

= The Rocky Horror Glee Show =

" The Rocky Horror Glee Show " is the fifth episode of the second season of the American television series Glee , and the twenty @-@ seventh episode overall . It was written by Ryan Murphy , from a story by Murphy and Tim Wollaston , directed by Adam Shankman , and premiered on Fox on October 26 , 2010 . The episode features the glee club paying tribute to the 1973 musical The Rocky Horror Show , with elements of its 1975 film adaptation The Rocky Horror Picture Show , by staging it as a school musical . While cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) attempts to sabotage the production , glee club director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) dwells on his feelings for guidance counselor Emma Pillsbury (Jayma Mays) , and club members Finn (Cory Monteith) and Sam (Chord Overstreet) deal with body image issues . Barry Bostwick and Meat Loaf who star in the original film appear in cameo roles in this episode .

Elements of Rocky Horror were sanitized for the episode , including the costumes and lyrics . Creator Richard O 'Brien expressed disappointment in the dilution of the musical 's themes , and a spokesperson for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation criticized the episode for its use of the pejorative term " tranny " . Watched by 11 @.@ 76 million US viewers , " The Rocky Horror Glee Show " was the fifth consecutive episode of Glee to become the top @-@ rated program on the night of broadcast in the 18 ? 49 demographic . It received a mixed response from critics , was alternatively deemed the series ' best ever themed @-@ episode by Rolling Stone 's Erica Futterman , and was described as the worst hour in the show 's history by Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club .

The episode featured cover versions of seven Rocky Horror songs , which were released on an extended play album . Glee : The Music , The Rocky Horror Glee Show reached number six on the Billboard 200 . It marked the lowest debut and sales for the Glee cast in the US , but the highest position ever reached for a Rocky Horror album . The songs attracted mixed commentary , particularly the performance of " Time Warp " , which was given a grade of " A + " by Entertainment Weekly 's Tim Stack , but derided by Matt Zoller Seitz of Slant Magazine as " very possibly the weakest , most uninspired rendition " he had ever heard .

= = Plot = =

The episode opens with the red lips of glee club member Santana Lopez (Naya Rivera) against a black background as she sings " Science Fiction / Double Feature " . In the school auditorium , the glee club members rehearse The Rocky Horror Show , performing " Over at the Frankenstein Place " . They are interrupted by Dr. Carl Howell (John Stamos) , who accuses club director Will Schuester of trying to steal his girlfriend , school guidance counselor Emma Pillsbury . The episode continues in flashback format , with Will recalling the events leading up to Carl 's accusation .

Will learns that Emma and Carl attended a midnight screening of The Rocky Horror Picture Show , which helped to lessen some of her obsessive ? compulsive behaviors . As Emma is a fan , Will decides to direct the glee club in a production of the musical , casting co @-@ captains Finn Hudson and Rachel Berry (Lea Michele) in the lead roles of Brad and Janet , Mike Chang (Harry Shum , Jr .) as Dr. Frank N. Furter , and Sam Evans (Chord Overstreet) as Rocky . While Sam is proud of his physique and secure in his own body @-@ image , Finn feels self @-@ conscious at the prospect of appearing in his underwear , as the role necessitates .

Cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester is approached by news station managers Tim Stanwick (Barry Bostwick) and Barry Jeffries (Meat Loaf) about producing an undercover exposé of the play , and convinces Will to involve her in the production . When Mike 's parents refuse to let him play Frank N. Furter , a transvestite , Sue manipulates Carl into saving the musical . He auditions with the song " Hot Patootie " , but feels that it would be more appropriate for him to play Eddie . The role of Frank , traditionally played by a male , is instead claimed by Mercedes Jones (Amber Riley) .

Will grows increasingly jealous of Carl as he joins the production . When Sam becomes hesitant to wear his skimpy costume , Will decides that he will play Rocky instead , and asks Emma to rehearse the suggestive " Touch @-@ a , Touch @-@ a , Touch @-@ a , Touch Me " with him . Will is later

called into Principal Figgins ' (Iqbal Theba) office , where he learns that Finn has been suspended for walking through the hallway in his underwear , attempting to become comfortable with his costume . He convinces Figgins to reduce Finn 's punishment , and the episode returns to the opening scene as Carl confronts Will over his private rehearsal with Emma . Alerted to Sue 's planned exposé , Will concedes that his motivations in putting on the production were questionable . He tells Emma that he will cease interfering with her relationship . Though he cancels the play , he has the glee club perform it for themselves , and the episode ends with a group rendition of " Time Warp " .

= = Production = =

When casting Glee , series creator Ryan Murphy required that auditioning actors without theatrical experience demonstrate their ability to sing and dance as well as act . Mays , who was cast as guidance counselor Emma Pillsbury , auditioned with the song " Touch @-@ a , Touch @-@ a , Touch @-@ a , Touch Me " from The Rocky Horror Picture Show . In April 2009 , Murphy told the Los Angeles Times that he would like to have Mays perform the song on Glee . In October 2009 , cast member Chris Colfer deemed " Time Warp " the song he would most like to perform on the show , and suggested a Rocky Horror @-@ themed Halloween episode . Colfer re @-@ iterated his desire to perform " Time Warp " at the 2010 San Diego Comic @-@ Con International , which prompted Murphy to reveal that a Glee episode devoted to Rocky Horror was planned for the show 's second season . At the 2010 Television Critics Association Summer Press Tour , Murphy stated he would be directing the episode , and also revealed that Adam Shankman would guest @-@ direct one of the first ten episodes of the season . Shankman later revealed via the social networking website Twitter that he would in fact be directing the Rocky Horror episode , and commented , " Rocky Horror , while really risqué , is perfect for Glee because they all , in theory , feel like misfits . "

Elements of Rocky Horror were sanitized for the episode , and Shankman believes that he was sought out in order to make the production more audience appropriate . Stamos was initially set to play Dr. Frank N. Furter , but the role was recast due to network resistance . Costumes used in the episode were inspired by the Rocky Horror musical and film , but were adapted for the Glee cast and cost over \$ 30 @,@ 000 . The tight gold lamé underwear worn by Peter Hinwood in the 1975 film were replaced by board shorts for Overstreet . In dressing Riley as Frank , series costume designer Lou Eyrich found it challenging to select outfits which would be acceptable for a primetime series , yet would still appeal to all audiences . To appeal to younger viewers , Eyrich updated the costume worn by Colfer as Riff Raff , pairing a tailcoat with jeans and a J.Crew henley shirt . Michele 's costuming as Janet was similar to her regular wardrobe as Rachel , with Eyrich commenting , " That 's why she was the perfect Janet . " Prior to broadcast , cast member Mark Salling claimed that he would play Rocky Horror 's talking lips . In the event , however , Salling did not appear in the episode . He was temporarily absent from the series , reportedly for creative reasons , and returned in November 2010 . The lips were instead played by Rivera .

Original Rocky Horror cast members Barry Bostwick and Meat Loaf guest @-@ starred in the episode . Bostwick deemed their roles " stunt casting " , but suggested his character may return to the show in future and become involved with Sue . Susan Sarandon told People she was open to appearing in the episode depending on the role , and stated that she was flattered by the planned Glee tribute , but was not approached about appearing . An advance midnight screening of the episode was previewed on October 21 , 2010 at the Angelika Film Center in New York City .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

In its original broadcast , " The Rocky Horror Glee Show " was watched by 11 @.@ 76 million US

viewers and attained a 4 @. @ 9 / 13 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . For the fifth consecutive episode , Glee was the top @-@ rated program of the night among adults aged 18 ? 49 . Both viewership and ratings rose from the previous episode , " Duets " , which was watched by 11 @. @ 36 million viewers and attained a 4 @. @ 7 / 13 rating / share among adults aged 18 ? 49 . In the weekly program rankings , Glee was the fifth most @-@ viewed show among adults 18 ? 49 , and the second scripted show behind only Modern Family . In overall viewers , it placed twentieth for the week .

In Canada , the episode was watched by 2 @. @ 48 million viewers , ranking as the fourth most @-@ watched program for the week of broadcast . Viewership was again up on " Duets " , which attained 2 @. @ 25 million viewers and ranked seventh . The episode 's Australian broadcast drew 1 @. @ 34 million viewers , making Glee the fifth most @-@ watched show of the night and the most @-@ watched with viewers aged under 50 . It placed eleventh in the weekly program rankings . There also , " The Rocky Horror Glee Show " registered a rise on the previous episode , which was watched by 1 @. @ 04 million viewers , placed ninth on the night and twenty @-@ eighth for the week . In the UK , the episode was watched by 2 @. @ 50 million viewers ? 2 @. @ 121 million on E4 , and 385 @, @ 000 on E4 + 1 ? becoming the most @-@ watched show on cable for the week . Viewership remained static from " Duets " , which also attained an audience of 2 @. @ 50 million .

= = = Critical response = = =

Rocky Horror creator Richard O 'Brien was disappointed that the episode diluted the themes of the musical , and was puzzled that the word " transsexual " was censored . Matt Kane , entertainment media manager for the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation , criticized the use of the pejorative term " tranny " in its place , and found it " particularly alarming " given that the season one episode " Theatricality " presented a negative reaction to the use of a homophobic slur . " Critics had a mixed reaction to the episode . Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club graded it an " F " and said it was " the worst hour this show has ever produced " . He felt that it was overly ambitious , and that in attempting to skirt humorously around the issue of transsexuals , the end result was " more offensive than if the show had simply ignored the whole thing to begin with . " Matt Zoller Seitz of Slant Magazine called it a " travesty " and criticized " the arms @-@ length treatment of the Frank N. Furter character " , and Amy Reiter of the Los Angeles Times deemed the episode flawed through its sanitization , despite initially having found the two shows " a particularly promising match " .

" The Rocky Horror Glee Show " received several favorable comparisons to previous themed episodes ; Erica Futterman of Rolling Stone deemed it the best yet . Both Entertainment Weekly 's Tim Stack and Jarett Wieselman of the New York Post preferred it to the Britney Spears tribute episode " Britney / Brittany " ; Wieselman hailed it as a " run @-@ away success " that would satisfy Rocky Horror fans without being a " homage for homage 's sake " like the Spears episode , and Stack felt that Rocky Horror was a " perfect fit " for Glee , due to thematic similarities between the two . While previous Glee tributes attracted criticism for their focus on musical numbers to the detriment of plot , Jenna Mullins of E ! Online and CBS News ' Jessica Derschowitz appreciated that " The Rocky Horror Glee Show " was more story @-@ driven .

Critics generally disliked the focus the episode placed on the adult characters , with many objecting to Will 's characterisation . VanDerWerff wrote that his storyline with Emma " misplac [ed] what made either of the characters enjoyable in the first place " , and IGN 's Robert Canning ? who otherwise enjoyed the episode , and rated it 8 @. @ 5 / 10 ? observed that Will was presented as being selfish and a " terrible educator " , in contrast to his former role as the moral centre of the show . Lisa de Moraes of The Washington Post initially found the focus on the adults a welcome change , but felt their storyline rapidly became convoluted . Anthony Benigno of the Daily News liked Will less as the episode progressed , and deemed it overall , " Creepy , vaguely uncomfortable , in slightly poor taste but well @-@ intentioned , and ultimately , thoroughly entertaining to watch for reasons I can 't quite put into words . " CNN 's Lisa Respers France actually enjoyed the episode for the additional depth it brought to Will and his feelings for Emma , as well as Finn and his body image issues . While Stack commended the male body image storyline , and found it refreshing for a

program to examine the objectification of men , de Moraes derided it , and likened Finn and Sam 's discussion about eating healthily and working out to an " after school special " .

The episode 's conclusion ? in which Will declares that the original Rocky Horror fans and New Directions members are united by their outcast status ? was widely criticized , with VanDerWerff deeming it a " series lowpoint " , and " a muddled , terrible message , particularly in an episode that seems to have an uneasy relationship with actual outcasts , transsexuals . " Both Reiter and Aly Semigran of MTV questioned the resolution , with Reiter stating that it was unclear what message the creators were attempting to convey , and Semigran finding it disjointed , suggesting " The Rocky Horror Glee Show " to be a " rare Glee misstep " .

= = Music = =

= = = Performances = = =

Seven Rocky Horror songs were covered in the episode . The opening number of " Science Fiction / Double Feature " , performed by Rivera and represented by a disembodied pair of red lips , mirrored the opening to The Rocky Horror Picture Show . The song segued into a rehearsal of " Over at the Frankenstein Place " , which was followed by a rehearsal of " Dammit Janet " ? the former with Michele on lead vocals , and the latter featuring Michele , Monteith , Colfer , Agron and Riley . Stamos ' first vocal performance for the series followed , as he gave a rendition of " Hot Patootie " . Stamos reportedly feigned illness in order to work with a private vocal coach and dance instructor on the number , and hired his own studio in which to rehearse . The performance entailed a shot @-@ by @-@ shot recreation of the original choreography . " Sweet Transvestite " featured Riley on lead vocals , and " Touch @-@ a , Touch @-@ a , Touch @-@ a , Touch Me " showcased Mays , in her first lead performance since " I Could Have Danced All Night " in season one . The episode then closed with a group rendition of " Time Warp " .

= = = Commentary = = =

Musical performances in the episode attracted mixed commentary , particularly " Time Warp " . Stack rated all of the songs a " B " grade or higher , and gave " Time Warp " the highest grade of an " A + " . He called it his favorite moment of the episode , and praised its energy ; he wrote that Quinn made a " surprisingly good " Magenta . Semigran also praised the number , and commended the performances by Morris , Monteith , Agron and particularly Colfer , who , she wrote , " looked and sounded the part so well , you 'd swear you were watching the original Rocky Horror Picture Show " . In a generally negative review of the episode , Reiter commented that despite her dissatisfaction , she found herself singing along to " Time Warp " with " disconcerting enthusiasm " , and was " nostalgically transported against [her] better judgment " . In contrast , VanDerWerff stated that he would have increased his review of the episode from an " F " to a " D " had " Time Warp " been better , as he had " never seen a more lifeless version " . Zoller Seitz similarly called it " very possibly the weakest , most uninspired rendition " he had ever seen , and criticized the side @-@ lining of Colfer in favor of Monteith .

Semigran said the song " Dammit Janet " was " spirited and spot @-@ on " , and Benigno graded it an " A " , though observed that it was " painfully obvious " Michele and Monteith were lip @-@ syncing . Futterman described the performance as " fully engaged , campy to the max and totally on point " . " Hot Patootie " resulted in praise for Stamos , with Stack grading it an " A " and comparing it favorably to the actor 's singing on Full House , and Semigran recommending that he be cast in a Broadway revival of The Rocky Horror Show . Benigno wrote that his voice lacked Meat Loaf 's " rock n ' roll howl " , but praised his charisma and dancing , and graded the performance an " A ? " .

Critics disagreed over the casting of Mercedes as Frank . Semigran felt that , as sung by a female , " Sweet Transvestite " lost its shock value . Raymund Flandez of The Wall Street Journal would have preferred Salling 's Puck in the role , but praised Riley 's vocals , writing that her solo " woke us

all up from the timid pacing ". Benigno also enjoyed the number , and found that while Mercedes lacked the stage presence of Tim Curry , Riley did something " completely remarkable " as Frank , giving a largely flawless performance . He named " Touch @-@ a , Touch @-@ a , Touch @-@ a , Touch Me " the best song of the episode , and graded it " A + " . Despite finding the episode " abrupt , uneven [and] sanitized " , Flandez felt that it was saved by this performance . Futterman remarked that having Emma in the role of Janet was " ideal " , but preferred the song visually to vocally . Zoller Seitz disliked the change in Emma 's characterization which brought about the number , and while he wrote that " Mays was so charming that she almost , almost saved it " , he ultimately found the " motivational contortions " insulting to the audience .

= = = Chart history = = =

Glee : The Music , The Rocky Horror Glee Show , an extended play accompanying the episode , was released on October 19 , 2010 . Its tracklist includes each of the seven songs covered . The soundtrack debuted at number six on the Billboard 200 , with 48 @, @ 000 copies sold . It marked the lowest debut and sales for the Glee cast in the US , but the highest position ever reached for a Rocky Horror album . The EP attained lower chart positions internationally , peaking at number eight in Australia , ten in Canada , fifteen in Ireland , and twenty @-@ three in the UK . " Time Warp " was the only song from the EP to chart on the Billboard Hot 100 , attaining a position of eighty @-@ nine . Internationally , its highest peak was in Ireland , where it reached number forty @-@ two . " Touch @-@ a , Touch @-@ a , Touch @-@ a , Touch Me " was the only other track from the EP to place on the singles charts , peaking at number seventy @-@ two in the UK .