

= Gypsies , Tramps and Weed =

" Gypsies , Tramps and Weed " is the seventh episode of the third season of the American television series Will & Grace . It was written by Katie Palmer and directed by series producer James Burrows . The episode originally aired on the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) in the United States on November 16 , 2000 . Guest stars in " Gypsies , Tramps and Weed " include Cher , Camryn Manheim , and Robert Romanus .

In the episode , Will (Eric McCormack) reluctantly decides to use a birthday gift certificate from Grace (Debra Messing) to consult a psychic about his future and encounters Sue (Manheim) , an absent @-@ minded psychic whose prediction leaves him reeling . Meanwhile , pop singer @-@ songwriter Cher encounters her biggest fan : Jack (Sean Hayes) ; and Karen (Megan Mullally) frowns on Grace 's new employee (Romanus) at the design firm .

One of the aspects of the episode focused on Jack carrying a Cher doll , as his adoration for the singer . The result of the doll 's appearance was a " collaboration " among the show 's staff , NBC , Mattel , and the Ketchum Entertainment Marketing unit . Mattel lent the producers a \$ 60 @,@ 000 prototype of the doll . Will & Grace producer Tim Kaiser noted that the doll 's appearance was not any kind of " forced " product placement .

Since airing , " Gypsies , Tramps and Weed " has received positive reviews from television critics . The episode was watched by approximately 22 million viewers and received a 14 @.@ 8 rating , among viewers in the 18 ? 49 demographic , according to Nielsen ratings . It was also the show 's second @-@ highest rating ever .

= = Plot = =

Grace (Debra Messing) , Jack (Sean Hayes) , and Karen (Megan Mullally) are celebrating Will 's (Eric McCormack) birthday at a restaurant . As a present , Grace gives Will a gift certificate from a psychic . During the dinner , their waiter Lenny (Robert Romanus) is rude to them , particularly to Grace . She complains to the manager which ultimately leads to the dismissal of Lenny . Guilty of the result , Grace hires Lenny as her new office assistant , much to the displeasure of Karen , her other assistant .

Meanwhile , Will visits Psychic Sue (Camryn Manheim) at her home . Psychic Sue begins Will 's reading which leads her to tell him that she is sensing a " trip " , not for him , but intended for someone close to him , and that she is " getting " China . Will is puzzled to hear that a " strawberry blond hair woman , with brown eyes " still loves him , and he reveals to Psychic Sue that he is gay . Will tells Grace of what occurred with Psychic Sue , which leads to Grace " tripping " over the steps in the kitchen , and her saying " I just broke my grandmother 's China . " Will reacts to what Psychic Sue told him . He also learns that his parents send him a package containing photos of his deceased dog , Daisy , who had " thick coat of strawberry blond hair . " Will revisits Psychic Sue with the intention of knowing about his future love life . She tells Will that the man he will end up with is named " Jack " . Will tells Grace about his return visit to Psychic Sue and how he will end up with someone named " Jack " . Will is frightened of the idea that he and his friend Jack , also gay , will end up together . Will finally tells Jack what the psychic said , which horrifies Jack , but Will and Jack realize they are meant to stay together , just in the non @-@ romantic relationship they have always had .

At Grace Adler Designs , Lenny promises Grace clients , but instead he has clients whom he sells cannabis to . Grace discovers what Lenny is doing , and fires him for taking advantage of her . Meanwhile , Jack carries a Cher doll , an adoration he has for the singer . He begins to annoy his friends with the doll , mainly having a booster seat for the doll at a restaurant . At the same restaurant , Jack encounters Cher , who tells him it is strange that he talks to her doll . Jack , however , believes that Cher is a drag queen . Annoyed , Cher starts to leave , but returns to sing " If I could turn back time " to convince him that she is indeed Cher . He does not believe it , which leads Cher to slap him and finally Jack realizing that it is Cher .

= = Production = =

" Gypsies , Tramps and Weed " was written by Katie Palmer and directed by series producer James Burrows . In October 2000 , it was confirmed that singer @-@ songwriter Cher would guest star on Will & Grace as herself . She filmed her appearance on October 17 . Cher revealed , " We did two endings . I improvised one . I hope they show it as an outtake ' cause the audience loved that one more than the one they 're gonna show . Instead of the thing I was supposed to do , I did something to Sean [Hayes] ? something completely different and he just about passed out . I don 't know what possessed me . " It was also announced that actress Camryn Manheim would appear . Cher would later guest star on Will & Grace two years later .

The result of the Cher doll appearing in the episode was a " collaboration " among the Will & Grace staff , NBC , Mattel , and the Ketchum Entertainment Marketing unit . The collaboration ranged from Mattel lending the producers a \$ 60 @,@ 000 prototype of the doll for filming the episode , to the scheduling of a Mattel Web site where viewers interested in buying the doll could register to purchase it . Following the airing of " Gypsies , Tramps and Weed " , it was reported that 1 @,@ 200 people logged on Mattel 's website requesting e @-@ mail updates on the Cher doll . Co @-@ creator of the show , Max Mutchnick kept the prototype .

Will & Grace producer , Tim Kaiser , in an interview with The New York Times , said that the doll 's appearance was not any kind of " forced " product placement , as some speculated , explaining , " It was just a natural fit , because Jack 's affection for Cher is a thread that is running through the show already . " Kaiser continued saying that NBC " saw the strength " of the episode 's storyline and understood that " if a Cher doll is in the show that much , it 's an integral part of the episode . " Kaiser said that " Gypsies , Tramps and Weed " writer Katie Palmer " originally didn 't know " Mattel planned to market a Cher doll and learned about it after working on the script . Curt King , a spokesman for NBC , further commented that the doll 's role in the episode was due to the producers thinking of " a lot of humor [that] would come out of it . " Mark Malinowski , senior vice president and director at Ketchum Entertainment Marketing , revealed that Mattel was launching the Cher doll and in a " brainstorming meeting " they mentioned Will & Grace as the Jack character in love with Cher . " We thought it would be great to try to include the doll in a plot line of an episode because it would be organic , playing off something that already exists . I don 't think any viewer will see this and think ' product placement . ' [...] It 's strategic for the product and relevant for the audience , particularly the gay men who watch the show because the characters of Jack and Will are gay . " It was also noted that Mattel did not pay a fee to the show 's producers or NBC to have the Cher doll appear in the episode .

Television critic Scott D. Pierce revealed that NBC did not want television critics to give away too much detail about Jack and Cher 's " time together " . In a June 2004 interview , actress Megan Mullally , who plays Karen , in regards to Cher 's appearance , said : " I wasn 't sure about Cher 's [appearance] . They flew her in . Like , she was sort of dropped in on a crescent moon , she did the scene , and was , like , airlifted back out . And when I met her she was in her full Cher Land drag , so I didn 't get to experience her as a person . "

= = Reception = =

In its original American broadcast , " Gypsies , Tramps and Weed " was watched by approximately 22 million viewers . The episode received a 14 @.@ 8 rating , according to Nielsen ratings , among viewers in the 18 ? 49 demographic . It was Will & Grace 's second @-@ highest rating ever . The episode finished in fifth place in the weekly ratings for the week of November 13 ? 19 , 2000 . Since airing , the episode received positive reviews .

Steve Johnson of the Chicago Tribune in regard to Cher 's appearance , said " she is put to grand comic use , showcasing the talents of [Sean] Hayes as the series continues to climb to the top tier of TV comedy . " Liz Lucero of the Columbia Daily Spectator said that Cher 's role was " small enough to still let the core characters shine " , meanwhile Scott D. Pierce of the Deseret News said that Cher 's guest spot " is also sort of a logical place " for her to make an appearance , " albeit in an

odd sort of way . " Pierce continued to report that Jack and Cher 's scene at the end was a " hoot " . Lisa de Moraes of The Washington Post said that the character Jack " did a better Cher than Cher did . " The Orlando Sentinel 's Hal Boedeker called Cher 's cameo " amusing " .

Tom Shales of The Washington Post said , " There are a few laughs in Katie Palmer 's script " . Pierce was complimentary towards Camryn Manheim opining , " she does a delicious turn as a wacky psychic who 's about as different from the character she plays on The Practice as you could imagine . " Chicago Sun @-@ Times ' contributor Phil Rosenthal said that the " most interesting guest " on " Gypsies , Tramps and Weed " was Robert Romanus .

The episode can be found on the Season 3 DVD set . However , like many of the episodes throughout the series , this episode is shown in its syndicated version . Several trims were made between the version that originally aired and the version contained on the U.S. and international releases .