

= Holly Holliday =

Holly Holliday is a recurring fictional character from the Fox musical comedy @-@ drama series Glee . Portrayed by actress Gwyneth Paltrow , the character appeared in three episodes during the show 's second season , and two episodes during the fifth season , and was Paltrow 's first @-@ ever role in a scripted television show . Holly was developed by Glee co @-@ creator Ryan Murphy , a personal friend of Paltrow 's , who suggested that she showcase her vocal and dancing abilities ahead of the release of her film Country Strong , in which she played a country singer . Introduced as a substitute teacher who takes the place of glee club director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) while he is ill , she forms a romantic bond with Will , but decides to break up with him and takes a teaching job in another town after realizing that he is still in love with Emma Pillsbury (Jayma Mays) .

Paltrow 's debut performance attracted positive commentary and earned her the 2011 Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series . Many reviewers praised her subsequent portrayal of Holly in the " Sexy " episode , preferring it to her first appearance in " The Substitute " installment , though they disagreed over how Paltrow was used . Her final appearance in the " A Night of Neglect " episode was met with divergent reactions . She performed several musical numbers during her appearances , which include critically acclaimed renditions of " Forget You " by Cee Lo Green and " Landslide " by Fleetwood Mac . Paltrow was additionally featured in the 2011 concert film Glee : The 3D Concert Movie .

= = Storylines = =

Holly is a substitute teacher who makes her first appearance on Glee in the second season 's seventh episode , " The Substitute " . She is filling in at McKinley High School for the ailing Spanish teacher Will (Matthew Morrison) , who is also director of the glee club , New Directions . Club member Kurt (Chris Colfer) , who had seen her perform " Conjunction Junction " when she subbed for his English class , asks her to also take over Will 's glee club rehearsals . Instead of assigning songs , Holly asks the club members what kind of music they would like to perform , and when Puck (Mark Salling) suggests " Forget You " , she sings the song and they all join in , except for Rachel (Lea Michele) . Holly later wins her over by asking Rachel what she would like to sing that she hasn 't been able to , and they perform a number from Chicago together . Holly bonds with Sue (Jane Lynch) , who is the acting principal with Principal Figgins (Iqbal Theba) also out sick , and Sue fires the still @-@ ailing Will , making Holly the full @-@ time director of the glee club . When he recovers , Will confronts Holly at school , but she is unwilling to give up her new position . She later discovers she is in over her head when Mercedes (Amber Riley) gets in trouble , and Holly turns to Will for help . She reveals that she was once a more serious teacher like Will until a student punched her in the face , at which point she became far more free spirited . Holly ultimately returns to substitute teaching and Will is reinstated . He assigns the glee club to perform " Singin ' in the Rain " on his return , but faced with their dismay at being given another old song , he asks for Holly 's help to modernize it , and they all perform a mash @-@ up of it with Rihanna 's " Umbrella " .

Holly later returns to McKinley High as a substitute sex education teacher in the season 's fifteenth episode , " Sexy " . She informs Will that the members of New Directions are woefully ignorant about sex . He invites her to teach the glee club about safe sex , and she performs a rendition of Joan Jett 's " Do You Wanna Touch Me (Oh Yeah) " , much to the chagrin of the new head of the celibacy club , guidance counselor Emma (Jayma Mays) . Holly advises Puck and Lauren (Ashley Fink) that the sex tape they plan to make is illegal , as both are minors , and helps Brittany (Heather Morris) and Santana (Naya Rivera) start to come to terms with their true feelings for each other , later performing " Landslide " with them in front of the club . When Emma 's choice of " Afternoon Delight " as an abstinence song reveals her sexual naivete , her husband Carl (John Stamos) asks Holly for an appointment for him and Emma to work out issues in their sex life . During the counseling session , he reveals that Emma is still a virgin , and in answer to a question from Holly , Emma admits that she may still have feelings for Will . At the end of the episode , Holly begins a

relationship with Will .

Holly makes her final second @-@ season appearance two episodes later in " A Night of Neglect " . She is still dating Will , and suggests to him that in order to help raise funds for the academic decathlon team , the glee club should present a benefit concert at the school that will feature songs by " neglected " artists . Her contribution to the benefit is a performance of Adele 's " Turning Tables " . At the end of the episode , realizing that he is still in love with Emma , Holly breaks up with Will and takes a several @-@ month substitute teaching job in another town .

= = Development = =

The role of Holly was created by series co @-@ creator Ryan Murphy specifically for Paltrow , a personal friend . Murphy suggested that she showcase her vocal and dancing talent ahead of the December 2010 release of the film *Country Strong* , in which Paltrow plays a country singer . Murphy said of Paltrow , " Gwyneth is a great singer . She 's done it a little bit but I really want to show it off and show everyone how great she is . " It was not the first time Paltrow had sung on screen : she played a karaoke singer in the movie *Duets* in 2000 , and had a number one hit in Australia for her duet of " Cruisin ' " from its soundtrack .

The character was originally set to appear for two episodes , as a love interest for Will Schuester in a love quadrangle with Will , Emma and Carl . Her debut was subsequently reduced to a single episode , and the relationship plot removed . After " The Substitute " episode aired , Murphy expressed interest in having Paltrow return with the right storyline . A few months later , she confirmed she would be seen again on the series , and was initially supposed to appear in episodes fifteen and sixteen , but instead appeared in episodes fifteen and seventeen , " Sexy " and " A Night of Neglect " , the second of these being her final appearance .

Paltrow initially said about a possible return to *Glee* in its third season : " No , I don 't think so . I don 't think I should . Though it 's honestly been one of the best jobs I 've ever had . " She did later state that she would love to come back , and said that Holly was " probably the most fun character I 've ever gotten to play " . Murphy stated before the second season ended that he had plans for Paltrow to return in season three , though nothing specific has been mentioned since the beginning of the third season . Paltrow , however , was featured in *Glee : The 3D Concert Movie* after being filmed while she performed " Forget You " as Holly in the 2011 *Glee Live ! In Concert !* tour performances of June 16 and 17 , 2011 .

= = Critical reception = =

Paltrow 's performance in the " The Substitute " episode earned her an Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Guest Actress in a Comedy Series and attracted critical praise . Indeed , at the time , *Entertainment Weekly* 's Tim Stack and *E ! Online* 's Kristin dos Santos called her appearance Emmy @-@ worthy , with the former rating it among her best performances , and the latter stating that Holly received " some of *Glee* 's best @-@ ever one @-@ liners . VanDerWerff wrote that Holly injected an effortless sense of fun , despite much of her plot being nonsensical . The *Atlantic* 's Meghan Brown commented that Paltrow " brought a massive spark to what could have been a one @-@ note role " , and her co @-@ author Kevin Fallon wrote that her energetic performance saved an episode that might have been " in shambles without her presence " . Robert Canning of *IGN* noted that Paltrow 's casting could have been distracting , but instead she fit the role " seamlessly " . Brett Berk of *Vanity Fair* found her " surprisingly great " , and James Poniewozik of *Time* stated that while her casting was somewhat distracting , she was able to make Holly a sympathetic character without overdoing her neediness and commitment @-@ phobia . However , the National Alliance on Mental Illness (*NAMI*) took exception Paltrow 's history classroom scene where she role @-@ plays as Mary Todd Lincoln , which it stated " mocked and trivialized bipolar disorder " .

Several critics preferred Paltrow 's return in the " Sexy " installment to her initial appearance . The *Washington Post* 's Emily Yahr felt that she was better integrated into this episode , and Raymund Flandez of the *Wall Street Journal* called her return " infinitely better " than her first appearance : "

Back then , she was a puzzle , a loony bin . Here , she 's sly and quick @-@ witted , appropriately adult and seductively saucy in an episode that showcased more of her comedic timing , than her stiff dance skills . All the better for us . " Fallon wrote that Paltrow was " if possible , even sassier and sultrier " than before , and felt that she served to anchor a busy episode . In contrast , Sandra Gonzalez of Entertainment Weekly had mixed feelings about Holly and believed that she dominated screen time . VanDerWerff liked Paltrow 's acting , but disliked Holly 's interaction with Will , saying they lacked " chemistry " . Soraya Roberts of the Daily News disliked her return for prolonging Will and Emma 's separation , branding Holly a home @-@ wrecker . She commented that while Paltrow 's appearance in " The Substitute " was " relatively fresh " , in " Sexy " she was " acting almost like a cardboard cutout version of her former self , overly enunciating her lines [and] treading carefully around her choreography " . Poniewozik found all of Paltrow 's scenes " labored and ridiculous " , and wrote that the actress failed to bring an element of realism to her character . Canning said that " the moment she came on screen the whole episode lit up " , and the episode was a " fun and funny showcase for everybody 's favorite recurring character " , and Futterman echoed him when she called Paltrow " our new favorite cast member " .

Paltrow 's final appearance in the " A Night of Neglect " episode was met with divergent reactions . Both MTV journalist Aly Semigran and Gonzalez approved of Holly 's departure , the latter of whom stating that Glee writers gave the character an appropriate ending and rounded out her arc . In contrast , CNN writer Lisa Respers France was dismayed by the character 's exit and favored Holly 's " memorable " characterization in the episode . The Washington Post 's Lisa de Moraes expressed interest in a season three return , and Canning described Holly as " charming as ever " in the episode . Myles McNutt , writing for The A.V. Club , felt the installment " captured the occasional awkwardness of Paltrow 's presence on the show " , and wrote that casting such a prominent actress " has its disadvantages when you know that she 's only around on a temporary basis " . TVLine correspondent Michael Slezak noted that Will and Emma 's romance ? and that Paltrow probably was not ready to commit to the series full @-@ time ? led to Holly 's adieu . Slezak concluded that what he liked about Holly , was that she did not succumb to Will , which , according to Slezak , made him less annoying .

= = Musical performances = =

Paltrow 's rendition of Cee Lo Green 's " Fuck You " , sanitized and retitled " Forget You " and featured on the soundtrack album Glee : The Music , Volume 4 , garnered positive critical reception . Anthony Benigno , an editor for the Daily News , and Time 's James Poniewozik criticized the show for sanitizing the song , but while the latter found it inferior to the original version , the former preferred Paltrow 's deeper voice and awarded it an " A " . Rolling Stone 's Erica Futterman felt the censorship of the song did not adversely affect its success , and deemed the performance " charming and sassy " . Megan Vick of Billboard favored it as " the most exciting number " of the episode , and Entertainment Weekly 's Tim Stack went further in his praise : he bestowed a grade of " A + " and lauded it as " one of the most memorable and energetic Glee performances ever , thanks in no small part to Paltrow " . Green expressed approval of the rendition . Benigno gave her short performance of " Conjunction Junction " an " A " , and described it as " a glorious ten seconds " , and granted the installment 's mash @-@ up of " Singin ' In The Rain / Umbrella " a " B " . Stack said that he loved the mash @-@ up and gave it an " A ? " . Amy Reiter of the Los Angeles Times appreciated the mash @-@ up 's choreography and the manner in which " Paltrow 's sassiness undercuts [Morrison 's] overripe sweetness " , and named it potentially her favorite group number of the second season . " Forget You " reached number eleven on the Billboard Hot 100 and twelve on the Canadian Hot 100 , and the " Singing in the Rain / Umbrella " peaked at number ten on the Irish Singles Chart . Green 's " Fuck You ! " entered the top ten of the Hot 100 for the first time following the Glee cover , with sales rising 94 % in a week .

Most reviewers agreed that the performance of " Do You Wanna Touch Me (Oh Yeah) " was sexy . Benigno was one of these and was entertained by the number , but he thought Holly 's " vocals seem oddly subdued trying to imitate Joan Jett 's voice " and gave it a " B " grade . Gonzalez gave

the same grade and also took issue with the vocals , though she enjoyed the energy . Futterman had a different view of the singing , and said that " Holly can 't quite muster Jett 's vocal power " . Berk gave the song four stars out of five and noted the " amazing hairgraphy " , while Roberts called the performance a " leather @-@ clad , hair @-@ whipping mess " . Slezak gave the performance an " A " and wrote that Paltrow " completely captured the track 's naughty spirit " . " Do You Wanna Touch Me (Oh Yeah) " entered the Hot 100 at number fifty @-@ seven , and the Canadian Hot 100 at number sixty @-@ three .

There was not much enthusiasm for Morrison and Paltrow 's performance of Prince 's " Kiss " . BuddyTV 's Jen Harper noted that " Holly saved the song " for her . Futterman did not " feel the chemistry " until the final kiss . Benigno , on the other hand , said that the chemistry between them was " palpable " , called the cover " pretty great " , and gave it a " B + " . Roberts deemed Paltrow 's tango rigid , and The Atlantic author Patrick Burns commented that white people ought to be deterred from performing Prince . He called the music " uninteresting and soulless " , and was dismayed that the tango was " just white with white people tango dancing " . Flandez , however , enjoyed their dancing and wrote , " The strong holds , the slow cuts , the perfect swivel of hips and the lean @-@ to 's were mesmerizingly seductive . " " Kiss " charted at number eighty @-@ three on Hot 100 , and also made number eighty on the Canadian Hot 100 .

Paltrow 's performance of Fleetwood Mac 's " Landslide " received the most praise of the songs in the " Sexy " installment ; indeed , both VanDerWerff and Harper named it the episode 's best number . Harper noted the " great harmonies " and added , " I got goose bumps . " Houston Chronicle contributor Bobby Hankinson called the rendition " gorgeous " and Berk used " perfection " ; Berk went above his five star maximum to give the performance six stars . Roberts found the performance " pretty but uninspired " , though Flandez called it " a dreamy , perfectly pitched power song of lesbian love " and Poniewozik " surprisingly poignant " . Benigno and Slezak both noted that the cover was based on the version by the Dixie Chicks , and gave grades of " A ? " and " B + " respectively . The " B + " from Gonzalez came with a caveat : she wished that Rivera , rather than Paltrow , had sung the lead vocal because of the meaning the song held for Santana . Stevie Nicks welcomed the cover of " Landslide " , and hoped it would bring the Fleetwood Mac 's songs to a new generation . She approved of the performance , and said that Paltrow " sang it beautifully " . On the Hot 100 , the rendition of " Landslide " debuted at number twenty @-@ three ; it was at number thirty @-@ five on the Canadian Hot 100 .

Paltrow 's performance of Adele 's " Turning Tables " was considered inferior to the original . While Flandez called it a " scene @-@ stealing turn " and commended it visually and vocally , he noted that Paltrow lacks Adele 's veracity . Futterman named it her least @-@ favorite of Paltrow 's covers to date and said that her vocals " lacked the texture that made Adele 's version so heartbreaking . " Gonzalez gave the performance her lowest grade of the episode , a " B ? " , and Semigran opined that while Paltrow is " a nice enough singer , " she " in no way has the chops " the piece requires . McNutt characterized the decision to have Paltrow cover " Turning Tables " unfair in comparison to Adele 's original , " given that Paltrow 's singing is only passable " . Slezak , however , said that Paltrow delivered a controlled , understated performance and CNN 's Lisa Respers France simply deemed the performance memorable . The version reached number sixty @-@ six in the US and Canada .