

= Big Brother (Glee) =

" Big Brother " is the fifteenth episode and spring premiere of the third season of the American musical television series Glee , and the fifty @-@ ninth overall . Written by Michael Hitchcock and directed by Eric Stoltz , the episode first aired on Fox in the United States on April 10 , 2012 . It features the introduction of special guest star Matt Bomer as Blaine Anderson 's (Darren Criss) elder brother Cooper , and the revelation of how badly injured Quinn Fabray (Dianna Agron) had been in the automobile accident that had ended the previous episode , " On My Way " .

The episode received mixed to positive reviews , and most critics praised Bomer 's performance as the elder Anderson brother . Reviewers were divided in their opinions of how Quinn 's storyline played out , though with her in a wheelchair , there were a number of favorable comments about her scenes with Artie , who acted as her wheelchair mentor . Their two songs together were given a mixed response and did not chart ; by contrast , " Somebody That I Used to Know " , performed by Bomer and Criss , was given an enthusiastic reception , and sold 152 @,@ 000 digital copies in the US in its first week . The song charted on the Billboard Hot 100 ahead of the other Bomer and Criss duet , a mashup of " Hungry Like the Wolf " and " Rio " . These two songs , along with " Fighter " , a Criss solo , charted on the Billboard Canadian Hot 100 .

Upon its initial airing , this episode was viewed by 6 @.@ 76 million American viewers and received a 2 @.@ 7 / 8 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . The total viewership was down significantly from the winter finale , " On My Way " , which had been broadcast seven weeks previously .

= = Plot = =

Quinn 's (Dianna Agron) car accident has left her in a wheelchair , suffering from a severely compressed spine . On her return to school , she performs " I 'm Still Standing " for the glee club with Artie (Kevin McHale) , and tells them she is happy to have survived and they should not feel sorry for her : she has some feeling in her legs and is planning on a full recovery .

Principal Figgins (Iqbal Theba) informs Sue (Jane Lynch) that swim coach Roz Washington (NeNe Leakes) is now Sue 's cheerleading co @-@ coach . Sue makes a deal with Figgins : if she helps New Directions win the Nationals show choir competition , she can regain sole control of the Cheerios . Sue offers Will (Matthew Morrison) her assistance and takes over dance rehearsals . She is a harsh and insulting taskmaster , which upsets the glee club .

Cooper Anderson (Matt Bomer) , Blaine 's (Darren Criss) older brother and an actor in television ads , visits McKinley High and is treated as a celebrity by Blaine 's boyfriend Kurt (Chris Colfer) and Sue . Blaine is unhappy , though , when after he and Cooper do an impromptu mashup of two Duran Duran songs in the choir room , Cooper finds fault with Blaine 's singing . Sue recruits Cooper to give an acting master class for the club , which contains such bad advice that Blaine is appalled . Worse , Cooper subsequently criticizes Blaine 's acting in a class scene .

Most of New Directions goes on a " senior ditch day " to Six Flags , but Artie takes Quinn to a skate park designed for people with disabilities to enjoy adventurous sports . Quinn has a great time , but when Artie broaches the possibility that she might always need a wheelchair ; she asserts that she will walk again . Quinn is later assisted by fellow " God Squad " member Joe (Samuel Larsen) , who has been praying for her . She decides to sponsor him to join the glee club .

Sue goes to the doctor to find out the sex of her baby , accompanied by Emma (Jayma Mays) and Will . The doctor says that Sue is having a girl , but her amniocentesis results show " irregularities " . Sue later tells cheerleader Becky (Lauren Potter) , who has Down syndrome , that Sue 's baby will be " just like her " ; Becky advises Sue to learn to be patient . Sue tells the glee club she will moderate her harsh coaching methods as long as they give her their all .

Puck (Mark Salling) wants Finn (Cory Monteith) to join him in moving his pool @-@ cleaning business to California . Finn demurs , but later broaches the possibility to his fiancée Rachel (Lea Michele) as an alternative to New York . She is aghast , and says she needs him with her in New York ; he replies that she needs to be sure she loves him for who he is , not who she wants him to

be .

Kurt urges Blaine not to give up on Cooper , who is in the auditorium , and Blaine sings an emotional " Somebody That I Used to Know " to Cooper ? and then with him . Afterward , Cooper apologizes to Blaine , and tells him he has always known how truly talented Blaine is . The two determine to be friends as well as brothers .

= = Production = =

" Big Brother " is the fourth episode in the third season to be directed by Eric Stoltz , and the second to be written by Michael Hitchcock . Shooting began by February 10 , 2012 , and continued at least through February 21 ; it had ended before February 23 , when shooting on the following episode commenced .

The news that Bomer had been cast as Blaine 's brother appeared on January 27 , 2012 . Bomer had suggested to Glee co @-@ creator Ryan Murphy that he consider using Gotye 's song featuring Kimbra , " Somebody That I Used to Know " , as a duet on the show . Murphy had already thought of doing the song , and a week later Bomer received a text from Murphy asking if he " wanted to come on the show to sing it " . Bomer 's scenes as Cooper were shot starting February 13 . In addition , it was reported in early February that there would be a flashback scene featuring Cooper and Blaine when they were children ; young actors were then being cast for the roles .

In addition to duetting on " Somebody That I Used to Know " , Bomer and Criss perform a mashup of the Duran Duran songs " Hungry Like the Wolf " and " Rio " early in the episode . Criss also sings Christina Aguilera 's " Fighter " . These songs were released as singles available for digital download , along with two others from the episode , " Up Up Up " and " I 'm Still Standing " , both performed by Agron and McHale .

The amusement park scenes in the episode were shot at Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia , California . The roller coaster sequences were shot on the Viper ride .

Recurring guest stars appearing in the episode include Principal Figgins (Theba) , coach Roz Washington (Leakes) , glee club members Sam Evans (Chord Overstreet) , Rory Flanagan (Damian McGinty) and Sugar Motta (Vanessa Lengies) , cheerleader Becky Jackson (Potter) and recent McKinley transfer student Joe Hart (Larsen) .

= = Reception = =

= = = Ratings = = =

" Big Brother " was first broadcast on April 10 , 2012 , in the United States on Fox . It received a 2 @.@ 7 / 8 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , and attracted 6 @.@ 76 million American viewers during its initial airing , a decrease of approximately 10 % from the 3 @.@ 0 / 8 rating / share and 7 @.@ 46 million viewers of the previous episode , " On My Way " , which was broadcast on February 21 , 2012 . Viewership increased in Canada , where 1 @.@ 79 million viewers watched the episode on the same day as its American premiere . It was the tenth most @-@ viewed show of the week , up five slots and almost 3 % from the 1 @.@ 74 million viewers who watched " On My Way " seven weeks previously .

In the United Kingdom , " Big Brother " first aired on April 12 , 2012 , and was watched on Sky 1 by 759 @,@ 000 viewers . Viewership was down slightly from " On My Way " , which attracted 763 @,@ 000 viewers when it aired two weeks before . In Australia , " Big Brother " was broadcast on Thursday , April 12 , 2012 , a change from the Friday time slot used for the seventh through fourteenth episodes of the season . It was watched by 655 @,@ 000 viewers , an increase of over 17 % from the 558 @,@ 000 viewers for " On My Way " on March 23 , 2012 . This made Glee the twelfth most @-@ watched program of the night , up from fifteenth nearly three weeks before .

= = = Critical reception = = =

The episode received mixed to positive reviews , though most reviewers expressed enthusiasm for guest star Bomer as the elder Anderson brother . Jeff Dodge of BuddyTV wrote that the episode was " very strong " , while The A.V. Club 's Todd VanDerWerff , although he gave the episode a " B " grade , called it " forgettable " aside from Bomer 's performance , which he described as " absolutely terrific " . Erin Strecker of Entertainment Weekly characterized the episode as a " laugh @-@ out @-@ loud funny " and Rae Votta of Billboard expressed similar sentiments , though she also said there was " definitely room for improvement " after a show that was " more fluff than substance " , albeit " delicious fluff " . Washington Post 's Jen Chaney described it as a " pretty lackluster episode " .

Bomer received plaudits from most reviewers . Crystal Bell of the Huffington Post called his appearance " perfect casting " and Bomer as one of her favorite guest stars . Strecker and VanDerWerff praised the " hilariously bad acting advice " in Cooper 's master class , and VanDerWerff said that the storyline of Blaine being " overshadowed by his charismatic older brother " worked " because the actors were so damn committed to it " . Houston Chronicle 's Bobby Hankinson was not fond of Cooper 's appearance , and described it as " an old @-@ school sitcom cliché to introduce long @-@ lost or oft @-@ neglected family members " . Dodge noted that Bomer 's role " didn 't overshadow everyone else , like some guest stars do " .

Quinn 's storyline received widely divergent commentary . Hankinson thought the writers had missed an opportunity to " do something hugely daring " and also reduce the size of the cast . Raymund Flandez of The Wall Street Journal characterized their message as " Move on , folks , nothing to see here " , added that " there wasn 't even a scratch on her face " and concluded that it was " nice to know that touches of irony haven 't left the show " . Strecker called Quinn " a walking wheeling PSA about texting dangers in general " . Dodge said that one of his " favorite scenes " of the episode was " when Artie tries to get Quinn to wheel herself up a steep ramp outside McKinley " . VanDerWerff noted the pair 's " chemistry " as friends , and Rolling Stone 's Erica Futterman described " Quinn 's kids @-@ in @-@ wheelchairs bonding scenes with Artie " as the " second best thing about the episode " . Michael Slezak of TVLine expressed the wish that the extras in the scene in the skateboard park " had actually gotten a chance to , um , speak like real humans , not just like props for a kicky musical number " . VanDerWerff 's summation was that the episode " gave Dianna Agron more shades to play than she 's usually asked to , and that was a good thing " .

While Sue 's pregnancy storyline continued to be unpopular with some reviewers , Bell included , the discovery that her daughter might have Down syndrome and her telling Becky about it led Bell to state that she had " always felt that the relationship between Sue and Becky was one of Glee 's finest accomplishments " . Strecker noted that " their scenes together are always some of my favorites " , and commended the episode 's " poignant heart @-@ to @-@ heart " ? which Dodge also praised as " very touching " ? where Becky gave Sue the advice to " work on her patience " . VanDerWerff thought that Sue 's storyline was one of several in the episode beyond the two main ones ? Blaine and Cooper 's conflict and Quinn 's post @-@ accident return ? that the show " kept piling " on , to its detriment . Another , described by MTV 's Kevin Sullivan as " silly " , had Puck trying to recruit Finn to clean pools with him in California .

= = = Music and performances = = =

The musical performances were given a middling to positive response overall , and the final song , " Somebody That I Used to Know " , received the most enthusiastic reception . Bell called it the " highlight of the episode " , and it was Hankinson 's favorite performance : " Bomer and Criss did a fantastic job bringing it to life " . Futterman said that " it was initially disconcerting to envision " two brothers singing about a " former love " , but she noted that it " was less weird in context " . Flandez felt that with the song 's conversion to a " Cain @-@ and @-@ Abel therapy session " , despite being " gorgeously sung " , it was nevertheless " the most disappointing duet ever " , but Slezak gave the performance an " A ? " , and wrote , " I bought the sibling angst in the room , and Matt Bomer really is a charismatic fella , no ? " Strecker gave the song an " A " and stated , " Shout @-@

out to the Glee writers this episode for not only picking fun songs , but also tracks that were all really great lyrically in terms of moving the plot forward . "

Gotye was initially reported to have been unimpressed with the Glee rendition of his song , but later stated that his words had been taken out of context . On April 22 , 2012 , two Australian newspapers , the Sunday Mail and the Sunday Herald Sun , quoted him as having said , " They did such a faithful arrangement of the instrumentals but the vocals were that pop Glee style " . The Mail 's quote continued after a comma with " ultra @-@ dry , sounded pretty tuned and the rock has no real sense , like it 's playing to you from a cardboard box . " The Herald Sun 's continuation of the quote came after a period : " It made it sound dinky and wrong . " Gotye said in an interview the next day that he had been referring to " this xylophone hook in my song ? it 's kind of dinky not just in the cover version but the original song " . He added , " I thought it was really clever to transpose the song to two guys ... It was a great idea . " In an interview published ten days later , Glee 's executive music producer Adam Anders said that although the iTunes version of the song that the show released was " very true " to Gotye 's , that in the episode itself , " the reality is , it was drier " .

The two songs performed by Artie and Quinn were not reviewed as enthusiastically . Both Futterman and Slezak approved of the harmonies in " I 'm Still Standing " , though Futterman thought the number felt " more subdued than we 'd expect " , and Slezak wrote that " the song choice was a little bit of a groaner " before he appended a " B " grade . Chaney gave the song a " C " and said that " something about this segment wasn't as dynamic as it should have been " . Votta and Strecker both described the performance as " pleasant " , the latter also added a " B ? " grade . Strecker gave a " B " to the other song , " Up Up Up " , which she said was " mostly background music " and the song itself " not particularly memorable " . Chaney 's " B " was far more complimentary : she characterized the performance as " the most energetic set piece of the night " which " made nice use of the infectious Givers song " . Futterman thought that " the sugary vocals work well for Artie and Quinn " , but Votta wrote that " the vocal is so indistinct it could be anyone " .

The other performance by Criss and Bomer , the Duran Duran mashup of " Hungry Like the Wolf " and " Rio " , was given a modestly positive reception . Strecker gave it an " A ? " and called it a " real treat " with " some truly fun choreography " . Slezak , on the other hand , described the choreography as " peculiar " , and graded the song a " B " . Sullivan wrote , " On paper it may not have seemed like the best idea , but honestly , it kind of rocked . " Chaney noted that " they were fun to watch " , but gave the performance a " C " ; she said that " something about this cover sucked all the cherry ice cream smile out of the originals " , though she wondered whether she was biased by her " lifelong appreciation of Duran Duran " . The solo by Criss on " Fighter " received a wider range of opinions . Both Chaney and Slezak gave the song a " B ? " : Chaney said he sang the song " with conviction " and complimented the " visually alluring " boxing and shower scenes , as did Slezak . Strecker wrote that " the energy and emotional punch totally resonated " and gave the song an " A ? " , though she also stated that " the talk @-@ singing at the beginning was a little weird " . Votta said that " vocally , Darren Criss embodies the song " , but she characterized the staging as " too jagged and haphazard to make an impact " , and the transitions not " as smooth as they could be " . Flandez called the song choice " unsuitable " and " puzzling " , and VanDerWerff said the performance was " completely ridiculous " .

= = = Chart history = = =

Of the five singles released for the episode , three debuted on North American top 100 charts . " Somebody That I Used to Know " sold 152 @,@ 000 digital downloads in the US , and was number twenty @-@ six on the Billboard Hot 100 . One other single charted on the Hot 100 : the mashup of " Hungry Like the Wolf " and " Rio " , which debuted at number ninety @-@ eight . " Fighter " did not enter the Billboard Hot 100 , but peaked at number two on the Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart . Three songs charted on the Billboard Canadian Hot 100 : " Somebody That I Used to Know " debuted at number twenty @-@ one , " Hungry Like the Wolf / Rio " at number eighty @-@ one , and " Fighter " at number eighty @-@ five .

The same week as the Glee single charted , " Somebody That I Used to Know " moved from

second to first on the US Billboard Hot 100 ? it had already been at number one in Canada ? selling 542 @, @ 000 copies in a single week , the fourth @-@ highest ever weekly digital sales to that point . Sales were aided by the Glee performance and also by Gotye and Kimbra 's performance of the song on Saturday Night Live at the end of the week .