

= Ballad (Glee) =

" Ballad " is the tenth episode of the American television series Glee . The episode premiered on the Fox network on November 18 , 2009 , and was written and directed by series creator Brad Falchuk . " Ballad " sees the glee club split into pairs to sing ballads to one another . Rachel (Lea Michele) is paired with club director Will (Matthew Morrison) and develops a crush on him . Quinn 's (Dianna Agron) parents learn that Quinn is pregnant , and she moves in with Finn (Cory Monteith) and his mother when her own parents evict her . Gregg Henry and Charlotte Ross guest @-@ star as Quinn 's parents Russell and Judy Fabray , and Sarah Drew appears as Suzy Pepper , a student with a former crush on Will . Romy Rosemont returns as Finn 's mother , Carole Hudson .

The episode features covers of seven songs , including a mash @-@ up of " Don 't Stand So Close to Me " by The Police and " Young Girl " by Gary Puckett and The Union Gap . Studio recordings of all songs performed in the episode were released as singles , available for digital download . " Ballad " was watched by 7 @. @ 29 million US viewers and received mixed reviews from critics . Elizabeth Holmes of The Wall Street Journal and Liz Pardue of Zap2it were disappointed that Jane Lynch did not appear as Sue Sylvester , though Mike Hale of the New York Times did not miss her presence . Bobby Hankinson of the Houston Chronicle deemed " Ballad " one of the best episodes of Glee to date . Dan Snierson of Entertainment Weekly did not enjoy it as much as the preceding episode " Wheels " but reviewed the episode positively overall , while Eric Zorn of the Chicago Tribune deemed it " deliriously , deliciously bad " .

" Ballad " was the episode submission of Dianna Agron for the Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series , but her nomination failed to make the final cut .

= = Plot = =

Glee club director Will Schuester (Matthew Morrison) has the club split up into pairs to sing ballads to one another . As Matt Rutherford (Dijon Talton) is absent , Will is forced to take his place and sing with Rachel (Lea Michele) , who develops a crush on him . Will is dismayed , remembering Suzy Pepper (Sarah Drew) , the last student who had such strong feelings for him . When her feelings were not reciprocated , she was so distraught she ate an extremely hot pepper from Mexico , was hospitalized , and had to have an esophagus transplant . Rachel visits Will 's apartment , where his wife Terri (Jessalyn Gilsig) puts her to work cooking and cleaning . After an encounter with Suzy Pepper , during which Suzy explains that the two of them are similar and that chasing after Will won 't repair Rachel 's self @-@ esteem , Rachel realizes her feelings for Will reflect her concerns about her own self @-@ worth , and apologizes for her behavior . Afterward , Will assures her that she will find the man of her dreams who loves her for who she is .

Finn is paired with Kurt (Chris Colfer) , who advises him to sing his ballad to his unborn daughter . When Finn 's mother Carole (Romy Rosemont) finds him singing to a sonogram video , she deduces that his girlfriend Quinn (Dianna Agron) is pregnant . Finn has dinner with Quinn and her parents Russell and Judy (Gregg Henry and Charlotte Ross) , and reveals Quinn 's pregnancy to them in song . Russell says he is extremely disappointed in his daughter and evicts Quinn from the family home ; she moves in with Finn and his mother . Kurt feels responsible for encouraging Finn to reveal the truth and apologizes ; when Finn asks him what ballad Kurt was planning to sing to him , Kurt says it is " I Honestly Love You " . Puck (Mark Salling) tells his ballad partner Mercedes (Amber Riley) that he is the father of Quinn 's baby , and Mercedes advises him to leave Quinn alone . The glee club then comes together to sing " Lean on Me " in support of Finn and Quinn .

= = Production = =

" Ballad " was written and directed by series creator Brad Falchuk . Recurring characters who appear in the episode are glee club members Brittany (Heather Morris) , Santana Lopez (Naya Rivera) and Mike Chang (Harry Shum , Jr .) . Romy Rosemont plays Finn 's mother Carole Hudson , her first appearance since the series ' second episode , and Gregg Henry and Charlotte

Ross guest @-@ star as Quinn 's parents , Russell and Judy Fabray . Sarah Drew is Suzy Pepper , a student with " an insane , absurd , psychotic crush on Mr. Schuester " . Drew described Suzy as " kind of stalkerish and creepy " , but ultimately redeemable .

The episode features cover versions of " Endless Love " by Diana Ross and Lionel Richie , " I 'll Stand by You " by The Pretenders , " Crush " by Jennifer Paige , " (You 're) Having My Baby " by Paul Anka and Odia Coates , " Lean on Me " by Bill Withers , and a mash @-@ up of " Don 't Stand So Close to Me " by The Police and " Young Girl " by Gary Puckett and The Union Gap . Studio recordings of all songs performed in the episode were released as singles , available for digital download , and are also included on the album *Glee : The Music , Volume 2* . " Endless Love " charted at number 87 in Canada , and 78 in America . " I 'll Stand by You " reached number 65 in Canada and 73 in America , while " Don 't Stand So Close to Me / Young Girl " charted at number 67 in Canada and 64 in America .

Monteith and Agron were not allowed to attend rehearsals for the episode 's final musical performance , " Lean on Me " , as Falchuk wanted their reactions to seem real . Both were brought to tears by the performance , with co @-@ star Jenna Ushkowitz commenting : " It 's special to have those kinds of touching moments where you can get real , raw emotions on screen . "

= = Reception = =

" Ballad " was watched by 7 @.@ 29 million US viewers and attained a 3 @.@ 2 / 8 rating / share in the 18 ? 49 demographic . It was the highest @-@ rated program on the night of broadcast with adults 18 ? 34 and teens . In Canada , it was the twentieth most watched show in the week of broadcast , attaining 1 @.@ 74 million viewers . In the UK , the episode was watched by 2 @.@ 149 million viewers (1 @.@ 752 million on E4 , and 397 @,@ 000 on E4 + 1) , becoming the most @-@ watched show on E4 and E4 + 1 for the week , and one of the most @-@ watched show on cable for the week , as well as the most @-@ watched episode of the series at the time .

The episode received mixed reviews from critics . Elizabeth Holmes for The Wall Street Journal was disappointed that cheerleading coach Sue Sylvester did not appear in the episode , though was pleased that the pregnancy plot appeared to be coming to an end . Bobby Hankinson for the Houston Chronicle was also pleased the pregnancy plot moved towards a conclusion , and called " Ballad " one of the best episodes of Glee to date , commenting : " it 's increasingly clear that the episodes without the messy adult drama are the strongest . " Eric Goldman for IGN observed that " Ballad " proved Glee is capable of delivering a " pretty solid " episode without Jane Lynch 's presence , rating the episode 8 / 10 . Zap2it 's Liz Pardue felt the absence of Lynch , but praised Chris Colfer 's performance as Kurt .

Mike Hale of the New York Times did not miss Sue 's presence in the episode , and wrote that " Ballad " contained some scenes which were " as honestly emotional as any since this series began , most of them involving Kurt and Finn " . Gerrick D. Kennedy for the Los Angeles Times appreciated the episode for subverting expectations , by having Finn 's mother react supportively to the news of Quinn 's pregnancy , rather than the more affluent and financially capable Fabrays . Dan Snierson for Entertainment Weekly opined that " Ballad " was not as good as the preceding episode , " Wheels " , but that overall : " it did offer up a few choice cuts and fun moments while advancing one big story line " . James Poniewozik of Time agreed that " Ballad " was not as good as " Wheels " , commenting : " it 's amazing how Glee can career from excruciating to transcendent within a single episode . " The Chicago Tribune 's Eric Zorn , watching Glee for the first time , deemed the episode " deliriously , deliciously bad " , deriding the casting of young adult actors as teenagers , the " one @-@ dimensional stock characters " and the " kitschy plots " . Zorn questioned : " So do people actually like this show , or just revel in its over @-@ the @-@ top , spectacular and , I admit , compelling badness ? "