

## = A Night of Neglect =

" A Night of Neglect " is the seventeenth episode of the second season of the American musical television series Glee , and the thirty @-@ ninth episode overall . It was written by Ian Brennan , directed by Carol Banker , and aired on Fox in the United States on April 19 , 2011 . It features the McKinley High glee club , New Directions , fundraising for a fellow extracurricular activity group by holding a benefit concert , while cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester ( Jane Lynch ) attempts to thwart them .

Thirteen guest stars appeared in the episode , including Gwyneth Paltrow in her final season two appearance . Several cast members returned after extended absences : Jessalyn Gilsig , Cheyenne Jackson and Stephen Tobolowsky as members of Sue 's anti @-@ New Directions " League of Doom " , and Charice as student Sunshine Corazon . Four songs were covered and released as singles , and a fifth featured as a dance performance .

Upon its initial airing , the episode was viewed by 9 @.@ 80 million American viewers , and garnered a 3 @.@ 8 / 11 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . Critical commentary was generally negative . Reviewers generally disliked the storyline centered on the under @-@ appreciation of student Mercedes Jones ( Amber Riley ) , though commended her performance of Aretha Franklin 's " Ain 't No Way " . The episode 's comedy moments attracted some praise , though the guest stars and League of Doom plot were ill @-@ received , as was the cutting short of a solo by Jenna Ushkowitz , and a rendition of Adele 's " Turning Tables " by Paltrow , which critics found inferior to the original .

## = = Plot = =

Low on funds for an upcoming competition trip , glee club director Will Schuester ( Matthew Morrison ) suggests that the club members sell saltwater taffy to raise money . New Directions members Mike Chang ( Harry Shum , Jr . ) , Artie Abrams ( Kevin McHale ) and Tina Cohen @-@ Chang ( Jenna Ushkowitz ) reveal they are on the academic decathlon team , which is also having funding problems . Brittany Pierce ( Heather Morris ) is the fourth , stand @-@ in member , and proves surprisingly knowledgeable about cat diseases . Will 's girlfriend , substitute teacher Holly Holliday ( Gwyneth Paltrow ) , suggests holding a benefit concert for the decathlon team instead of selling additional taffy . Former McKinley student Sunshine Corazon ( Charice ) , who defected to rival glee club Vocal Adrenaline , is awarded the closing number at the concert after promising to bring her six hundred Twitter followers .

Cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester ( Jane Lynch ) creates a " League of Doom " , with members that include Will 's ex @-@ wife Terri Schuester ( Jessalyn Gilsig ) , Vocal Adrenaline coach Dustin Goolsby ( Cheyenne Jackson ) , and former McKinley High teacher Sandy Ryerson ( Stephen Tobolowsky ) , to destroy the glee club . Tasked with breaking up Will and Holly , Dustin makes a failed attempt at seducing her . The targeted relationship begins to crumble anyway , when Will helps his former love Emma Pillsbury ( Jayma Mays ) with her stress @-@ worsened OCD , after she reveals that her husband Carl Howell has asked for an annulment .

Former New Directions member Kurt Hummel ( Chris Colfer ) attends the concert , accompanied by his boyfriend Blaine Anderson ( Darren Criss ) . They are confronted by closeted homophobic bully Dave Karofsky ( Max Adler ) , who is forced to back down by Santana Lopez ( Naya Rivera ) , in retribution for previously throwing a slushie in her face . Sunshine and her followers pull out of the concert on Dustin 's orders , and Sandy and McKinley students Jacob Ben Israel ( Josh Sussman ) , Azimio ( James Earl ) and Becky Jackson ( Lauren Potter ) ? the only other members of the audience ? heckle the glee club . Tina is reduced to tears by their booing ; Mike fares better as the hecklers are given taffy to keep their mouths full . During the intermission , Holly talks with the three students about the hidden cost of insults and suggests they cheer as opposed to jeering , but they opt to leave instead . Holly performs Adele 's " Turning Tables " to Will . Mercedes Jones ( Amber Riley ) , who on the advice of Lauren Zizes ( Ashley Fink ) has spent the lead @-@ up to the concert making outrageous demands on her fellow club members to gain greater respect from them ,

performs the final number : a powerhouse version of Aretha Franklin 's " Ain 't No Way " . She wows a stoned Sandy , who donates some of his drug profits to fund the academic decathlon team .

Holly takes a job in Cleveland , leaving Will free to pursue Emma , while Sue decides to bring Terri further into the game . The episode ends on the academic decathlon final 's tiebreaker question , which is in the category " hermaphrodite Nazi sympathizers " , a topic earlier taught in an irreverent history lesson by Holly .

= = Production = =

Thirteen guest stars were featured in " A Night of Neglect " , including Paltrow , who made her third and final second season appearance as substitute teacher Holly Holliday , following " The Substitute " and " Sexy " . Having previously appeared in the second season 's first episode , Jackson and Charice also returned , as Vocal Adrenaline 's Dustin and Sunshine , respectively . Additional recurring guest characters who appeared were New Directions members Mike Chang , Sam Evans ( Chord Overstreet ) and Lauren Zizes , school bullies Dave Karofsky and Azimio , school reporter Jacob Ben Israel , cheerleader Becky Jackson , local news anchor Rod Remington ( Bill A. Jones ) , and Blaine Anderson , lead singer of the Dalton Academy Warblers .

The musical focus of the episode was , according to cast member Cory Monteith , " artists that may have been neglected or under @-@ appreciated over the years " . He revealed that the series ' attempt to clear music licensing rights to a song by Icelandic singer @-@ songwriter Björk was complicated by the fact that she apparently did not have a telephone number . She eventually declined the request , as later revealed by Glee creator Ryan Murphy , because she felt the song would not have been appropriate to use in its proposed accompanying scene , but remained open to future suggestions as she mentioned that she had enjoyed the show . The songs covered in the episode were Aretha Franklin 's " Ain 't No Way " performed by Riley ; Celine Dion 's cover of Eric Carmen 's " All by Myself " performed by Charice ; Lykke Li 's " I Follow Rivers " , performed by Ushkowitz ; and Adele 's " Turning Tables " , performed by Paltrow . This marks the second time " All by Myself " , a song Charice previously performed in concert , was covered on the series , the first being in the first season episode " Showmance " . Jack Johnson 's " Bubble Toes " also featured in the episode , as a dance routine performed by Shum , Jr . All four vocal performances were released as digital singles , though only " All by Myself " and " Turning Tables " charted . The former peaked at number eighty @-@ seven on the Billboard Hot 100 , while the latter reached number sixty @-@ six in both the US and Canada .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" A Night of Neglect " was first broadcast on April 19 , 2011 in the United States . It garnered a 3 @. @ 8 / 11 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , and received nearly 9 @. @ 80 million American viewers during its initial airing . Viewership and ratings were down significantly from those of the previous episode , " Original Song " , which was watched by 11 @. @ 15 million American viewers and acquired a 4 @. @ 2 / 13 rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic upon first airing . It was the most @-@ watched scripted show for the week of broadcast amongst adults aged 18 ? 49 , and ranked 16th amongst all viewers .

The episode 's Canadian broadcast , also on April 19 , 2011 , attained 1 @. @ 74 million viewers and ranked ninth for the week . It registered a slight decline on " Original Song " , which was viewed by 1 @. @ 81 million , but also ranked ninth . In the UK , the episode was broadcast on May 2 , 2011 , and was watched by 2 @. @ 44 million viewers ( 1 @. @ 92 million on E4 , and 520 @, @ 000 on E4 + 1 ) , becoming the most @-@ watched show on E4 and E4 + 1 for the week , and the third most @-@ watched show on cable for the week . Broadcast on May 4 , 2011 in Australia , the episode attained 943 @, @ 000 viewers and ranked tenth for the night .

= = = Critical response = = =

" A Night of Neglect " received generally negative reviews . Erica Futterman of Rolling Stone deemed it a " very predictable episode " , which neglected to take risks with its musical numbers and left her with a " stale feeling " . Sandra Gonzalez of Entertainment Weekly was confused by the message presented . She approved of the Will ? Emma plot and Holly 's departure , but was dismayed by the lack of Kurt and Blaine , and criticized Mercedes ' storyline for its repetitive nature . The Washington Post 's Lisa de Moraes lambasted the League of Doom plot , which , she wrote , consisted of " [ two characters ] whom viewers will barely remember , one who is super creepy , and another who fans despised " . She suggested that they were included for contractual , rather than storyline reasons , though lauded Jackson 's talent for " steal [ ing ] every scene he 's in . " Futterman also praised Jackson 's " long @-@ overdue return " .

CNN 's Lisa Respers France said the episode failed to meet her expectations . She was concerned that Mercedes ' plot may lead towards the character becoming unlikeable , and criticized Holly 's sudden departure . Though she enjoyed Sunshine 's return , seeing Kurt and Blaine at McKinley and Mercedes ' solo , she noted " all of those moments were fleeting and only contributed to the uneven feel of the show . " Amy Reiter of the Los Angeles Times called it a " quirky mixed bag , packed with amusing bits and pieces but very little emotional ( or musical ) oomph . " . Myles McNutt of The A.V. Club graded the episode " C " . He suggested that its purpose was to address two criticisms of the show : the under @-@ use of its supporting cast members , and the " maniacal behavior " of Sue . McNutt wrote , " not only was the execution on these endeavors spotty at best and outright obnoxious at worst , but the growing futility of continuity in this series renders any and all developments wholly temporary . This episode was not a step in the right direction so much as it was an escalator to nowhere : A week from now , the chances of any of this resonating in the show itself is slim to none . " He felt that Mercedes has become a prop , rather than a character , and criticized the episode for attributing her blame for the marginalization the writers have subjected her to .

MTV 's Aly Semigran enjoyed the comedy and conclusion of Holly 's plot , in what she deemed a " pretty decent " episode , though found Charice 's appearance extraneous . IGN 's Robert Canning gave " A Night of Neglect " 8 @.@ 5 / 10 , and called it " a bright and funny installment " . He too praised the comedy storylines , particularly the League of Doom plot and the academic decathlon scenes , as : " it 's this type of off @-@ topic shenanigans ( read : not about fitting in or Rachel Berry becoming a star ) that breathes refreshing life into Glee and keeps reminding us how funny and entertaining this series can be . " He was less impressed with the benefit concert , which he felt harmed the episode 's pacing , and as with Gonzalez , found the nature of Mercedes ' storyline repetitive .

= = = Musical performances = = =

Musical performance in the episode , which Entertainment Weekly 's Emily Exton observed failed to fit the " neglected " criteria , also attracted mixed reviews . Futterman wrote that Charice " pull [ ed ] out all the stops " , with her cover of " All By Myself " , which reached " power notes [ that provided ] a viable threat to Rachel and Mercedes ' diva singing " . The Wall Street Journal 's Raymund Flandez commended her vocal " control and efficiency belying her young age " , Semigran called it a " stirring rendition " , and Gonzalez gave it an " A " , her joint highest grade of the episode . Her second " A " was awarded to " Bubble Toes " , which she called " one of the best [ performances ] of the season . " Semigran concurred , " [ Mike 's ] dancing is awesome . "

Critics disapproved of the continuing trend for cutting short Tina 's solos . Gonzalez gave her rendition of " I Follow Rivers " a " B " and commented : " Will Tina ever get to finish a song ? Well , judging by the 20 seconds we saw , she certainly deserves to . " Futterman called her performance " mostly spot @-@ on " , and TVLine 's Michael Slezak pointed out : " Why is it that every time Tina sings ? remember her sobbing " My Funny Valentine " ? things end weirdly ? I wish we 'd gotten a

little more vocal and a little less booing in an episode about the club 's underappreciated talents . " Exton suggested , " Maybe she 'll get a chance to do a non @-@ comedic relief song in its entirety by season 5 ? " Flandez disliked her performance ; he commented that she sounded " like a flailing white swan , a poor man 's Bjork . "

Holly 's performance of " Turning Tables " was considered inferior to the original . 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 it 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 song requires . While Flandez called it a " scene @-@ stealing turn " and commended it visually and vocally , he noted that Paltrow lacks Adele 's veracity .

Mercedes ' " Ain 't No Way " was named the best performance of the episode by both Futterman , who enjoyed her " powerhouse vocals " , and the New York Post 's Jarett Wieselman , who called it " unbelievable " , and praised the focus placed on Mercedes following a season which failed to showcase her . Flandez described the number as being " glamorously sung like [ the ] star she is " , and hoped that she would be better used in future . In contrast , Reiter called it " a restrained rendition " , but " prettily sung nonetheless " , and Gonzalez struggled to connect with the " uncharacteristically average " song , though noted that for Mercedes that is " still 10 times better than a normal person " and awarded it a " B + " .