

= Showmance ( Glee ) =

" Showmance " is the second episode of the American television series Glee . The episode premiered on the Fox network on September 9 , 2009 . It was written by series co @-@ creators Ryan Murphy , Brad Falchuk and Ian Brennan and directed by Murphy . The episode sees the glee club attempt to recruit new members by performing Salt @-@ n @-@ Pepa 's " Push It " in a school assembly . It advances the love triangles between Rachel ( Lea Michele ) , Finn ( Cory Monteith ) and Quinn ( Dianna Agron ) and Emma ( Jayma Mays ) , Will ( Matthew Morrison ) and Terri ( Jessalyn Gilsig ) , and sees antagonist Sue Sylvester ( Jane Lynch ) begin to conspire against the club .

The episode features covers of six songs . Studio recordings of three of the songs performed were released as singles , available for digital download . Three of the tracks also appear on the album Glee : The Music , Volume 1 . " Showmance " introduces recurring cast members Jennifer Aspen , Kenneth Choi , and Heather Morris , and guest @-@ stars Valorie Hubbard .

The episode was watched by 7 @.@ 3 million US viewers , and was the best @-@ received scripted premiere by Fox in three years . The performance of Kanye West 's " Gold Digger " in particular drew positive reviews from critics , with Jarett Wieselman of the New York Post and Entertainment Weekly 's Tim Stack comparing the episode favorably to the series ' pilot episode . Brian Lowry for Variety , however , received the episode poorly , deeming the show a one @-@ hit wonder , while Robert Lloyd of the Los Angeles Times noted weaknesses in the adult characters .

= = Plot = =

Cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester ( Jane Lynch ) informs glee club director Will Schuester ( Matthew Morrison ) that New Directions must have twelve members to be eligible to compete at Regionals . Will decides to have New Directions perform in a school assembly , hoping to recruit new members . The group is opposed to his choice of song ? " Le Freak " by Chic ? so as a compromise , Will suggests they also learn " Gold Digger " by Kanye West . Rachel Berry 's ( Lea Michele ) crush on Finn Hudson ( Cory Monteith ) leads her to join the celibacy club , which he attends with his girlfriend , Quinn Fabray ( Dianna Agron ) , who is head of the Cheerios . Rachel soon realizes that the celibacy club is really a place where teens try to get as physically close to each other as possible without technically engaging in any kind of sexual activity , and she impresses Finn by saying celibacy club doesn 't work because it is normal for teenagers to want to have sex .

Rachel also convinces the Glee club members to secretly change their performance to " Push It " by Salt @-@ n @-@ Pepa to give audience members what they want , " sex " . The song is well received by the student body , however complaints from parents lead Principal Figgins ( Iqbal Theba ) to compile a list of pre @-@ approved , sanitary songs which New Directions must choose from in future . Will is angry with Rachel for her actions , and when Quinn and fellow cheerleaders Santana ( Naya Rivera ) and Brittany ( Heather Morris ) audition for the club with a tongue @-@ in @-@ cheek rendition of " I Say a Little Prayer " , he gives Rachel 's solo on " Don 't Stop Believin ' " to Quinn . Sue later recruits Quinn to help her bring the glee club down from the inside , angered because Figgins has cut some of her funds to finance the club .

At home , Will is being pushed by his wife , Terri ( Jessalyn Gilsig ) , to find a second job so that they can afford to move into a new house before the birth of their child . He begins working at the school as a janitor after hours , and shares a romantic moment with guidance counselor Emma Pillsbury ( Jayma Mays ) . Football coach Ken Tanaka ( Patrick Gallagher ) observes them , and warns Emma not to become Will 's rebound girl . When Will asks her to meet with him after school again , Emma turns him down , having accepted a date with Ken . Terri discovers that she is actually experiencing a hysterical pregnancy , but she cannot bring herself to tell Will , so she lies to him that they are having a son . She tells him to quit working as a janitor , offering up use of her craft room as a nursery for the baby so they do not need to move .

Following a private rehearsal , Finn and Rachel kiss , and he is suddenly overwhelmed and

experiences premature ejaculation . Embarrassed , he leaves , telling her to forget that their tryst happened , and goes back to Quinn . A dismayed Rachel later sings Rihanna 's " Take a Bow " with Glee club members Mercedes ( Amber Riley ) and Tina ( Jenna Ushkowitz ) singing backup .

= = Production = =

The first public screening of " Showmance " occurred in July 2009 , at the Glee Comic @-@ Con panel . Scott Collins of the Los Angeles Times wrote that turnout for the panel was standing @-@ room only , and deemed the reception " enthusiastic " . Recurring cast members who appear in the episode are Gallagher as football coach Ken Tanaka , Iqbal Theba as Principal Figgins , Jennifer Aspen as Terri 's sister Kendra Giardi , Romy Rosemont as Finn 's mother Carole Hudson , Ken Choi as Terri 's OB / GYN Dr. Wu , and Rivera and Morris as new glee club members Santana Lopez and Brittany Pierce . Valorie Hubbard guest stars as Peggy .

It was revealed at the 2011 Glee Comic @-@ Con panel that a scene had been written for this episode that featured Rachel 's fathers , but it was subsequently cut from the script even though the actors had already been cast and reported for shooting .

= = Music = =

The episode features cover versions of Kanye West 's " Gold Digger " , Salt @-@ n @-@ Pepa 's " Push It " , " Take a Bow " by Rihanna , " I Say a Little Prayer " by Dionne Warwick , Chic 's " Le Freak " , and " All by Myself " by Eric Carmen . Studio recordings of " Gold Digger " , " Take a Bow " and " Push It " were released as singles , available for download . " Gold Digger " charted at number 59 in Australia , " Take a Bow " at number 38 in Australia , 73 in Canada and 46 in America , and " Push It " at number 60 in Australia . " Gold Digger " and " Take a Bow " are included on the album Glee : The Music , Volume 1 , with a studio recording of " I Say a Little Prayer " included as a bonus track on discs purchased from iTunes . " Take a Bow " was offered for use in the episode at a reduced licensing rate , something which surprised Murphy , who believed he would not be able to secure the rights to the song . He stated : " Usually , people who have no . 1 hits , even if they give it to you , want hundreds of thousands of dollars , in my experience . But Rihanna gave it to us for a really good price . That 's been one of the cool and surprising things about this experience , that these people that the cast and we really admire and respect have found out about the show and are supportive . "

= = Reception = =

" Showmance " averaged 7 @.@ 3 million US viewers , making Glee the second most watched show of the evening after NBC 's America 's Got Talent . It achieved a 3 @.@ 5 / 9 rating / share in the 18 @-@ 49 demographic , making it Fox 's best scripted premiere in three years . However , as Scott Collins for the Los Angeles Times noted , the other major networks besides Fox all opened the evening by airing a speech by President Barack Obama , disrupting regular viewing patterns . Furthermore , the official fall season had yet to begin , placing Glee against weaker competition in the ratings than the remainder of the season would experience . " Showmance " was the third most watched show in Canada for the week of broadcast , with 1 @.@ 77 million viewers . In the UK , the episode was shown straight after the pilot episode , and was watched by 1 @.@ 45 million viewers ( 1 @.@ 22 million on E4 , and 227 @,@ 000 on timeshift ) , becoming the most @-@ watched show on E4 for the week , and the most @-@ watched show on cable for the week .

The episode received generally positive reviews from critics . Shawna Malcom for the Los Angeles Times wrote that with " Showmance " , Glee : " admirably lived up to the promise of its pilot " . Jarett Wieselmann of the New York Post wrote that " Showmance " " actually trumps the pilot in terms of sheer brilliance , laugh @-@ out @-@ loud moments and heart " , while Entertainment Weekly 's Tim Stack called the episode " really really fun " , observing that : " The quality seen in the pilot definitely does not waver . If anything , the show seems to be finding its footing and tone . " David

Hinckley of the Daily News rated the episode 4 out of 5 stars and commented : " Glee could have a hard time sustaining what it has set up . But the opening number gives us a rousing good show . " The episode 's musical numbers attracted positive reviews , particularly Will 's rendition of " Gold Digger " . Raymund Flandez for The Wall Street Journal praised this performance , also describing the group performance of " Push It " as " glorious in encapsulating every teenage horror " . Discussing the performance of " Gold Digger " , Dave Itzkoff for The New York Times wrote : " Outside of the catalog of 2 Live Crew , it 's hard to imagine a song more inappropriate for a high school glee club [ ... ] but the young misfits of the Fox comedy Glee somehow made it work . "

Brian Lowry for Variety , however , criticized the episode . He wrote that Lynch 's performance was " fitfully funny but usually just plain annoying " , calling the pregnancy subplot " credulity @-@ straining " . Lowry praised Colfer and Michele , however stated that the show 's talent was squandered by its " jokey , cartoonish , wildly uneven tone " . He deemed the show a " one @-@ hit wonder " , writing that : " the musical numbers ? generally less infectious and buoyant than the first time out ? can ? t compensate for overly broad characterizations and absurdly soapy situations . " Robert Bianco for USA Today gave a mixed review , commenting : " It would be better if Glee had more control and fewer abrupt tonal shifts , but that 's not the Glee we 're getting ? and maybe it wouldn 't be Glee at all . It 's not perfect , but in a sea of procedural conformity , Glee is its own weird , often enchanting little island escape . " While Hank Stuever for The Washington Post praised the show 's inclusion of adult storylines alongside teenage drama , Robert Lloyd for the Los Angeles Times felt that the adult characters " tend more to caricature than character " , writing of Sue that : " the writing flattens her toward a single note . She 's funny from line to line , but there is little to her besides tin @-@ pot contrariness . " The Chicago Tribune 's Maureen Ryan commented similarly : " there 's one big flaw in Glee [ ... ] and it may be a harbinger of bad things to come . Will 's wife , Terri ( Jessalyn Gilsig ) , manages to drain all the fun out of Glee every time she appears . " Ryan received the younger cast more positively , stating that there were " no weak links " , and praising Colfer and Michele in particular .