes Enrico " Ratso " Rizzo 's (Dustin Hoffman) line " I 'm walking here , I 'm walking . " Earlier in the episode , Jemaine suggested that Bret should wear a cowboy hat to be more attractive to women . In the video for " You Don 't Have to be A Prostitute " , Jemaine wears a leather cowboy waistcoat and cowboy shows , and wears a cowboy hat during the credits .

Further cultural references are made throughout the episode . During the band meeting scene , Murray asks the duo if they can think of " any successful musicians with no instruments ? " Bret and Jemaine name off The Mormon Tabernacle Choir , Boyz II Men , Bobby McFerrin , and Luciano Pavarotti before Murray tells them that " there are none . " Near the end of the episode , Murray tells Bret and Jemaine about a Nigerian man who is seeking money via email . This is a play on the actual Advance @-@ fee fraud that swept the internet in the latter part of the 20th century .

= = = Songs = = =

The first song featured in the episode is " Sugalumps . " This song is a parody of The Black Eyed Peas ' hit " My Humps " which The Yale Herald wrote was based around the premise that " balls are significantly more hilarious than boobs " . In addition , the song was later described as a " New Zealanders version of " Kelis 's " Milkshake . " Bret briefly appears as The Prince of Parties , a reference to a song from the season one episode " New Fans . " Dave sings his portion of the rap in a style very similar to the opening theme of the TV series The Fresh Prince of Bel @-@ Air . The second song featured in the episode is " You Don 't Have to Be a Prostitute . " In an A.V. Club interview , Jemaine explained that the song was inspired by The Police 's hit single " Roxanne " . However , the duo wished to make a " judgmental " version that " makes a lot of assumptions about the profession . Singing a song about prostitution , like ' I 'll stop you from being a prostitute with this song ' " .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

" The New Cup " debuted on HBO on January 25 , 2009 . The episode received over 500 @,@ 000 viewers . This made the episode the third highest rated premium cable episode on Sunday , coming in after an episode of United States of Tara and ranking before an episode of The L Word .

Critical reception to the episode was largely positive . The A.V. Club reviewer Genevieve Koski awarded the episode an A- rating and , while noting that the episode was a " rehash " of the season one episode " Bret Gives Up the Dream , wrote , " after getting off to a somewhat shaky start with last week 's season premiere , Flight Of The Conchords seems to be settling back into its groove this week , with a couple of memorable songs to match a memorable plot . " IGN reviewer Matt Fowler gave it an 8 @.@ 4 out of 10 rating and noted that Flight of the Conchords is at its best when " the antics remain tightly between [Bret and Jemaine] , and this episode sticks with that , " noting that the episode " winds up being rather great . " Noted television critic Alan Sepinwall wrote , " Taken on its own , though , this [episode] was perfection , as both comedy and as musical . " Furthermore , he called the episode " magnificently constructed " .

Many reviews complimented the episode 's songs . Huffington Post reviewer Mike Moody noted that both the dry humor in the episode and its songs were humorous , writing , " I usually find myself heading to the kitchen when the songs come on -- but I usually glance back at the TV to see if Jemaine is making a funny face ? and I rush back to the couch once the last note drops . But I can 't wait to download tonight 's Police @-@ inspired [' You Don 't Have to be a Prostitute '] jam . " The Guardian named " Sugalumps " one of the top five best season two Flight of the Conchords songs .

