

## = I Kissed a Girl ( Glee ) =

" I Kissed a Girl " is the seventh episode of the third season of the American musical television series Glee , and the fifty @-@ first overall . Written by Matthew Hodgson and directed by Tate Donovan , the episode aired on Fox in the United States on November 29 , 2011 , and featured the election for a new senior class president at McKinley High . It also covered the special congressional election between Sue Sylvester ( Jane Lynch ) and Burt Hummel ( Mike O 'Malley ) , plus repercussions from the outing of Santana ( Naya Rivera ) during the congressional campaign .

The episode as a whole received mixed to negative reviews from critics , though several praised Santana 's scene with her grandmother . The music was viewed more favorably by reviewers , and earned mixed to positive reactions . Six songs are covered in the episode , including Katy Perry 's " I Kissed a Girl " . All six were released as downloadable singles , and five of them charted on the Billboard Hot 100 .

Upon its initial airing , this episode was viewed by 7 @.@ 9 million American viewers and garnered a 3 @.@ 2 / 8 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . The total viewership and ratings were up from the previous episode , " Mash Off " , which had aired two weeks before .

## = = Plot = =

Santana ( Naya Rivera ) is about to be suspended for hitting Finn ( Cory Monteith ) , but he claims it was merely a stage slap . He then blackmails Santana into having her glee club , the Troubletones , temporarily meet with her former club , New Directions , so he can show her how they all support her . Kurt ( Chris Colfer ) and Blaine ( Darren Criss ) sing " Perfect " to her , which leaves her unimpressed , but Finn 's slow , stripped @-@ down rendition of " Girls Just Want to Have Fun " is better received .

Puck ( Mark Salling ) ostensibly sings " I 'm the Only One " for Santana , but delivers most of the song to an embarrassed Shelby ( Idina Menzel ) in front of a suspicious Quinn ( Dianna Agron ) . Quinn later tries to seduce him , but he refuses and calls her crazy . Shelby calls Puck for assistance when her daughter Beth has a minor medical emergency ; the two later have sex , but she regrets it and asks him to leave . Angered , Puck returns to Quinn , and she reveals her desire to have a second baby with him . Puck refuses , and tries to comfort her ; he offers to share an important secret if she promises not to tell anyone .

Kurt 's quest to become senior class president appears doomed and along with it his college prospects ; he confesses to Rachel ( Lea Michele ) that he is thinking about stuffing the ballot box to ensure that he wins . Sue 's ( Jane Lynch ) congressional campaign is also in trouble : to combat allegations that she is a lesbian , Sue decides to start an arbitrary relationship with a man , and chooses former bedmate Cooter Menkins ( Eric Bruskotter ) , who has been having difficulty connecting with Coach Beiste ( Dot @-@ Marie Jones ) due to her emotional armor . A distraught Beiste sings " Jolene " , confesses her love for Cooter and tells Sue she won 't give him up without a fight . Sue loses the congressional election to Burt Hummel ( Mike O 'Malley ) .

An arrogant jock tries to seduce Santana to " make her normal " . The female members of both glee clubs defend her , and together they sing " I Kissed a Girl " . Santana comes out to her parents , who are accepting , but when she tells her abuela ( grandmother ) , she tells Santana to leave and never return , saying it is a sin to speak of such things .

Kurt and his father Burt are called in to see Principal Figgins ( Iqbal Theba ) , where it is revealed that although Kurt apparently won his election by 190 votes , more votes have been cast than there are students . Kurt admits that he contemplated cheating , but decided against doing so . Nevertheless , Kurt is disqualified and Brittany wins the election . Kurt tells Finn and Rachel that he is still under suspicion , and after he leaves , Rachel admits to Finn that she was the one who stuffed the ballot box because she wanted to help Kurt .

To end the week , Santana sings " Constant Craving " to the combined glee clubs , inter @-@ cut with Shelby and Kurt also singing . Rachel then arrives and confesses that she was the one who committed election fraud : the incident will go on her permanent record , she is suspended for a

week and she is banned from participating in the impending show choir Sectionals competition .

= = Production = =

The episode was written by Matthew Hodgson and directed by Tate Donovan . Filming began on October 13 , 2011 , while the fifth and sixth episodes , " The First Time " and " Mash Off " respectively , were still shooting , though the fifth episode finished the following day . The final day of filming was November 1 , 2011 .

Series co @-@ creator Ian Brennan revealed to TV Guide that the episode would have not one election in it , but two : both senior class president and the congressional special election would occur on the same day , and McKinley High will be a polling place for the latter . According to Brennan , " People are voting for both elections in the school , with signs pointing voters in different directions " , and there will be a " very surprising twist " in the final results .

Football recruiter Cooter Menkins ( Bruskotter ) returns in this episode , and becomes a bone of contention between Coach Beiste and Sue . Other recurring guest stars who appear in this episode include Principal Figgins ( Theba ) , teachers Shelby Corcoran ( Menzel ) and Mrs. Hagberg ( Mary Gillis ) , Kurt 's father and congressional candidate Burt Hummel ( O 'Malley ) , Coach Beiste ( Jones ) , cheerleader Becky Jackson ( Lauren Potter ) , school reporter Jacob Ben Israel ( Josh Sussman ) , Troubadours member Sugar Motta ( Vanessa Lengies ) and New Directions member Rory Flanagan ( Damian McGinty ) .

Music in the episode includes the song from which it gets its title , Katy Perry 's " I Kissed a Girl " , which was previously sung by Tina for her glee club audition in the show 's pilot . Jones performs Dolly Parton 's " Jolene " during the episode , her second time singing on the show ; her first was a duet with Matthew Morrison in the second season episode " Blame It on the Alcohol " . All six songs from the episode have been released as singles including " I Kissed a Girl " and " Jolene " ; the other four are k.d. lang 's " Constant Craving " sung by Rivera , Menzel and Colfer , Cyndi Lauper 's " Girls Just Want to Have Fun " in the Greg Laswell version sung by Monteith , Melissa Etheridge 's " I 'm the Only One " sung by Salling and a clean version of Pink 's " Fuckin ' Perfect " entitled " Perfect " , sung by Colfer and Criss .

On August 6 , 2012 , co @-@ creator Ryan Murphy uploaded a deleted scene in which Santana comes out to Sue and her fellow Cheerios to YouTube .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" I Kissed a Girl " was first broadcast on November 29 , 2011 in the United States on Fox . It received a 3 @. @ 2 / 8 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , and attracted 7 @. @ 90 million American viewers during its initial airing , up from the 7 @. @ 08 million viewers and 3 @. @ 0 / 8 rating / share for the previous episode , " Mash Off " , which was broadcast on November 15 , 2011 .

Viewership was also up significantly in the United Kingdom and Canada . In the United Kingdom , " I Kissed a Girl " was watched on Sky1 by 1 @. @ 09 million viewers , an increase of over 21 % compared to " Mash Off " two weeks before , when 900 @, @ 000 viewers were watching . In Canada , 1 @. @ 79 million viewers watched the episode , which made it the eighth most @-@ viewed show of the week , up ten slots and 9 % from the 1 @. @ 64 million viewers who watched " Mash Off " two weeks prior .

In Australia , " I Kissed a Girl " was broadcast on January 27 , 2012 . It was the first new episode since " Mash Off " had aired on November 16 , 2012 , and was in a new Friday evening time slot as opposed to the previously scheduled Wednesday broadcasts . It was watched by 575 @, @ 000 viewers , down over 15 % from the previous new episode , which was watched by 683 @, @ 000 viewers . David Dale of the Sydney Morning Herald was scathing in his opinion of the show 's

rescheduling : " Channel Ten must be insane to waste a new season of Glee on a night when the target audience are all out trying to get alcohol with fake IDs . Look at the pathetic numbers in the Friday chart . "

= = = Critical reception = = =

The episode as a whole received mixed to negative reviews from critics . Rae Votta of Billboard wrote that it " stumbles as much as it shines , with two plot lines @-@ worth of structure that make sense , and two that fall completely flat " . Rolling Stone 's Erica Futterman stated that " while there were undeniably significant plot moments , the emotional depth was lacking " , and Robert Canning of IGN said it was " kind of boring " and nothing happened to " make it better than bland " . AOLTV 's Crystal Bell found it frustrating , and said that the " worst part " was that it " made me stop caring about these characters " . Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club wrote that " a ton of it just didn 't work " . The Houston Chronicle 's Bobby Hankinson looked on the episode more favorably , however , and maintained that while it did not achieve the level of the previous two , it was a " pretty strong outing nonetheless " .

Lesley Goldberg of The Hollywood Reporter said that the scene where Santana comes out to her grandmother only to be rejected was a " powerful moment and Rivera delivered in a way equal to Chris Colfer and Mike O 'Malley 's scenes during Kurt 's coming out " . Bell also complimented the sequence , though she criticized the next scene for showing " a happy , smiling Santana " with no further explanation , and Canning and Kubicek were also unhappy with her abrupt change in mood , as if nothing had happened . VanDerWerff , though he called the coming @-@ out scene " a moment that 's played with a sort of bracing honesty and moving empathy " for what Santana was going through , stated that the " Santana storyline has been one of the best things about the back half of season two and this front half of season three , and the scenes that should be its emotional crux are occurring in our imaginations " , such as when she comes out to her parents . Goldberg called the fact that Finn suffered no consequences for his outing of Santana " a missed opportunity " . Bell , however , thought that his telling Santana that " he cares about her and doesn 't want her to hold her feelings for women in anymore " was " one of the most touching scenes of the series " , though Kubicek characterized Finn 's statement that he cared for her because Santana " was his first " as creepy . MTV 's Kevin P. Sullivan derided the choice to perform " I Kissed a Girl " as " poor comprehension of song lyrics " , since Santana " is a lesbian and not just [ a ] drunk girl who kissed another girl after drinking " . VanDerWerff wondered why Santana was so happy during the song , since she had just experienced " the sort of outrageous bigotry she 'll have to put up with for the rest of her life " .

Quinn 's increasingly odd behavior was commented on by several reviewers . Chaney wrote that she was acting " in an irrational manner that has no connection with reality " , and Bell wondered if co @-@ creator Murphy was " trying to make her the most hated character on ' Glee ' ever " . Amy Reiter of The Los Angeles Times , though she noted that " Quinn 's character just gets weirder and weirder " , wrote that Puck gets it right : " Quinn 's the craziest , most self @-@ involved character on the show " , but " has a resilience that may take her far in life " and needs a " healthy dose of self @-@ esteem " . VanDerWerff was initially pleased that the show " acknowledged that all of her actions are driven by a deep , sucking need to be loved " and that " Puck gently told her that she was better than that , that she could put herself together again " , but not that it then " just turned into more pointless Puck / Shelby / Quinn drama . Ugh . " Critics such as Kubicek were even more scathing about Shelby and the storyline with Puck that led to the pair having sex during the episode : " The dumbest storyline Glee has ever done gets even dumber . " Sullivan called it " the most divisive plot line of the season " , and Bell asked , " Instead of these super creepy scenes between Puck and Shelby , can we please get more screen time for Shelby and Rachel ? "

Votta criticized the show for the " pointless adult love triangle " involving Coach Beiste , Sue , and Cooter Menkins . VanDerWerff described Jones as " one of the show 's greatest gifts " , and lamented that they had her " fighting with Sue Dynasty @-@ style over a recruiter for Ohio State " . Bell called the scene where Beiste " confesses her love for Cooter " a " simply sweet scene that 's

only ruined by Sue 's grumpy presence " , and Sue 's decision to go after Cooter a " crazy plot " . Votta looked at Sue 's pursuit of Cooter through a different lens : " in an episode that should be about kids who are looking for approval and the various ways they do and don't achieve that " , the show gives a " completely opposite message from Sue 's quest to prove her straightness " , which " muddles " the show 's messages . Chaney thought that Sue " was back in fine , vindictive catchphrase @-@ spewing form " , and noted that " all the election subplots were tied up remarkably quickly " . This last point did not sit well with Berk , who wrote that the show resolved " what was one of the more interesting subplots in one of the least interesting ways " , and Canning was disappointed that the episode did not have " more with Burt " . As for Burt 's son , Kurt , Votta wanted to " leap through the television and explain to him that student council elections mean absolutely nothing " to his future college prospects , and Kubicek declared himself " sick " of that plot thread , which he called " just plain moronic " .

= = = Music and performances = = =

The musical performances received mixed to positive reviews . Hankinson wrote that it was a " strong night " . Chaney thought it was " decent but not as strong " as the previous episode , " Mash Off " ; Futterman had a similar take and called it a " hodge @-@odge of songs that fit the bill but don't necessarily stand out " , and " musically meh " . Bell wrote that " the music was awful " , and she was upset because she " really like [ s ] chick rock " , the musical focus of the episode .

Chaney was not very excited by Kurt and Blaine 's rendition of " Perfect " , while Raymund Flandez of The Wall Street Journal called it an " almost cloying duet " . Entertainment Weekly 's Abby West thought it was " sweetly " sung and " perfectly lovely " , and Michael Slezak of TVLine said it " really picked up steam " as it progressed . Votta said that " what we got " was " wonderfully done , and a perfect balance of Darren Criss and Chris Colfer 's musical strengths " , but she was perplexed that they " cut the verses most relevant to Santana " yet " kept the cheeky rap bridge " . In contrast , she thought Puck 's performance of " I 'm the Only One " was " the most awkward thing Glee has done in a while , and drags on forever " , though she added that Salling sounded " great " . Slezak expressed the wish that Puck would get to do " a mashup or an interesting arrangement " , and gave the song a " C + " , while Futterman said the song was " a strain on his voice " and the presentation " another cookie @-@ cutter classroom setting " . BuddyTV 's John Kubicek called it the " kind of song Puck should always do . "

Finn 's performance of " Girls Just Want to Have Fun " received the most commentary . Bell wrote that " his cover of Greg Laswell 's cover " of the Lauper song " may just be my favorite Finn solo ever " . Kubicek described the " slowed @-@ down , acoustic version " as " insanely good " , and Flandez called it " poignant " and " surprising and appealing " . West said it was " the best showcase for his voice in recent memory " . Slezak called it his " favorite performance by Finn in the last two seasons " , and added that Monteith " sounded terrific " . While Votta thought the rendition was " sweet " and " well sung " , she wrote that it " felt a little off @-@ center " ; Chaney described it as " not terribly compelling " . Sullivan called it a " horrifyingly creepy " performance .

Coach Beiste 's first solo number , " Jolene " , was called " haunting " by Vanity Fair 's Brett Berk , who gave it four stars out of five , and Slezak said it was a " killer use of Dolly Parton " even if " Beiste isn't the strongest vocalist " . Both Futterman and Kubicek noted a lack of emotion in Beiste 's voice , but they also noted the emotion in her face , which Kubicek said " more than made up for it " . Chaney wrote that " the execution felt emotionally flat " and gave it a " C " , but West graded it a " B + " and said , " Coach Beiste 's pain ..... was clear in Dot Marie Jones ' sad @-@ hearted rendition " .

Chaney called " I Kissed a Girl " the " liveliest , most enjoyable number of the night " . Kubicek said that " the ladies rocked out " , but his " favorite parts " were " Rory 's reaction shots " , which West also mentioned favorably . Futterman declared it as " an OK rendition " . For " Constant Craving " , she noted some " nice harmonies " , but " in what seems to be a trend this episode , the song falls flat as a whole " . Kubicek stated that without Santana 's " pent @-@ up emotions " , there was " no subtext , just text " . Chaney wrote that the performance was " not stunning , but certainly strong " .

Votta said that Santana " kills " on the song , Hankinson stated that " Shelby and Santana were awesome " and Slezak called it " gorgeous and totally relevant " .

= = = Chart history = = =

Five of the six cover versions released as singles debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 : " Perfect " debuted at number fifty @-@ seven , " Girls Just Want to Have Fun " at number fifty @-@ nine , " I Kissed a Girl " at number sixty @-@ six , " I 'm the Only One " at number eighty @-@ six and " Constant Craving " at number eighty @-@ nine . The first three of those singles also debuted on the Billboard Canadian Hot 100 : " Perfect " at number seventy @-@ one , " Girls Just Want to Have Fun " at number seventy @-@ five and " I Kissed a Girl " at number eighty @-@ seven . " Jolene " did not chart in either country .

Both " Girls Just Want to Have Fun " and " Constant Craving " were featured on the soundtrack album Glee : The Music , Volume 7 . Three additional songs from the episode were included in the five bonus tracks available on the Target edition of the album : " Perfect " , " I 'm the Only One " and " I Kissed a Girl " .