

= Yes / No (Glee) =

" Yes / No " is the tenth episode of the third season of the American musical television series Glee , and the fifty @-@ fourth overall . Written by Brad Falchuk and directed by Eric Stoltz , the episode aired on Fox in the United States on January 17 , 2012 . It contains the revelation of an elopement , and two marriage proposals , including the proposal by Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) to Emma Pillsbury (Jayma Mays) .

Reviews were mixed for the episode . While Will 's actual proposal to Emma was received with more favor than not , the scene where Will asks Finn (Cory Monteith) to be his best man was roundly condemned : the notion that Will had no adult friends and would ask one of his students was inconceivable to many . There was acclaim for the subplot featuring Becky 's (Lauren Potter) pursuit of Artie (Kevin McHale) , and her mental voiceovers by Helen Mirren .

The musical performances from the episode were greeted more positively than the episode as a whole . All six numbers were released as singles , and five of them charted on the Billboard Hot 100 and the Canadian Hot 100 . Upon its initial airing , this episode was viewed by 7 @.@ 50 million American viewers and received a 3 @.@ 1 / 8 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . The total viewership was up from the previous episode , " Extraordinary Merry Christmas " .

= = Plot = =

Emma (Jayma Mays) wonders whether Will (Matthew Morrison) is ever going to propose marriage . She fantasizes about their wedding , and in the fantasy sings " Wedding Bell Blues " . She is mortified to discover that while fantasizing , she inadvertently and publicly asked Will to marry her , and immediately denies having done so . Emboldened nevertheless , Will gives the glee club an assignment : find the perfect song for him to use to propose to Emma .

Mercedes (Amber Riley) and Sam (Chord Overstreet) separately recount their summer relationship to their friends , singing " Summer Nights " . Sam suggests to Mercedes that they get back together , but she reminds Sam she is dating Shane (LaMarcus Tinker) . Sam , hoping a varsity letterman jacket will impress her , joins the only sports team still recruiting : synchronized swimming . Later , while Mercedes sings " The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face " with Rachel (Lea Michele) , Tina (Jenna Ushkowitz) and Santana (Naya Rivera) for Will as their proposal suggestion , she mentally pictures Sam rather than Shane , and is distressed .

Becky Jackson (Lauren Potter , with inner voiceover by Helen Mirren) , decides she wants Artie (Kevin McHale) for her boyfriend , and asks him for a date . He later performs for her his idea for Will 's proposal ? a sexy mash @-@ up of the songs " Moves Like Jagger " and " Jumpin ' Jack Flash " ? but she informs him that their date also includes dinner . The glee club fears Artie will be raising Becky 's hopes , but Artie tells them he had fun on the dinner date , and that they should examine their own prejudices about people with handicaps . However , when Becky tells Artie that she wants to have sex with him , he panics and asks Sue (Jane Lynch) for advice on how to break off the relationship . She advises him to treat Becky like anyone else and tell her directly . Becky is disappointed , and is later comforted by Sue .

Will asks Finn (Cory Monteith) to be his best man , and Finn tells Will that he is considering enlisting in the army . Will has Finn meet with him and Emma , plus his mother Carole (Romy Rosemont) and stepfather Burt (Mike O 'Malley) , who had not known of his army plans . Finn explains that he feels an obligation to his late father to be a good man and help people . His mother reveals that she hid from him the fact that his father did not die in Iraq , but instead suffered from post @-@ traumatic stress disorder there , was dishonorably discharged , and died in Cincinnati from a drug overdose . The news is devastating to Finn , and he , Rachel and Kurt talk about how the future no longer appears promising . Rachel sings " Without You " to Finn , and the two embrace .

Will asks Emma 's parents (Don Most and Valerie Mahaffey) for their blessing to marry her , but they refuse as they doubt Emma could handle marriage and having children . Unaware of that discussion , Emma later asks Will about their progress toward marriage , and he also wonders

whether she could cope with a family given her obsessive ? compulsive disorder . Though distraught , Emma tells Will that her disease is a part of her : he must decide whether they should stay together . Will , realizing that he loves Emma regardless , stages a spectacular marriage proposal ? aided by the glee club and synchronized swim team , who sing and perform a water ballet to " We Found Love " ? which Emma tearfully accepts . Later , Finn surprises Rachel with a proposal of marriage , complete with an engagement ring , which leaves her speechless .

= = Production = =

Filming began on November 29 , 2011 , the same day the ninth episode , which had begun shooting on November 10 , wrapped up filming . Eric Stoltz directed the episode , his third this season following " The Purple Piano Project " and " Mash Off " , and it was written by Glee co @-@ creator Brad Falchuk . Morrison was questioned about Will 's rumored proposal to Emma , and said , " It 's the most spectacular proposal I 've ever seen . " He added , " All I can say is it 's wet . And it involves a big dance . "

Oscar @-@ winning actress Helen Mirren guest @-@ stars in the episode , but is not seen on screen : she has recorded " several long and hilarious monologues " as the " inner voice " of a character in this episode , who turned out to be cheerleader Becky Jackson .

The cast and crew did location filming at Venice High School on December 6 , 2011 . The school is where exterior locations for the movie musical Grease were filmed . Several members of the cast tweeted photos , as did students from the high school . Vanessa Lengies , who plays Sugar Motta , retweeted a student 's photo of herself with some of the students , telling the student , " thanks for letting us borrow your school ! "

This episode is the last in Damian McGinty 's seven @-@ episode prize from his victory in The Glee Project , but he will be continuing in the role of Rory Flanagan beyond the initial seven . Other recurring guest stars who are appearing in the episode include glee club members Sam Evans (Overstreet) and Sugar Motta (Lengies) , cheerleader Becky Jackson (Potter) , football coach Shannon Beiste (Dot @-@ Marie Jones) , Kurt 's and Finn 's married parents Burt Hummel (O 'Malley) and Carole Hudson @-@ Hummel (Rosemont) , Emma 's parents Rose and Rusty Pillsbury (Valerie Mahaffey and Don Most , respectively) , football player Shane Tinsley (Tinker) and hockey player Rick Nelson (Rock Anthony) . With Sam joining the synchronized swim team , actors were to be cast for the team coach and three swimmers , all of whom " have the potential to become recurring " , though only two swimmers received co @-@ starring credits in the episode . The swim team coach , Roz Washington , a bronze @-@ medal Olympian , is being played by reality show personality NeNe Leakes .

The episode features six performances , including a mash @-@ up of the songs " Moves Like Jagger " by Maroon 5 featuring Christina Aguilera and " Jumpin ' Jack Flash " by The Rolling Stones sung by McHale , " We Found Love " by Rihanna featuring Calvin Harris sung by Michele and Rivera , and " Summer Nights " from the musical Grease with lead vocals by Overstreet and Riley . Michele sings " Without You " by David Guetta featuring Usher , and she , Riley , Rivera and Ushkowitz perform a rendition of the Roberta Flack cover of " The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face " . The 5th Dimension 's cover of " Wedding Bell Blues " is performed by Mays with backing vocals by Jones and Lynch .

= = Reception = =

= = Ratings = = =

" Yes / No " was first broadcast on January 17 , 2012 in the United States on Fox . It received a 3 @.@ 1 / 8 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , and attracted 7 @.@ 50 million American viewers during its initial airing , an increase from the 3 @.@ 0 / 8 rating / share and 7 @.@ 13 million viewers of the previous episode , " Extraordinary Merry Christmas " , which was

broadcast on December 13 , 2011 . In Canada , 1 @. @ 61 million viewers watched the episode on the same day as its American premiere . It was the twelfth most @- @ viewed show of the week , up one slot and 10 % from the 1 @. @ 46 million viewers who watched " Extraordinary Merry Christmas " five weeks earlier .

In the United Kingdom , " Yes / No " first aired on March 1 , 2012 , and was watched on Sky 1 by 805 @, @ 000 viewers . It was the first new episode broadcast in the UK in two and a half months , and viewership was down over 15 % from " Extraordinary Merry Christmas " , which attracted 952 @, @ 000 viewers when it aired on December 15 , 2011 . In Australia , " Yes / No " was broadcast on February 17 , 2012 . It was watched by 556 @, @ 000 viewers , which made Glee the eleventh most @- @ watched program of the night , up from fifteenth the week before . The viewership was up over 15 % from the previous episode , " Extraordinary Merry Christmas " , which was seen by 481 @, @ 000 viewers .

= = = Critical reception = = =

" Yes / No " received mixed reviews from critics . Robert Canning of IGN gave it a " good " rating of 7 out of 10 , and noted " hit and miss musical performances , random quirky and funny bits , and storytelling choices that kind of sort of work " . TVLine 's Michael Slezak was more enthusiastic , and said it was the " best episode " of the third season ; he credited both Helen Mirren and " some righteous plot development that stays true to core characters " . Jen Chaney of The Washington Post commented that Glee had " returned to its frequent habit of dropping plots twists on us that come out of nowhere " , and MTV 's Kevin P. Sullivan wrote that the episode 's " promising bright spots couldn 't escape from under the weight of the show 's typical mistakes " .

Reviewers were unhappy with most of the marriage storyline that involved Will , though they seemed satisfied with Emma 's portion of it . Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club said Will acted like a " jackass " throughout and called the storyline " so pathetic and sad " , words echoed by Entertainment Weekly 's Joseph Brannigan Lynch , who wrote , " When Schue told New Directions , ' You guys are my family , ' I was a little sad for him and a lotta sad for his parents . " John Kubicek of BuddyTV proclaimed , " Will desperately needs to make some grown @- @ up friends " , a sentiment echoed by HuffPost TV 's Crystal Bell . Lynch was critical of the scene where Will tells Emma they cannot marry because of her illness : he felt " using the phrase ' it 's hopeless ' in reference to her mental disorder " was too extreme . To James Poniewozik of Time , the episode showed " how the series has squandered the opportunity to make Will into a person " .

There was broad agreement regarding the scene where Will asks Finn to be his best man : not one reviewer approved . Lynch called it " questionable " and said it crossed a " line of weirdness " , Slezak and TV Guide 's Kate Stanhope felt it was inappropriate , if not unethical , and Bell said the actual request was the episode 's " biggest WTF ? ! moment " . Will 's statement that Finn had taught him " more about being a man " was met with incredulity . Slezak declared " Finn has a lot of growing up to do before he 's really a man " , and Sullivan wrote that since Finn acted " like a petulant man @- @ boy " on the show , Will must have been referring to events in " a season of Glee that didn 't air " . Finn did receive some praise from Lesley Goldberg of The Hollywood Reporter , however ; she called the sequence where he discovers the truth about his father " one of Cory Monteith 's best scenes yet " , and Slezak described it as " beautifully handled " by Monteith . Finn 's marriage proposal to Rachel at the end of the episode was controversial . Reviewers thought it was a bad idea ? Kubicek declared , " No one in high school should get engaged " ? but Poniewozik wrote that it " made a lot of sense for Finn " as a character , and VanDerWerff said the scene " worked " for him .

Becky 's storyline was acclaimed by most reviewers . Canning called it " exceptional " and " the most emotional and satisfying of the episode " . Poniewozik also praised it , and wrote , " Artie and Becky 's arc , on the other hand , really worked : it was sweet , uncomfortable and messy in the way that Glee does well . " He continued , " it played out as it did not just because of Artie and Becky 's condition but because of what they ? re like as people " . VanDerWerff said the story was " handled with just the right level of pathos " , and Slezak praised the writers for turning Becky " into a fully

realized character , while confronting head @-@ on the dashed hopes and disappointments that can be a reality for a person with Down Syndrome " . Sullivan wrote , " The plot touched on a universal experience , unrequited love , from a very Glee perspective , the treatment of handicapped people as people . It ended on an appropriate down note and reaffirmed Sue and Becky 's touching dynamic . " Bell liked Sue in this episode , as she was helping the plot , which in turn made her one @-@ liners " added treats rather than overdone cliches " . The use of Helen Mirren to voice Becky 's thoughts was highly praised . Poniewozik called it " the kind of ridiculous @-@ but @-@ weirdly @-@ logical move I love from Glee " , and Lynch said it " was one of the most charming treats this show has offered in a while " . Sullivan wrote that " both actresses turned in great performances that elevated the episode significantly " . Not all reviewers agreed , however : Futterman called Mirren 's vocal cameo " bizarre " , and although Kubicek thought Mirren was " pretty darn hilarious " , he said the " Becky having a crush on Artie " story arc made him feel " as uncomfortable " as the members of New Directions , and stated , " It 's easy to say that everyone should just treat her like they treat everyone else , but actually doing it is somewhat problematic . "

The cameo appearance of NeNe Leakes as Coach Roz Washington received plaudits from most reviewers . Poniewozik described her as " pretty damn excellent " , and Votta wrote , " She only has one generally pointless scene but is arguably the best part of the whole episode . " Raymund Flandez of The Wall Street Journal said Leakes " does well " , and Bell stated " she actually wasn 't that bad " . Kubicek , however , while he liked the writing for the character , wrote that Leakes was " an embarrassingly terrible actress " .

= = = Music and performances = = =

The opening number of the show received the most disparate reviews from critics . Kubicek was one of the most enthusiastic about " Summer Nights " , and wrote , " This is the kind of ridiculous , over @-@ the @-@ top , hilariously cheesy stuff I want to see from Glee all the time . " He was also pleased that Rory was given solo lines , and Sugar was " being embraced as a part of the group " . Lynch thought that " Amber Riley and Chord Overstreet harmonize surprisingly wonderfully " , and gave this " easily the most fun number of the episode " an " A ? " . Stanhope said that " the energy is infectious and you can feel the sparks between the former pair " , but the performance was " way too much of a copycat " of the original Grease scene , while Flandez said that the two leads " lacked chemistry " and that the number was " inexplicable " . VanDerWerff was similarly unimpressed : " dumb and unnecessary " . Chaney wrote that the number " was a high @-@ energy , cute way for the show to mark its comeback " , but said that Rory " sounded flat " on one of his lines , and Sam " couldn 't quite hit " the ending high note in the song , and graded it a " B " .

" Wedding Bell Blues " was described by Bobby Hankinson of The Houston Chronicle as " the perfect combination of a great song , plot relevance , and Princess Beatrice hat " . Stanhope agreed with him on all three points , and added that it was " a great pick for her vocals " . Slezak described those vocals as " a breath of dewy spring air " and gave the song an " A " , but Lynch thought Emma was not " much of a singer " and gave the number a " B ? " , though he said " the curiosity of backup vocals from Coach Beiste and Sue Sylvester made this entirely worthwhile " . Poniewozik characterized the staging of the song as " phoned in " . " The First Time I Ever Saw Your Face " was given an " A " by Lynch and an " A ? " by Slezak ; the latter called the vocals " pretty electrifying " . Flandez said the song was " sublime " and complimented the lighting , the mood , and the direction by Eric Stoltz , and VanDerWerff described it as the episode 's " best single number " . While Futterman thought the performers sang with " controlled power " , she felt " singing it dressed in black with tears rolling down " was funereal rather than bridal , and Sullivan called it an " odd song choice " that was made " worse " by " Lea Michele 's cry @-@ singing " . Chaney gave the song her lowest grade of the episode , a " C ? " , and characterized it as a " flagrant eye @-@ watering fest " .

Flandez called the " propulsive mash @-@ up " of " Moves Like Jagger " and " Jumpin ' Jack Flash " one of the episode 's " highlights " , and Billboard 's Rae Votta said it was " impeccably choreographed by Glee 's often unsung hero Zach Woodlee . " She also lauded Artie 's " Jagger

moves while sitting in a chair " and said he " outshines even Mike and Will who dance beside him " . Sullivan described Artie as " consistently awesome " , and Slezak said it was " one of Artie ' s more appealing musical moments this season " and gave it a " B " . Lynch characterized the song as a " spunky diversion " and gave it a " B + " , but he noted it was " not a good song for marriage proposals by any stretch of the imagination " , a point also made by Rolling Stone ' s Erica Futterman , who said the number would have " fared much better as a stand @-@ alone performance " . While Chaney liked Will and Mike ' s " moves " , she felt there was " far too much quick cutting to shots of Morrison in a tank top " and gave the song a " B ? " ; Slezak and VanDerWerff were also critical of these shots .

Futterman was impressed that in " Without You " , Glee crafted a " cover to rival the original " , and said it " totally works " . Slezak called it a " vocally stunning reimagining " and gave it an " A ? " . Both Lynch and Chaney gave it a " B " , and the latter wrote " I can ' t deny that she sang the heck out of it " . Chaney was not so pleased with " We Found Love " , to which she gave a " C " . She wrote that it was " part old Esther Williams movie , part classic ' SNL ' sketch with Harry Shearer and Martin Short and part music video for ' Magic ' by the Cars . In short , it was kind of a train wreck . " However , she and Stanhope , who said it was " way too fast @-@ paced " , were in the minority . Lynch called it " sheer pleasure " and gave it an " A ? " , and Slezak was even more enthusiastic with an " A + " grade and described it as a " sublimely , ridiculously , excessively terrific production number " which he placed " in the show ' s all @-@ time Top 10 " . VanDerWerff praised the " nice sense of visual spectacle " , and Hankinson called it " really fantastic " and " something different " . Futterman , after she admitted to her " unabashed love " of the song , noted that the show had " found the trifecta of a current song that both fits the overall theme of the show and the characters singing it " .

= = = Chart history = = =

Five of the six singles released from the episode , which included a total of seven cover versions due to the " Moves Like Jagger / Jumpin ' Jack Flash " mash @-@ up , debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 . " Without You " debuted at number twenty @-@ eight , followed by " We Found Love " at number fifty @-@ six , the aforementioned " Moves Like Jagger / Jumpin ' Jack Flash " mash @-@ up at number sixty @-@ two , " The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face " at number seventy and " Summer Nights " at number eighty @-@ eight . The same five songs charted in Canada on the Canadian Hot 100 and in the same order on that chart : " Without You " at number twenty @-@ nine , " We Found Love " at number fifty @-@ five , " Moves Like Jagger / Jumpin ' Jack Flash " at number fifty @-@ nine , " The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face " at number seventy @-@ eight and " Summer Nights " at number eighty @-@ five . The sixth single , " Wedding Bell Blues " , did not appear on either chart .