

= The One Hundredth =

" The One Hundredth " (also known as " The One With The Triplets ") is the third episode of Friends ' fifth season and 100th episode overall . It first aired on the NBC network in the United States on October 8 , 1998 . Continuing from the previous episode , the group arrive at the hospital after Phoebe (Lisa Kudrow) goes into labor . Meanwhile , Rachel (Jennifer Aniston) tries to set Monica (Courteney Cox) and herself up with two male nurses , which causes problems between Monica and Chandler (Matthew Perry) .

The episode was directed by Kevin S. Bright and co @-@ written by series creators David Crane & Marta Kauffman . The producers wanted to mark the landmark episode with a major event , choosing to bring a culmination to Phoebe 's surrogacy storyline . Earlier scripts had the character insistent on keeping hold of the babies , with the writers later deciding it would better off having a sendoff , to keep it dramatic . In its original broadcast on NBC , " The One Hundredth " acquired a 17 @.@ 7 Nielsen rating , finishing the week ranked second and received good reviews since airing .

= = Plot = =

Phoebe (Lisa Kudrow) , Rachel (Jennifer Aniston) , Joey (Matt LeBlanc) and Ross (David Schwimmer) are hosting the 100th Episode and arrive at the hospital , where Phoebe tells the nurse at the desk that she is in labor . In Phoebe 's hospital room , Ross and Rachel enter with bad news : her doctor fell and hit her head in the shower , meaning she 's unable to make it to the birth . The replacement doctor , Dr. Harad assures Phoebe that she 's in good hands , until he spontaneously declares his admiration for Fonzie , from Happy Days several times . Phoebe demands that Ross goes and find her another doctor , but when the replacement is too young for her liking , Dr. Harad returns . She moreover begs Rachel to talk to her brother Frank , and convince him to let her keep one of the triplets , after having second thoughts over the surrogate process . In the delivery room , Phoebe gives birth to two girls and a boy . Rachel breaks the news to Phoebe that she won 't be able to keep one of the babies . She asks her friends to leave , in order to have a moment alone with the triplets .

Rachel informs Monica (Courteney Cox) that she has managed to find two male nurses who would be willing to go out on a date with either of them . Monica declines the offer at first , not wanting to jeopardize her secret relationship with Chandler (Matthew Perry) but when he assumes she is willing to go out with nurse Dan , Monica decides to date him after all . Chandler in response asks a female nurse to go out on a date with him ; she declines immediately , adding to his embarrassment . After Phoebe gives birth , Chandler approaches Monica in a hallway to ask if she is really going to date Dan . She replies to him that since both of them are just " goofing around " , she figured why not " goof around " with Dan too ; Chandler asks if Monica had checked up the term in the dictionary , noting the technical definition is " two friends who care a lot about each other , and have amazing sex , and just want to spend more time together " . Monica , smitten by Chandler 's words , kisses him and goes to call off her date with Dan .

Meanwhile , Joey is in a hospital room of his own , where a doctor informs him that he 's suffering from kidney stones . As they 're too close to his bladder , Joey is given two options : wait until he passes them naturally , or have a procedure , which he finds too invasive . Opting for the former , he gives ' birth ' to the kidney stones , concurrent with Phoebe 's birth .

= = Production = =

" The One Hundredth " was co @-@ written by show creators David Crane and Marta Kauffman and directed by Kevin S. Bright . The episode takes place in a hospital , meaning none of the usual filming sets were used , thus surprising several members of the audience . Crane commented that the hundred episode was a " big milestone " for the series and to mark the major event , Lisa Kudrow 's character Phoebe would give birth to triplets . This brought a culmination to the surrogacy

story arc , which began in the fourth season ; it was developed to accommodate Lisa Kudrow 's real life pregnancy . When Kudrow accepted the surrogate mother storyline , the idea of having more than one baby was " comically funny " to Kauffman , and giving birth to triplets or " their brother 's children " was something never seen on television . Phoebe 's pregnancy gave the writers incredible license for her to " be just outrageously mean and still have it be funny " . In order to prepare for the labor and birthing scenes , Kauffman watched a video of her cousin giving birth .

In earlier drafts of the episode , the idea of Phoebe keeping one of the babies was more extreme . The writers decided instead they were better off having the character saying goodbye to keep it dramatic . The birth scenes were recorded in advance to deal with light sensitivity and noise issues . Heidi Beck , a professional nurse was retained ; she acquired a stop watch for every minute the baby was under the light . Real life triplets were used and coated with grape jelly as an alternative to vernix . In the final scene , dolls were employed as it was filmed in front of the studio audience .

The main subplot involved Monica and Chandler discussing their relationship . The writers felt they needed an additional subplot , involving Joey going through a parallel experience to Phoebe 's pregnancy ? the difference being him " giving birth " to a kidney stone . This meant doing research on the condition , finding it " really disturbing stuff " . Matt LeBlanc and Matthew Perry had a difficult time filming the prognosis scene as actor Iqbal Theba , who played Joey 's doctor , pronounced ' kidney stone ' in a humorous manner .

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " The One Hundredth " finished second in ratings for the week of October 5 ? 11 , 1998 , with a Nielsen rating of 17 @. @ 7 . It was the second @- @ highest rated show on the NBC network that week after ER . In the United Kingdom the episode premiered on Sky1 on January 21 , 1999 and was watched by 2 @. @ 17 million viewers , making the program the most watched on the channel that week .

Entertainment Weekly rated the episode " B " , in its review of the fifth season . It criticized the " Arthur Fonzarelli @- @ obsessed obstetrician , " plot , though going on to praise Phoebe 's " sweet interaction " with the newborn babies . Robert Bianco of USA Today felt the episode made use of the entire ensemble , noting " Phoebe 's predictably and humorously off @- @ center response to labor " being the highlight . Colin Jacobson of DVD Movie Guide disapproved of Ribisi 's performance , adding " Ultimately , ? One Hundredth ? had some good moments , but it wasn ' t a great episode . "

" The One Hundredth " was Kudrow 's favorite episode of the series . She liked the episode as " it was nice that Phoebe could play such a big part in something as momentous as the 100th episode "

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