

= Preggers =

" Preggers " is the fourth episode of the American television series Glee . The episode premiered on the Fox network on September 23 , 2009 , and was written and directed by executive producer Brad Falchuk . " Preggers " sees glee club member Kurt ( Chris Colfer ) join the football team and admit his homosexuality to his father , Burt ( Mike O 'Malley ) . Cheerleader Quinn ( Dianna Agron ) discovers she is pregnant and tells her boyfriend Finn ( Cory Monteith ) the baby is his , when in fact the father is his best friend Puck ( Mark Salling ) . Faculty members Sue Sylvester ( Jane Lynch ) and Sandy Ryerson ( Stephen Tobolowsky ) team up in an effort to bring down the glee club , luring away a disillusioned Rachel ( Lea Michele ) , who quits when club director Will ( Matthew Morrison ) refuses to award her a solo song . This episode features the first appearance of O 'Malley as Burt Hummel .

" Preggers " features covers of two songs , and several dance performances of Beyoncé Knowles ' " Single Ladies ( Put a Ring on It ) " . A studio recording of Michele 's cover of " Taking Chances " was released as a single , available for digital download and features on the album Glee : The Music , Volume 1 . The scene in which Kurt comes out to his father was based on the personal experience of series creator Ryan Murphy . Murphy 's intention was to move away from previous shows he has worked on in which gay characters have not been given happy endings , by allowing Kurt to succeed and be accepted .

The episode was watched by 6 @. @ 64 million United States viewers and received mixed reviews from critics . Shawna Malcom of the Los Angeles Times praised the show 's fast pacing ; however , the New York Times 's Mike Hale felt that key characters were not given enough screen time . The football team 's performance of " Single Ladies " and Kurt 's coming out to his father were generally well received ; however , Rachel 's actions garnered little sympathy , and several reviewers commented negatively on Quinn 's pregnancy , with Eric Goldman of IGN deeming it " a very soap opera plotline " .

= = Plot = =

Glee club member Kurt Hummel ( Chris Colfer ) is caught dancing to Beyoncé Knowles 's " Single Ladies " by his father Burt ( Mike O 'Malley ) , and claims that it is a football exercise , and that he is now part of the team . Fellow glee club member and football quarterback Finn Hudson ( Cory Monteith ) helps Kurt to practice , and finds him to be a skilled kicker . Finn convinces coach Ken Tanaka ( Patrick Gallagher ) to let Kurt try out for the team . Ken is delighted to find such an asset for the team and adds Kurt as the kicker .

Finn 's girlfriend Quinn Fabray ( Dianna Agron ) tells him she is pregnant , claiming her pregnancy as a result of Finn 's premature ejaculation when they made out in Quinn 's hot tub . Finn worries that his future prospects will be diminished by fatherhood . He asks glee club director Will Schuester ( Matthew Morrison ) to coach the football team at dancing , believing it will help them to improve , increasing his chances of securing a football scholarship . Finn confides Quinn 's news to his best friend Puck ( Mark Salling ) , who later confronts Quinn , claiming to be the baby 's father , since she said she was a virgin when they had sex . Quinn rejects Puck , calling him a " Lima loser " who could never support her and the baby like Finn . Will 's wife Terri ( Jessalyn Gilsig ) reveals to her sister Kendra ( Jennifer Aspen ) that she experienced a hysterical pregnancy and is not really carrying Will 's baby . Kendra suggests that they acquire a baby , and when Terri learns of Quinn 's pregnancy from Will , she confronts her , asking questions about her prenatal care .

Cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester ( Jane Lynch ) approaches former glee club director Sandy Ryerson ( Stephen Tobolowsky ) and enlists him in her plan to sabotage the club . She blackmails Principal Figgins ( Iqbal Theba ) into appointing Sandy as the school 's new Arts director , and together they hold auditions for a school production of Cabaret , hoping to entice away the glee club 's star , Rachel Berry ( Lea Michele ) . Rachel feels slighted when Will awards Tina Cohen @-@ Chang ( Jenna Ushkowitz ) a solo that she wanted , so she auditions for the musical and is given the lead role . When Will refuses to reassign the solo to Rachel , she quits the club .

The football team puts their dance training into practice by performing the " Single Ladies " routine in the middle of a game , confusing and distracting the opposition , and with Kurt 's help is able to win . Buoyed by his success , Kurt comes out to his father Burt and tells him that he 's homosexual ; Burt tells him he knew all along and loves Kurt just the same .

= = Production = =

" Peggery " was written and directed by Glee 's executive producer and co -@ creator Brad Falchuk . Kurt Fuller guest stars as local news station owner Mr. McClung . The episode features covers of " Taking Chances " by Celine Dion and " Tonight " from West Side Story . Beyoncé Knowles ' " Single Ladies ( Put a Ring on It ) " is also featured in several dance performances . Kurt 's backup dancers for " Single Ladies ( Put a Ring on It ) " are series regular Tina ( Jenna Ushkowitz ) and recurring character Brittany ( Heather Morris ) . Dancer Morris was one of Beyoncé 's backup dancers for " Single Ladies ( Put a Ring on It ) " appearing on The Today Show , Ellen , and others . A studio recording of " Taking Chances " was released as a single , available for digital download , and appeared on the album Glee : The Music , Volume 1 . The track charted at number 79 in Australia , 73 in Canada and 71 in the United States .

The scene in which Kurt comes out to his father was taken verbatim from series creator Ryan Murphy 's own life . Murphy felt that the scene was " a great thing to put on television " , as , while audiences have seen gay characters isolated and attacked , they have rarely seen them ultimately winning and triumphing . He commented that : " The show is about making you feel good in the end . It 's about happy endings and optimism and the power of your personal journey and making you feel that the weird thing about me is the great thing about me . I ? ve done other shows with gay characters , and I will say that in many of those cases , the gay characters didn 't have a happy ending . And I thought you know what ? Enough . " Colfer has commented that his biggest challenge was in ensuring the scene felt " honest " and not comical or " used as a punchline " . He explained : " I think it 's probably the first time a character 's sexuality has been respected and almost dignified in a way , and I think that 's really important , and there needs to be more of that on TV . "

= = Reception = =

" Peggery " was watched by 6 @. 64 million United States viewers and attained a 3 @. 1 / 8 rating / share in the 18 @- 49 demographic . It was the twenty @- second most watched show in Canada for the week of broadcast , with 1 @. 39 million viewers . In the UK , the episode was watched by 1 @. 804 million viewers ( 1 @. 397 million on E4 , and 407 @, 000 on timeshift ) , becoming the most @- watched show on E4 and E4 + 1 for the week , and the most @- watched show on cable for the week , as well as the most watched episode of the series at the time . The episode received mixed reviews from critics . Shawna Malcom for the Los Angeles Times reviewed the episode positively , praising the football team 's performance of the " Single Ladies " dance and Kurt coming out to his father . Malcom also commented positively on the show 's fast pacing ; however , Mike Hale of the New York Post was less favorable , deeming the episode " overstuffed with story lines " . He felt that key characters did not receive enough screentime , and that : " There was so much exposition going on that there didn 't seem to be much room for laughs . "

Tim Stack for Entertainment Weekly wrote that , although the dancing in the episode was fun , " Peggery " was lacking in " big singing moments " apart from Rachel 's performance of " Taking Chances " . He deemed Quinn 's pregnancy " a good dramatic twist " , but hoped that it would not be a long @- lasting storyline . Eric Goldman of IGN rated the episode 8 @. 8 out of 10 . He called the " Single Ladies " performance " a memorable TV moment " , and wrote that Quinn 's pregnancy was a " very soap opera plotline " however commented : " luckily Glee is the kind of show to handle it with humor . "

James Poniewozik for Time deemed Kurt 's coming out " beautifully handled " , commenting : " the fact that Dad ( Mike O 'Malley , who has turned out to be a pretty good character actor ) ends up not

being the boor we think he 's going to be is one of the first signs that Glee is growing up as a series , that having established a world of primary @-@ color stereotypes , it 's now willing to subvert those expectations . " Raymund Flandez of The Wall Street Journal criticized Rachel 's actions in the episode , and felt that : " Rachel has become insufferable . The disagreements with Mr. Schue about her own development as a bona fide triple @-@ threat have branded her as an overbearing prima donna to the rest of Glee . "

The comedic pairing of Sue and Sandy attracted some praise , with Stack deeming them " the best villains ever " . Goldman said that : " Tobolowsky is terrific in this role , as Sandy manages to make everything he says [ ... ] sound amazingly disturbing . " Hale criticized Lynch as Sue , however , writing that she gave a " one @-@ note performance " , suggesting that she had been miscast in the role .