

= Sexy (Glee) =

" Sexy " is the fifteenth episode of the second season of the American musical comedy @-@ drama television series Glee , and the thirty @-@ seventh episode overall . It was written by Brad Falchuk , directed by Ryan Murphy , and first aired on the Fox network on March 8 , 2011 . The episode mainly revolves around the topics of sex and adolescent sexuality . In it , Holly Holliday (Gwyneth Paltrow) returns to McKinley High School as a substitute teacher in a class devoted to sex education . Glee club director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) begins to develop feelings for Holly , and guidance counselor and celibacy club advisor Emma Pillsbury (Jayma Mays) is less than pleased with Holly 's lessons . Santana (Naya Rivera) expresses her love for Brittany (Heather Morris) , and Burt Hummel (Mike O 'Malley) has a talk with his son Kurt (Chris Colfer) about sex .

" Sexy " received generally positive reviews . Many critics praised Paltrow 's performance , preferring it to her first appearance in " The Substitute " , though they disagreed over how Paltrow was used . The storylines were well received , particularly the one involving Brittany and Santana : Todd VanDerWerff of The A.V. Club and Patrick Burns of The Atlantic deemed it the highlight of the episode . The scene featuring Burt having " the talk " with Kurt was also singled out for praise . This episode featured cover versions of five songs , including " Kiss " by Prince and " Landslide " by Fleetwood Mac . The latter song was very well received , though the musical performances and cover versions in the episode were mostly given a mixed reception by reviewers .

Upon its original airing , this episode was viewed by 11 @.@ 92 million American viewers , and garnered a 4 @.@ 6 / 14 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . The episode 's total viewership and ratings increased significantly from the previous episode , " Blame It on the Alcohol " .

= = Plot = =

Substitute teacher Holly Holliday (Gwyneth Paltrow) returns to McKinley High to cover sex education classes , and tells Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) , director of the school glee club New Directions , that his club members are among the most ignorant about sex . He asks her to educate them using song , so Holly performs " Do You Wanna Touch Me (Oh Yeah) " . Will later rehearses a rendition of " Kiss " with her , which culminates in a kiss , but Holly will not go further as she believes she would end up hurting him .

Sue Sylvester (Jane Lynch) , director of rival glee club Aural Intensity , seeks out former New Directions member and current Dalton Academy Warbler Kurt Hummel (Chris Colfer) to tell him and his friend Blaine (Darren Criss) , the Warblers ' lead singer , that New Directions is planning a sexually provocative routine for the upcoming Regionals competition , having heard that the judges will be looking for same . Blaine responds by having the Warblers work up a " sexified " performance of " Animal " , with Kurt joining him on lead , but Kurt 's " sexy " faces and moves are anything but . Kurt insists on remaining ignorant of sexual matters , which Blaine feels is dangerous at their age , so he visits Kurt 's father , Burt (Mike O 'Malley) , and prompts him to give Kurt " the talk " about sex .

At McKinley , glee club members Puck (Mark Salling) and Lauren (Ashley Fink) plan to make a sex tape , until Holly informs them that it would be considered child pornography . Puck , appalled , joins the celibacy club . The club 's advisor Emma Pillsbury (Jayma Mays) thinks Holly 's lessons are inappropriate , so she arranges for the club to perform a wholesome song for New Directions . She picks " Afternoon Delight " , unaware that the song is about sex . Her husband Carl (John Stamos) approaches Holly afterward about counseling . During the counseling session , he reveals that Emma is still a virgin , and Emma admits that she may still have feelings for Will . Carl tells her he will be moving into a hotel until she is certain of her feelings .

Holly also counsels glee club members Santana (Naya Rivera) and Brittany (Heather Morris) when they express confusion about their sexuality . She joins them for a performance of " Landslide " , after which Santana tearfully confesses to Brittany that she is in love with her and wants to be

with her , but she is afraid of being bullied and ostracized for being in a same @-@ sex relationship . Brittany reciprocates her love , but explains that she also loves her boyfriend Artie (Kevin McHale) and will not break up with him , to Santana 's distress .

Lauren is annoyed with Puck for joining the celibacy club , but when he explains that he is trying to take responsibility for his actions , she kisses him and agrees to join too . Quinn (Dianna Agron) and Finn (Cory Monteith) are secretly back together . Holly 's stint as a sex education instructor ends when parents complain about her classes . She tells Will that she wants to learn about romance ; he offers to teach her , and they kiss .

= = Production = =

" Sexy " marked Paltrow 's second guest appearance on Glee as substitute teacher Holly Holliday . She first appeared earlier in the second season , in the seventh episode , " The Substitute " . The role was devised for her by series co @-@ creator Ryan Murphy , who suggested that she showcase her vocal and dancing talent ahead of the release of the film Country Strong , in which Paltrow plays a country singer . Paltrow was signed to Glee for two episodes , with " The Substitute " originally intended to feature a love quadrangle between Holly , Will , Emma and Carl . Her initial arc was , however , reduced to a single episode . Post @-@ broadcast , Murphy said they both hoped she would appear on Glee again in the future , depending on the right storyline . In January 2011 , Paltrow confirmed that she would be reprising the role . Murphy stated that she would appear in episodes fifteen and sixteen as a sex education teacher , and would serve as a love interest for Will , though she actually appeared in episodes fifteen and seventeen . Stamos also reprised his role as Emma 's husband Carl . As of March 2011 , he was unsure whether he would return to Glee again , but stated that he might do so to conclude Emma and Carl 's storyline , explaining : " I think people like me on there , but they really love Will and Emma together . So I don 't know how much longer people can stand Will and Emma not being together . "

The episode continued the romantic relationship between Brittany and Santana , first alluded to during the first season . The two kissed on @-@ screen for the first time in the season two episode " Duets " , after which their romance was little explored , leading to what Rivera described as an " uproar " by fans of the pairing in December 2010 . The following month , executive producer Brad Falchuk revealed via the social networking website Twitter that further developments to the storyline had always been intended , with Paltrow 's Holly serving as a catalyst .

In addition to Paltrow reprising her role as Holly Holliday , recurring characters who appear on the episode include Stamos as dentist Carl Howell , glee club members Lauren Zizes (Fink) , Sam Evans (Chord Overstreet) and Mike Chang (Harry Shum , Jr .) , football coach Shannon Beiste (Dot @-@ Marie Jones) and Kurt 's friend Blaine Anderson (Criss) .

" Sexy " features cover versions of five songs , all of which were released as singles , available for download : " Do You Wanna Touch Me (Oh Yeah) " by Gary Glitter as recorded by Joan Jett , " Animal " by Neon Trees , " Kiss " by Prince , an acoustic version of " Landslide " by Fleetwood Mac , and " Afternoon Delight " by the Starland Vocal Band . Paltrow performs on " Do You Wanna Touch Me (Oh Yeah) " , " Kiss " and " Landslide " , all of which feature on the series ' sixth soundtrack album , Glee : The Music , Volume 5 . In the United Kingdom , " Do You Wanna Touch Me (Oh Yeah) " was omitted from Glee : The Music , Volume 5 , and " Afternoon Delight " , which features Stamos and Salling , was included instead . A cover of Rod Stewart 's " Da Ya Think I 'm Sexy ? " sung by the Warblers was planned to be featured in the episode but did not appear ; " Animal " was the Warblers number performed . Both tracks appear on the seventh soundtrack album , Glee : The Music Presents the Warblers . Neon Trees bassist Branden Campbell recounted how Criss approached the band at the 2011 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival to thank them for allowing " Animal " to be used , as Criss was the one who brought the song to Murphy 's attention . Stevie Nicks of Fleetwood Mac , who wrote and originated " Landslide " , visited the Glee set on the day the song was filmed .

= = Reception = =

=== Ratings ===

" Sexy " was first broadcast on March 8 , 2011 in the United States on Fox . It was watched by 11 @. @ 92 million American viewers upon its initial airing , according to the Nielsen ratings . The episode attained a 4 @. @ 6 / 14 Nielsen rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic , and was the highest rated show of the night . The episode 's total viewership and ratings / share increased significantly from the previous episode , " Blame It on the Alcohol " , which received over 10 @. @ 58 million viewers and garnered a 4 @. @ 4 / 12 rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic during its original airing two weeks earlier . Its Canadian broadcast was also on March 8 , 2011 , and " Sexy " received 1 @. @ 81 million viewers and placed eleventh in the weekly program rankings . This was not quite as good an audience as for " Blame It on the Alcohol " , which aired two weeks earlier and was watched by 1 @. @ 89 million viewers , though it was an improvement on the show 's weekly ranking from fourteenth place .

In Australia , " Sexy " was watched by 1 @. @ 03 million viewers on March 14 , 2011 , which made Glee the eighth most @-@ watched show of the night . This was a slight increase over the 1 @. @ 02 & million viewers who had watched " Blame It on the Alcohol " the week before , though it had been the sixth most @-@ watched show that night . In the United Kingdom , the episode was broadcast on April 18 , 2011 , and watched by 2 @. @ 58 million viewers (2 @. @ 039 million on E4 , and 541 @, @ 000 on E4 + 1) ; it was the most @-@ watched show on cable for the week . Viewership was up slightly from " Blame It on the Alcohol " the previous week , which had totaled 2 @. @ 53 million viewers .

=== Critical reception ===

The episode received a positive response from reviewers . They disagreed over how well Paltrow was used , but generally praised the Brittany ? Santana and Kurt ? Burt storylines . The Atlantic 's Kevin Fallon deemed " Sexy " an episode of mixed messages , one which treated the issues it raised with " an appropriate amount of levity " , but failed to " play the nuances of the [celibacy vs. sex] argument as delicately as it probably thought it did . " His Atlantic co @-@ writer Patrick Burns criticized the series for glorifying a risqué subject , " then half @-@ heartedly attempt [ing] to hammer home a moral . " Meghan Brown , also writing for The Atlantic , called it a " solid episode with some strong character moments . " Time 's James Poniewozik felt that the episode " began clumsily , lacked subtlety , involved some embarrassing moments " and focused too much on Paltrow , but as it continued , " achieve [d] a few moments of delight and honest emotion " . Anthony Benigno of The Faster Times described it as " incredibly comprehensive and enjoyable to boot " , and IGN 's Robert Canning said it " avoided preaching and teaching and instead just had some fun and let guest star Gwyneth Paltrow steal all the scenes " . Erica Futterman of Rolling Stone wrote that " Glee continues its climb , delicately and successfully marrying actual sex lessons with camp and humor " .

Several reviewers preferred Paltrow 's return in " Sexy " to her first appearance in " The Substitute " . The Washington Post 's Emily Yahr felt that she was better integrated into this episode , and Raymund Flandez of The Wall Street Journal called her return " infinitely better " than her first appearance : " Back then , she was a puzzle , a loony bin . Here , she 's sly and quick @-@ witted , appropriately adult and seductively saucy in an episode that showcased more of her comedic timing , than her stiff dance skills . All the better for us . " Fallon wrote that Paltrow was " if possible , even sassier and sultrier " than before , and felt that she served to anchor a busy episode . In contrast , Sandra Gonzalez of Entertainment Weekly had mixed feelings about Holly , as she believed that the character dominated screen time . The A.V. Club 's Todd VanDerWerff liked Paltrow 's acting , but disliked Holly 's interaction with Will , and said they lacked chemistry . Soraya Roberts of the Daily News disliked her return for prolonging Will and Emma 's separation , and commented that while Paltrow 's appearance in " The Substitute " was " relatively fresh " , in " Sexy " she was " acting

almost like a cardboard cutout version of her former self , overly enunciating her lines [and] treading carefully around her choreography " . Poniewozik found all of Paltrow 's scenes " labored and ridiculous " , and wrote that the actress failed to bring an element of realism to her character . Benigno wondered why Holly appeared to be " the perfect mentor to these sexually confused kids " given that in her previous appearance she was " very fun to be around but not well equipped at all to deal with serious issues " . Canning said that " the moment she came on screen the whole episode lit up " , and the episode was a " fun and funny showcase for everybody 's favorite recurring character " , and Futterman echoed him when she called Paltrow " our new favorite cast member " .

The storyline featuring Santana and Brittany was very well received , and the acting was also praised . Houston Chronicle 's Bobby Hankinson wrote that Santana 's " fear , her confusion and her journey were all rendered with honesty and even a subtlety rarely exhibited on this show . " Gonzalez was somewhat surprised by the storyline and observed that Santana had not previously been portrayed as " so serious and vulnerable " , but enjoyed the depth it brought to her character . She described Rivera as " heartbreakingly perfect " , and Vanity Fair 's Brett Berk wrote that " Naya Rivera and Heather Morris deserve special praise for the complex way they portray this fraught relationship . " Poniewozik and VanDerWerff highlighted the work by the two actresses in the choir room scene when " Landslide " was being sung , and VanDerWerff described the scene where Santana confessed her feelings for Brittany as " one of the better scenes of the season " , while Poniewozik was impressed that the episode found " pathos and heartbreak " in a coupling formerly treated humorously . Canning , however , felt that Santana 's revelation " could have been built up better " .

Although some reviewers , including Yahr and TVLine 's Michael Slezak , were unenthusiastic about Blaine 's visit to Burt to get him to have " the talk " with Kurt , there was widespread praise for the talk itself , which Jen Harper of BuddyTV described as the " best scene " of the episode . Fallon called it " one of the most uncomfortable father ? son sex talks ever committed to television (and thus , really , one of the most realistic) " , and his colleague Brown said it became " something lovely , open @-@ hearted , and true " . Gonzalez deemed it awkward to watch , yet wrote that the scene served to convince her she had " never loved a father @-@ son pair " more . Poniewozik found it realistic and moving , and gave particular praise to O 'Malley for portraying Burt 's " determination and awkwardness in helping his son " , as did Slezak : " his completely grounded performance helps anchor the show in reality " .

Burns was incredulous that Emma and Carl had not yet consummated their four @-@ month @-@ old marriage , and criticized their going to a substitute teacher for relationship advice , something that Benigno also found stupid . Slezak and VanDerWerff disliked the episode 's portrayal of Emma , since the recently seen " stronger , less neurotic , and altogether more appealing Emma " , as Slezak put it , was inconsistent with her depiction here . One of the few positive comments was from Canning , who singled out Emma 's ignorance of what an " afternoon delight " actually was . The reviewers were more enthusiastic about the pairing of Puck and Lauren , though somewhat divided . MTV 's Emily Exton called them her " favorite couple of the evening " and cited " the ridiculous logic that they share " . Canning called their scenes " a hoot " , though Benigno said he was " still not buying " the relationship . A third couple , that of the resurrected pairing of Finn and Quinn , was in Harper 's " didn 't love " column , and VanDerWerff couldn 't bring himself to care enough to comment on it .

= = = Music and performances = = =

Musical performances in the episode attracted a wide range of commentary , from enthusiastic to dismissive , though one song , " Landslide " , received generally high marks . Brown wrote that all the performances " felt a little lackluster ... though none stood out as being particularly awful " , while Hankinson maintained that the " songs were universally great " .

Most reviewers agreed that the performance of " Do You Wanna Touch Me (Oh Yeah) " was sexy . Benigno was one of these and was entertained by the number , but he thought Holly 's " vocals seem oddly subdued trying to imitate Joan Jett 's voice " and gave it a " B " grade . Gonzalez gave

the same grade and also took issue with the vocals , though she enjoyed the energy and Brittany 's dancing . Rolling Stone 's Erica Futterman had a different view of the singing , and said that " Holly can 't quite muster Jett 's vocal power " . Berk gave the song four stars out of five and noted the " amazing hairgraphy " , but Roberts called the performance a " leather @-@ clad , hair @-@ whipping mess " . Slezak gave the performance an " A " ; he wrote that Paltrow " completely captured the track 's naughty spirit , and Brittany took it over the top with her bump and grind atop the music @-@ room piano " .

The inclusion of " Do You Wanna Touch Me (Oh Yeah) " in an episode dealing with sex education and adolescent sexuality sparked some controversy , as its original performer and writer , Gary Glitter , is a registered sex offender in the United Kingdom . He has been convicted of several sexual crimes involving minors , including a conviction for possession of child pornography in the UK in 1997 , and his conviction for child sexual abuse in Vietnam in 2005 . Charities dedicated to serving and helping children have filed complaints to Fox and the producers of Glee . Television executives in the UK , where the episode was to be broadcast about a month later than in the US , were rumored to be considering the removal of the scene entirely . However , a spokesperson for Channel 4 stated that the episode would air in full , and explained : " The scene is editorially justified within the programme and we do not seek to censor material in the proper context . " Claude Knights , the executive director of the London @-@ based children 's charity Kidscape , said , " It is regrettable that the producers did not consider the implication of using such a track in the context of a sex education class . The fact that this song is linked to Gary Glitter ... make [s] it wholly inappropriate " . The UK edition of Glee : The Music , Volume 5 omits the track ; " Afternoon Delight " is included instead .

Though " Afternoon Delight " was variously described as " goofy " by Benigno and " corny " by Gonzalez , it nevertheless was given a generally positive reception . Benigno called the performance " absolutely hilarious " , but characterized the cover as " pretty impressive " , and gave a grade of " A ? " . Amy Reiter of the Los Angeles Times was even more enthusiastic : she said it was an " incredible rendition " that she ranked " among the best moments of Glee ever " . Slezak 's grade of " B ? " was issued after a strong caveat : " Arrested Development did it better " , and Gonzalez wrote that Stamos was wasted on the performance , which she gave a " C " . Berk cited the " incredible harmonies " when he gave the song four out of five stars .

" Animal " received a widely divergent mix of reviews . Harper wrote that the Warblers " did a good job with it but nothing special " , while Hankinson called it " super adorable and fun " and that it " was great to finally see Kurt get to share the spotlight with Blaine " . Flandez was not as pleased by Kurt ? or by the Warblers , who he said had ruined the song ? and likened his performance to " Jar Jar Binks on acid , with those jerky moves and infantile facial expressions " . Roberts called their version " hokey " , and Slezak said the setting " felt contrived as heck " and gave the song a " D " . Benigno was at the other end of the scale with an " A " grade and the summary that " they completely crush it " , while Gonzalez gave the number an " A + " , deemed it " unforgettable " , praised the " unique song selection " and called it " pure fun " . Futterman described the Warblers as " the loosest they 've been all season " , but characterized the performance as one of their " least successful " because Blaine and Kurt , " two of the series ' most reliable lead singers " , were severely overprocessed electronically . Tyler Glenn , lead singer of Neon Trees , said , " I thought it was cool " .

There was not much enthusiasm for the performance of " Kiss " . Most reviewers were not impressed with Will 's falsetto : Harper said it made her ears " sad " and Gonzalez said it " really didn 't do it " for her , though she did like the sections in his natural register and gave the performance a " C + " , and Harper noted that " Holly saved the song " for her . Although Futterman said Will " expertly hits the falsetto notes " , she didn 't " feel the chemistry " until the final kiss . Benigno , on the other hand , said that the chemistry between them was " palpable " , called the cover " pretty great " , and gave it a " B + " . Roberts praised the " real sex appeal " Morrison brought to the number , but deemed Paltrow 's tango rigid . Burns commented that white people ought to be deterred from performing Prince . He called the music " uninteresting and soulless " , and was dismayed that the tango was " just white with white people tango dancing " . Flandez , however ,

enjoyed their dancing and wrote , " The strong holds , the slow cuts , the perfect swivel of hips and the lean @-@ to 's were mesmerizingly seductive . "

" Landslide " received the most praise of the songs in the episode ; indeed , both VanDerWerff and Harper named it the episode 's best number . Harper noted the " great harmonies " and added , " I got goose bumps . " Hankinson called the rendition " gorgeous " and Berk used " perfection " ; Berk went above his five star maximum to give the performance six stars . Roberts found the performance " pretty but uninspired " , though Flandez called it " a dreamy , perfectly pitched power song of lesbian love " and Poniewozik " surprisingly poignant " . Benigno and Slezak both noted that the cover was based on the version by the Dixie Chicks , and gave grades of " A ? " and " B + " respectively . The " B + " from Gonzalez came with a caveat : she wished that Rivera , rather than Paltrow , had sung the lead vocal because of the meaning the song held for Santana . Stevie Nicks welcomed the cover of " Landslide " , and hoped it would bring the Fleetwood Mac 's songs to a new generation . She approved of the performance , and said that Paltrow " sang it beautifully " .

= = = Chart history = = =

Of the five cover versions released as singles , four debuted on the Billboard Hot 100 , and appeared on other musical charts . On the Hot 100 , the show 's rendition of " Landslide " debuted at number twenty @-@ three ; it was at number thirty @-@ five on the Billboard Canadian Hot 100 . The other three songs on the Hot 100 were " Do You Wanna Touch Me (Oh Yeah) " at number fifty @-@ seven , which also made number sixty @-@ three on the Canadian Hot 100 , " Animal " at number sixty @-@ two , which also made number sixty @-@ five on the Canadian Hot 100 , and " Kiss " at number eighty @-@ three , which also made number eighty on the Canadian Hot 100 . " Afternoon Delight " did not chart on either list .