

= Blaine Anderson =

Blaine Devon Anderson is a fictional character from the American musical comedy @-@ drama television series Glee . Played by Darren Criss , Blaine was introduced in the sixth episode of the second season as the openly gay lead singer of the Dalton Academy Warblers , a rival show choir to New Directions , the show 's primary musical group . Blaine initially served as a mentor for New Directions member Kurt Hummel (Chris Colfer) . Chemistry between the two , combined with fan support for the couple , led series co @-@ creator Ryan Murphy to pair them romantically . Their relationship has been well received by critics , and they have been named " one of the most beloved TV couples of the millennium " by Jarett Wieselman of the New York Post . At the beginning of the third season , Blaine transfers to McKinley High and joins New Directions ; concurrently , Criss was promoted from recurring guest star to the show 's main cast .

Criss auditioned for Glee several times before being cast as Blaine , including for the lead role of Finn Hudson . He believed he would be ill @-@ suited to that character , but identifies with Blaine , having been raised among the " gay community " . He plays Blaine as charismatic and confident , and finds his youthful self @-@ acceptance a fitting counterpoint to common media portrayals of gay characters .

As the Warblers ' lead vocalist and subsequent New Directions member , Blaine has performed a number of songs on the television series . His first , a cover version of " Teenage Dream " by Katy Perry , became the fastest @-@ selling Glee single , reached number eight on the Billboard Hot 100 , and was certified gold in the U.S. Tracks by the Warblers have sold over 1 @.@ 3 million copies . The songs became popular enough to warrant a Warbler soundtrack album , Glee : The Music Presents the Warblers . Blaine has received mostly positive reviews from critics ; Criss has been awarded a Rising Star accolade from the Gay and Lesbian Entertainment Critics Association for his portrayal . While the Blaine ? Kurt (" Klaine ") relationship has been met with acclaim , an episode storyline in which Blaine questioned his sexuality attracted negative reviews for undermining his previous characterization as a confident gay teenager .

= = Storylines = =

= = = Season 2 = = =

Blaine Anderson is introduced in the episode " Never Been Kissed " as the lead soloist of the Dalton Academy Warblers a cappella musical group . He meets Kurt Hummel (Chris Colfer) , a member of the rival glee club New Directions . When Kurt asks if Blaine is gay , Blaine matter @-@ of @-@ factly says he is ; Kurt tells Blaine that he is being bullied at school for being gay , and Blaine reveals that he too was harassed at his old school , so he transferred to Dalton Academy , which enforces a no @-@ bullying policy . Blaine befriends Kurt , and helps him stand up to his tormentor , Dave Karofsky (Max Adler) . When the threats and violence against Kurt reach a dangerous level , he transfers to Dalton Academy . He falls in love with Blaine , who is initially oblivious to Kurt 's feelings even as their friendship grows . Blaine enlists Kurt 's help to serenade his crush Jeremiah (Alexander Nifong) , the assistant manager at a local Gap store . Jeremiah is subsequently fired and rebuffs Blaine . Kurt confesses his feelings , and Blaine tells Kurt that he cares for him , but is terrible at romance and does not want to risk damaging their friendship .

Kurt and Blaine attend a party hosted by New Directions co @-@ captain Rachel Berry (Lea Michele) . The attendees play spin the bottle , which results in Rachel and Blaine kissing . In the aftermath , Blaine wonders whether he might be bisexual , and goes on a date with Rachel . When she kisses him again while they are both sober , he concludes that he is indeed gay , which relieves Kurt .

After learning of Kurt ? s ignorance of sexual matters , Blaine visits Kurt 's father , Burt (Mike O 'Malley) , and prompts him to give Kurt " the talk " about sex . As the Warblers prepare to perform at the Regional show choir competition , Kurt admits that he is jealous of how many solos Blaine gets .

At a subsequent group meeting , Kurt arrives late and announces that the group 's mascot canary is dead ; he sings " Blackbird " in honor of the bird . While Kurt is singing , Blaine has a revelation , and later tells Kurt that he reciprocates his feelings and kisses him . At Regionals , the two sing a duet of " Candles " by Hey Monday . The Warblers lose to New Directions , but while Kurt is very disappointed , Blaine tells him that even though they lost , in reality , they won each other which makes losing Regionals worth it . After Kurt transfers back to McKinley , he invites Blaine to be his date at his junior prom in " Prom Queen " ; both are shocked when Kurt wins Prom Queen due to having received an overwhelming number of unwanted write @-@ in votes in the secret balloting . Karofsky , the Prom King , leaves to avoid dancing with a guy in the traditional dance between King and Queen , and Kurt dances with Blaine instead . After Kurt returns from Nationals in New York , he and Blaine admit their love for one another .

= = = Season 3 = = =

In the first episode of the third season , " The Purple Piano Project " , Blaine transfers to McKinley High at the beginning of his junior year to be closer to Kurt , who is a senior , and joins New Directions . He later auditions for the role of Bernardo in the school musical West Side Story , so as not to compete against Kurt who wants to play the male lead , Tony , but is cast as Tony himself . In the episode " The First Time " , Blaine is pursued by Sebastian Smythe (Grant Gustin) , a new Dalton Academy Warbler . Kurt and Blaine meet up with Sebastian at a gay bar , Blaine gets drunk , and afterward tries to get Kurt to have sex with him in the car . Kurt refuses , they have a fight , and Blaine decides to walk home . After the West Side Story opening night , they apologize to each other , and decide to go to Blaine 's house . They are later shown in bed together , apparently having just had sex for the first time . When New Directions and the Warblers informally compete in " Michael " to determine which club can perform Michael Jackson 's music at the upcoming show choir Regionals , Sebastian throws a slushie containing rock salt at Kurt , but Blaine interposes himself and is hit in the eye ; his cornea is badly scratched and requires surgery . His eye heals , and he is back in time for New Directions to defeat the Warblers at Regionals . Blaine 's older brother Cooper (Matt Bomer) , a successful actor in commercials , visits Ohio , and the two achieve a rapprochement . Blaine 's relationship with Kurt is later strained when Kurt text @-@ flirts with a boy he met while preparing for his NYADA audition , and by Kurt 's eagerness to leave for New York after graduation , which would separate the two at least until Blaine graduated the following year . The two patch things up , the glee club wins at Nationals , and the pair is still a couple at the end of the school year , though Blaine is still uneasy about the prolonged physical separation facing them .

= = = Season 4 = = =

In the first episode of the fourth season , " The New Rachel " , Blaine becomes the lead singer of New Directions and successfully prompts Kurt to follow his New York City dreams . In addition , Blaine successfully runs for senior class president with Sam (Chord Overstreet) , and the two subsequently develop a friendship . Kurt inadvertently pulls away from Blaine due to his Vogue.com internship ; distraught and feeling isolated from his friends , Blaine cheats on Kurt . After confessing to Kurt of his infidelity , Kurt severs all ties . New Directions ' Nationals trophy is stolen by Hunter Clarington (Nolan Gerard Funk) , the new captain of the Dalton Academy Warblers . When Blaine goes to Dalton Academy to retrieve it , Hunter and Sebastian attempt to seduce Blaine into returning to the Warblers . Blaine becomes conflicted , believing that he does not belong in New Directions . Sam ultimately convinces him that , despite having done a bad thing to Kurt , Blaine is still a good person and an important member of New Directions .

Kurt begins to mend their relationship in " Thanksgiving " , just before New Directions loses at Sectionals to the Warblers , and they spend Christmas together in New York City . Though he and Kurt continue to be on good terms , Blaine finds himself developing a crush on his best friend , Sam , which he knows will come to nothing as he knows Sam is not gay ; the two of them team up to find evidence that the Warblers cheated at Sectionals , which means New Directions will be competing

at Regionals . He ends up going to the Sadie Hawkins dance with Tina Cohen @-@ Chang (Jenna Ushkowitz) , who has developed a crush on him , but as friends only . When Kurt comes to Lima for the wedding of glee club director Will (Matthew Morrison) and Emma (Jayma Mays) ? which Emma flees ? he and Blaine make out beforehand , and sleep together afterward , though they do not resume a permanent relationship .

Blaine had briefly joined the Cheerios when it looked like New Directions would be disbanding after their Sectionals loss , and cheerleading coach Sue (Jane Lynch) blackmails Blaine into rejoining ; Blaine and Sam hatch up a plan to bring Sue down from the inside . Blaine eventually confesses to Sam that he has feelings for him , to which Sam assures him that he is somewhat flattered by Blaine 's honesty and attraction , and that it would not change the fact that Blaine is still Sam 's best friend . Blaine still loves Kurt and asks Burt for his permission to propose to Kurt , but Burt tells him they 're too young to marry , and advises him to wait . Blaine remains determined , however , and while shopping for a ring , he meets Jan (Patty Duke) , a lesbian jeweler who has been with her partner Liz (Meredith Baxter) for over thirty years . Jan offers to be a mentor to him , and Blaine and Kurt later have dinner with Jan and Liz , where Jan and Liz explain how their relationship evolved over the years and their experience with the growing mainstream acceptance of gay people . New Directions wins at Regionals , and Will and Emma get married immediately afterward , with the glee club , plus some graduates including Kurt , in attendance . Blaine is shown , after the ceremony is over , holding a jewelry box behind his back .

= = = Season 5 = = =

In the season premiere , " Love Love Love " , Blaine and Kurt agree to be boyfriends again . Blaine still wants to marry Kurt , and stages an elaborate and successful marriage proposal at Dalton Academy where he and Kurt first met , accompanied by New Directions , and all their rival show choir groups , including the Warblers . He auditions for NYADA and is accepted . New Directions comes in second at Nationals , and is disbanded by Sue for not being champions . Blaine graduates as class valedictorian , and then moves to New York to be with Kurt . They start off living together , but though they remain engaged , Blaine ultimately moves out because the two of them realize they still need their own space . The relationship between them goes through rocky patches , including Blaine 's insecurity when Kurt becomes popular at school , and when an influential socialite and NYADA supporter hears Blaine perform and takes an interest in his future career , though she is not impressed by Kurt and ultimately tries to break them up , though she fails and ultimately supports them both . Their engagement is strengthened by having weathered these storms , and Blaine moves back in with Kurt .

= = = Season 6 = = =

Blaine returns to Lima after Kurt ended their engagement , having become so despondent that his schoolwork suffered and he was cut by NYADA . He becomes the coach of the Dalton Academy Warblers , and begins dating Dave Karofsky after a chance encounter at the local gay bar . Kurt , having realized he still loves Blaine and regretting that he ended the engagement , arranges for his NYADA off @-@ campus semester to be in Lima , helping Rachel to coach a reinstated New Directions ? Will had left McKinley High to coach Vocal Adrenaline . Unfortunately , by the time he arrives , Blaine and Karofsky are already a couple , and there is further strain between Kurt and Blaine as coaches of rival show choirs . In " The Hurt Locker , Part Two " , Sue , who " ships Klaine " and is desperate for Kurt and Blaine to reunite , locks them both in a fake elevator and refuses to let them leave until they kiss . After resisting for a great many hours , Blaine and Kurt share a passionate kiss , but do not reunite afterward . In " Transitioning " , Blaine sings a duet with Kurt , " Somebody Loves You " , and afterward , kisses Kurt . The following day , Blaine , knowing that he is still in love with Kurt , breaks up with Karofsky ; however , Kurt is still seeing an older man , Walter . In " A Wedding " , Kurt tells Walter that he is going to Brittany and Santana 's wedding with Blaine , not him , and on Walter 's advice , returns to Blaine ; the two again become a couple . At the

wedding , Brittany insists that Kurt and Blaine get married alongside her and Santana . Though skeptical at first , Kurt and Blaine agree and get married , with Burt officiating the joint ceremony . Dalton Academy burns down in " The Rise and Fall of Sue Sylvester " , and the Warblers who transfer to McKinley are accepted into New Directions , with Blaine joining Rachel and Kurt as the coaches of the combined glee club . In the series finale , " Dreams Come True " , after New Directions wins Nationals , Blaine and Kurt leave for New York , with Blaine attending NYU and Kurt returning to NYADA along with a reinstated Rachel . The episode jumps ahead to 2020 , and Blaine and Kurt are shown to be actors and a celebrity married couple ; they also visit schools to entertain and talk about acceptance . Rachel , who is married to Jesse , is pregnant with Blaine and Kurt 's child .

= = Development = =

= = = Casting and creation = = =

Blaine is portrayed by actor Darren Criss , who had auditioned for Glee several times for several roles before the character Blaine was created . He originally auditioned to play Finn Hudson . Criss made several audition videos for Glee , of which he posted only one to the social networking website MySpace where he sang a cover of Bill Withers ' song Lean on Me . Although the series writers have seen them , he considers them supplemental to his main audition , which was for series creator Ryan Murphy . Murphy had not seen any of Criss 's previous auditions , but knew he was the right actor for Blaine as soon as he saw this one . The actor cut his long hair before auditioning , to suit the " serious and preppy " role .

Prior to the production of season two , rumors circulated that upcoming episodes would feature a love interest for Kurt . Initial fan and media speculation suggested that Sam Evans (Chord Overstreet) was created to fill this role ; however , according to Overstreet , Sam 's storyline quickly paired him with Quinn Fabray (Dianna Agron) as a result of the chemistry the producers detected between him and Agron . In September 2010 , it was confirmed that Criss would join the show in a " much @-@ talked @-@ about new gay role " . Media speculation suggested that Blaine would be Kurt 's new love interest . His original character description was : " a cute and charismatic gay student from a rival Glee club named the Dalton Academy Warblers ? will maintain a strictly platonic friendship with McKinley High 's most out and proud pupil . But could that change as the season progresses ? Yes , it could . " Murphy stated that Blaine 's arc would be a significant one . He explained , " He sort of becomes Kurt 's mentor and then maybe love [...] Kurt really admires him and respects him . "

Following his first few appearances , it was reported that Criss had been confirmed as a series regular for the remainder of season two and for season three of Glee . This was based on comments by Murphy , who said : " Darren has become such a sensation in one week , which I love . I think there 's a hunger for him and a positive relationship role model . He ? ll definitely continue through the year and longer . " However , the actor later denied that his role had been upgraded and said : " It 's never really been officially confirmed to me . I think the option is there and that they want to keep Blaine around . " Murphy revealed that Blaine may join New Directions during the third season . Criss hoped that this would not come to pass , as he enjoys being at Dalton Academy , but conceded : " it 's not my call . I 'm happy to serve whatever story they want . " For the third season of Glee , Criss was promoted to a series regular , and Blaine did join New Directions when he transferred to McKinley High to be with Kurt .

= = = Characterization = = =

Upon Blaine 's first appearance , Criss described his character as being a " very charismatic , put @-@ together , composed guy . " He stated that although Blaine is gay , he is not " overly queeny , and not too butch either , " and that while his sexuality is a " huge part of who he is " , it is not a

major facet of how he wishes to be perceived . Due to similarities which stem from their shared sexuality , Blaine " sees a lot of himself in Kurt , in terms of experiences and the way they feel about the world around them . He feels the need to impart his knowledge , be a source of strength for him , and really help him through what he 's going through . " Initially , Criss felt that the most important element of his character was to give Kurt " someone he can relate to " , and demonstrate that Kurt could have " a young out male friend , a support system " .

Criss discussed his personal connection with Blaine in an interview with Vanity Fair . He explained that he grew up among the " gay community " , being with theater performers , so was raised without a concept of sexuality being an issue . Criss stated that , although he identifies as straight , " it really doesn 't come into play with me in this role . As an actor , your objective is always to play the scene . And this in case , he happens to be a gay teen . " Talk show host and media personality Ellen DeGeneres deemed Blaine " a very confident gay teen , which is something you don 't see much on television . " However , Amy Reiter of the Los Angeles Times assessed that " despite the image he projects , he , too , is just a kid trying to figure things out as he goes along . " Criss feels that Blaine 's confidence is an important aspect of his character , as it is rare for gay teenagers on television to be so " sure of themselves . " He hopes that " all the kids struggling with this issue can look to a guy like Blaine and feel [inspired] by his confidence . "

= = = Relationships = = =

The Kurt ? Blaine relationship , sometimes referred to by the portmanteau " Klaine " by Glee fans and the media , developed slowly . As the series showrunner , Murphy felt tasked with keeping the two apart as long as possible . He was initially unsure whether the relationship would become a romantic one , and intended to gauge public response to their friendship before planning future developments . He commented , " Part of me thinks he should be the boyfriend , part of me thinks he should just be the mentor . I didn 't want to decide that until we got into sort of the middle of the season . " In December 2010 , Colfer said , " Fans really want it to happen . It 's funny how many people want to see these boys hook up . We 'll see . " Based on the characters ' chemistry and the " immediate outcry " from fans who wanted to see them as a couple , Murphy decided to have Blaine become Kurt 's love interest . Criss noted : " We all want to see Kurt happy , and like all great love stories , if you have two people that can be together you 've got to hold it up . "

Considering Blaine and Kurt 's potential future together , Murphy planned to treat them the same as all other Glee relationships , by making their pairing " as flawed and as exposed as everyone else 's . " This sentiment was re @-@ iterated by executive producer Brad Falchuk , after the characters kissed for the first time . He revealed that their relationship would not run smoothly , and observed that once couples start dating , " Everything goes to hell . " Colfer suggested that Kurt returning to McKinley may cause difficulties in their relationship , but noted " Distance makes the heart grow fonder , right ? That ? s what they tell me . So even if they do go through some bumps in the road , it would be very realistic . " In a Q & A with Billboard on the day " Born This Way " ran with Kurt 's McKinley return , Criss stated that Blaine and Kurt were " in the honeymoon stages " of their relationship , and would still be " at the end of the [second] season " .

In a July 2012 interview with E ! News , Colfer said , " I would like to do something besides say ' I love you , ' and I think Darren [Criss] and I agree on that . We 're ready for the next step . They 've been together for a while . Let 's throw some spice and drama into that . " Colfer quipped that he did not know what was in store for the couple , " I hear mixed things . I hear they 're still together but then maybe they 're breaking up . " In September 2012 , Criss seconded Colfer , " We 're like an old married couple now . Let 's shake it up ! "

In the second season episode " Sexy " , Blaine reveals he has a strained relationship with his father .

= = Musical performances = =

As Blaine , Criss features in many musical performances , which have been released as singles ,

available for download . His first performance , " Teenage Dream " by Katy Perry , was featured on the soundtrack album Glee : The Music , Volume 4 . It reached number eight on the Billboard Hot 100 in the week ending November 27 , 2010 , and was the best @-@ selling song in the U.S. that week , selling 214 @,@ 000 copies : the largest figure for a Glee title . It was only the second U.S.-certified gold single in the show 's history . Both Billboard 's Jillian Mapes and Erica Futterman of Rolling Stone deemed " Teenage Dream " the best song of " Never Been Kissed " , the episode in which it featured . The Daily News 's Anthony Benigno gave the song an " A " , and noted that it was " flawless " and improved on Perry 's original . The performance was nominated for the Best Gay Moment of the Year and Favorite Music Video awards at the 2010 AfterElton.com Visibility Awards . A Billboard cover @-@ feature on Criss noted that the performance " arguably ushered in the trend of more current pop hits being reworked by the [Glee] cast . "

Later songs performed by Blaine and the Warblers became popular enough to warrant a Warbler soundtrack album , Glee : The Music Presents the Warblers . The tracks had sold over 1 @.@ 3 million copies as singles by the time the album was released . Blaine performed the lead vocal on covers of Train 's " Hey , Soul Sister " , which peaked at number 32 in Canada , " Bills , Bills , Bills " by Destiny 's Child , which reached number 44 in the U.S. , and Robin Thicke 's " When I Get You Alone " , which got to number 47 on the Billboard Hot 100 . Criss downplayed his performance of " Bills , Bills , Bills " , and joked that he ought to issue the group 's lead singer , Beyoncé Knowles , an apology for his cover . Blaine also led on " Silly Love Songs " by Wings , and Maroon 5 's " Misery " , which reached 45 and 52 respectively in the U.S. , and Pink 's " Raise Your Glass " , which peaked at number 30 in Australia .

Blaine duetted with Kurt on Frank Loesser 's " Baby , It 's Cold Outside " , which was included on Glee : The Music , The Christmas Album and reached number 53 in Canada . It was reportedly the most downloaded track of the album , and called " by far the gayest thing that has ever been on TV " by Colfer . Murphy expressed his pride in the number for " push [ing] the envelope a bit . " Jessica Ronayne of Zap2it called the duet one of the Christmas episode 's few saving graces . Blaine and Kurt also duetted on Neon Trees ' " Animal " and Hey Monday 's " Candles " , which peaked at 62 and 71 in the U.S. respectively . In an April 2011 interview , Criss stated that he did not feel established enough within the cast to make song suggestions , but had mentioned liking " Animal " to Murphy , who included it in a script soon thereafter . Blaine shared a duet of " Don 't You Want Me " by The Human League with Rachel , which Reiter deemed a musical highlight of the episode " Blame It on the Alcohol " . It was included on Glee : The Music , Volume 5 , and peaked at number 44 in Australia .

Over the course of the season , Blaine 's musical performances leading the Warblers became so prevalent that he was called out for it on @-@ screen . Criss offered the insight : " Blaine definitely had his moment in the sun . I think it 's time to focus back on the characters that fans of the show really know and love . Completely objectively from watching the show , I was like , ' Why does Blaine get all these songs ? This is ridiculous . I want to hear other people doing stuff . ' I think we 're focusing a little more back on New Directions and taking a little bit of a break from the Warblers . "

In the first episode of season three of Glee , " The Purple Piano Project " , Blaine sings " It 's Not Unusual " by Tom Jones when he transfers to McKinley and quits the Warblers for New Directions . After successfully auditioning later in the season for the school 's production of West Side Story with " Something 's Coming " from the musical , he sings " Tonight " in rehearsal and " One Hand , One Heart " in performance , both with his co @-@ star Rachel . He sings lead or co @-@ lead on several songs with New Directions , including " Last Friday Night (T.G.I.F.) " ; " Perfect " and " Let It Snow ! Let It Snow ! Let It Snow ! " with Kurt ; " Control " and " Man in the Mirror " with Artie and others ; and his first original song , the duet " Extraordinary Merry Christmas " , with Rachel .

In special tribute episode to Michael Jackson , " Michael " , Blaine sings " Wanna Be Startin ' Somethin ' " . Futterman wrote that Blaine 's " slick showmanship " made him a " natural for lead vocals " , and TVLine 's Michael Slezak called it " the best use of Darren Criss ' voice on Glee in quite some time " and gave it an " A ? " . Entertainment Weekly 's Joseph Brannigan Lynch also gave it an " A ? " , and said Criss " captured the excitement and the spunky bravado of the original " . MTV 's Kevin P. Sullivan was another fan of " the sheer awesomeness of Darren Criss " on the

song , and characterized it as " a tribute that 's more respectful than any other in the episode " . In the fourteenth episode of the third season , " On My Way " , Blaine performs " Cough Syrup " by Young the Giant , which is sung during the Dave Karofsky suicide sequence . Futterman said Blaine " flawlessly deliver [ed] the vocal " . Lynch called it a " chilling rendition " that was " hard to shake " and gave it an " A ? " , the same grade given by Slezak , who wrote , " taken on its own , Blaine 's vocal was strong and passionate ? perhaps better than the original " . Bobby Hankinson of the Houston Chronicle said it was the " best " of the episode , and added that the " scene was really , really well done and carried maximum emotional punch " . In the following episode , " Big Brother " , Blaine shares a duet of Gotye 's " Somebody That I Used to Know " with his brother Cooper (Matt Bomer) . Crystal Bell of HuffPost TV 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 " . In its first week , the cover sold 152 @, @ 000 digital downloads in the US , and was number twenty @-@ six on the Billboard Hot 100 .

= = Reception = =

Blaine has received mostly positive reviews from television critics . Ellen DeGeneres praised Criss 's portrayal , and described him as one of Glee 's breakout stars . Entertainment Weekly named him one of the breakout stars of 2010 , with the comment : " It took about 2 minutes and 11 seconds on Glee for Darren Criss to turn into a bona fide Gleek phenomenon . [...] And it doesn 't hurt that his character Blaine 's warm relationship with the show 's other openly gay character , Chris Colfer 's Kurt , continues to resonate with fans . " In November 2010 , the publication also named Criss the series ' best guest @-@ star to date , and praised him for " seamlessly entering the fold with his charm and great voice . " Ronayne deemed him " a much better addition to the show than Chord Overstreet " . Following his Glee debut , Criss won the We 're Wilde About You Rising Star Award at the 2011 Dorian Awards , presented by the Gay and Lesbian Entertainment Critics Association . He also won the 2011 Teen Choice Award for Choice TV Breakout Star .

Indecision over his sexuality in the episode " Blame It on the Alcohol " drew some negative reviews of Blaine . Reiter noted that , " So much of Blaine 's charm has been his certainty about who he is . " Though she found his subplot with Rachel " fun " , she commented : " Blaine 's overwrought speech in the coffee shop after Rachel asks him out just felt off @-@ key . Saying ' bye ' to the Blaine sexual @-@ confusion storyline wouldn 't make us angry at all . " Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club also criticised the storyline , which , he wrote , " seemed like it might be an interesting , complicated look at teenage sexuality and how it can seem formed but might be more fluid than most teens would give it credit for , then lost its nerve and took the easy way out . " AfterElton.com 's Chris O 'Guinn felt that the only aspect of the storyline handled acceptably was Blaine questioning whether he was bisexual , rather than outright straight . He criticized the shallow examination of his feelings , and wrote : " Bisexuality is such a contentious issue that it should not be fumbled this way . For a character to say ' maybe I 'm bi ' in one scene and then the next say , ' nope , definitely gay ' is almost cruel in how dismissive it is toward bisexuals by trivializing the intense confusion that many bisexual people feel in coming to terms with their orientation . " In a more positive review , Canning opined that Blaine and Kurt 's conversation about sexuality was " great " . He was " glad it wasn 't an easy talk for either of them " and said that it " felt very real for kids in this situation . "

Blaine and Kurt 's relationship has been generally well received . They were named Favorite TV Couple at the 2010 AfterElton.com Visibility Awards , and have been lauded for " leading the way " in representing gay teenagers on television by Entertainment Weekly . Jarett Wieselman of the New York Post referred to them as " one of the most beloved TV couples of the millennium " . When they " finally solidified what their relationship actually is " in the episode " Silly Love Songs " , IGN 's Robert Canning noted that his opinion of Blaine improved . He commented : " I love that the [serenading of Jeremiah] blew up in Blaine 's face . The character has always come off to me as annoyingly arrogant , but " Silly Love Songs " humanized the guy . Guess I may have to like him now . " Their first kiss , in the episode " Original Song " , was met with critical acclaim . Mark

Perigard of The Boston Herald wrote , " It was utterly , sweetly romantic , and Criss sold the hell out of the moment . It 's long overdue and it will silence the growing legion of critics out there who were unhappy with the pace of this story . " Entertainment Weekly 's Mandi Bierly was so impressed with the scene that she was initially concerned it may be a dream sequence , " because we don 't get romantic , unapologetic first kisses like that between young gay characters on network TV . " She wrote , " Relationships aren 't easy . They ? ll make mistakes . But if they stay true to themselves , and continue to be as open and honest with each other , we 're in for something special . " Kevin Fallon of The Atlantic thought the kiss was " sweet " , and stated that he was pleased that it attracted no controversy whatsoever . Aly Semigran of MTV praised the interaction between Blaine and Kurt . She called the kiss scene a " sweet , real and , shockingly , un @-@ hyped moment " , and praised Criss and Colfer for " handl [ing] it with dignity and honesty " .

While Lesley Goldberg of The Hollywood Reporter was pleased Blaine 's season three transfer to McKinley in the first episode increased Criss ' screen time with Colfer and the New Directions cast , she stated that the move " screams of co @-@ dependency . " In contrast , Entertainment Weekly 's Abby West found it romantic , and noted : " Blaine and Kurt , with their budding love and witty , pseudo @-@ urbane ways , are my favorite couple to watch I look forward to hearing [Blaine] sing more , watching him bump up against the insular Glee clubbers , and seeing him show off his non @-@ uniform attire . Several reviewers were unhappy with the second episode 's revelation that Blaine was a junior , not a senior like Kurt , as had been implied in the previous season . VanDerWerff wrote that Blaine " seems to have simultaneously gotten younger and had a complete personality transplant over the summer " , Billboard 's Rae Votta noted " the continuity @-@ bending plot point that he 's somehow a Junior and not a Senior like his boyfriend " , and Samantha Urban of The Dallas Morning News allowed her exasperation to show : " Oh really , Glee ? Blaine 's a junior ? Blaine 's younger than Kurt ? Fine . FINE . "

Kurt and Blaine make the decision to have sex for the first time in " The First Time " episode ; many critics were enthusiastic about the fact that a gay couple was being given such a storyline . Canning said that Kurt and Blaine 's " attempts to get a little wild " , and " trying to grow up faster than they should " , were " the better parts of the episode as they felt the most realistic " . Futterman praised their departure from the bar as a " very faithful and honest scene " . VanDerWerff and BuddyTV contributor John Kubicek both had issues with Blaine 's characterization . The latter asserted that he " just behaves however the writers need him to behave in order for the scene to work " , while the former said that Blaine 's season three storyline " hasn 't been bad by any means , but it does feel like Darren Criss is playing someone who 's quite a bit different from the guy he was playing last season " . Bell was impressed by the way the characters ' relationship " inspires gay youth in a way that we haven 't seen on network television yet " and called them " amazing role models for all teens " , and The Atlantic writer Kevin Fallon said it was " remarkable " and a " milestone " that " the decision by gay teen characters to lose their virginities is given equal weight to that of a straight couple " .

Discussing public response to his character , Criss stated that he particularly enjoyed comments from " people from parts of the world who are maybe not as exposed to certain ideologies " , but had reconsidered their stance on relationships and human rights as a result of the Blaine ? Kurt storyline . He called this response " phenomenal " , and said : " I was a straight kid growing up in a very gay community and it 's something that I 've had to watch so many friends have to struggle with and have no place to go to identify in kind of a grander media culture . To be a small piece of that machine is incredibly wonderful . "