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# American Idol Top 5: The Results

Posted April 30, 2008 | 03:51 AM (EST)



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NOTE: HERE'S A BRIEF RUNDOWN OF THE RESULTS:

**Bye, bye, Brooke.**

The show began with a group medley of more Neil Diamond songs. Almost everyone sounded tinny and off-key and flat...except for David Cook, who sparked each song he sang on with real gusto. He is definitely peaking at the right time.

They obliquely addressed the Paula gaffe by having Ryan say she's family and they love her as the camera zoomed in on a demurely dressed Paula (seriously, she practically looked like a nun). They might have explained how the gaffe worked but at the very least they should have let Paula apologize to Jason. They made it sound like Paula was the victim when it was Jason who had Paula lambaste a performance he hadn't given yet. In a show of class, Jason ws the first one to find out he was safe. Then he should have thanked Paula for surely without the gaffe and people rebelling against teh supposed unfairness he would perhaps have been in the bottom two. David Archuleta looked genuinely stunned when he was safe as well and an increasingly nervous David Cook was relieved. We've been saying all season the men look stronger and here's proof.

Natasha Bedingfield sang her hit and then snuggled up with David Archuleta. I hate the cheesy calling segment but fair is fair: the caller who gave Simon his first kiss was very entertaining. Then Neil Diamond came out and nailed "Pretty Amazing Grace" from his new album. Not a wasted trill or indulgent vocal riff to be heard and he was absolutely compelling. I still find the line when he sings, "You forgave my insensitivity." (Just to nail on the head.) But it's growing on me.

Then the two gals Brooke and Syesha were alone. They cut too soon to Brooke after naming her as the contestant going home so we didn't really get a chance to see Syesha's reaction (though I think she was braced for hearing her own name called). Brooke broke into tears and for some reason I kept expecting her to say they were grateful tears for the entire experience. She labored through

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the song -- forgetting the lyrics one last time was certainly an appropriate touch. And then she walked away crying with Ryan consoling her some more. Next week, surely Jason and Syesha will be the bottom two till we finally see the two Davids face off on the final show.

HERE IS MY ORIGINAL POST ABOUT THE TOP FIVE PERFORMANCES OF NEIL DIAMOND  
A rushed, chaotic, and funny episode of *Idol* featuring **Neil Diamond** as an apparently ineffective mentor. He's one of my favorite songwriters (if only because he tends to write in a key I can easily sing). Diamond's last album *12 Songs* may be the best of his career and it's available for **\$9 on Amazon**. And he has a new CD -- *Home Before Dark*, also produced by Rick Rubin and out May 6 - that is promising, though the first single is a tad baroque for my taste. Anyway, Diamond gave away little about his attitude towards the singers and since we didn't see him actually giving any tips or suggesting arrangements, changing keys, or doing much of anything, I assume he wasn't a very active mentor. On the bright side, he has a catalog of hundreds of classic songs, many of which are genuine standards that the kids could -- but usually didn't -- make their own.

**JASON CASTRO** -- Sang "Forever In Blue Jeans" with an acoustic guitar and "September Morn" sitting on a stool. (Both of them were Top 20 hits in 1979.) "Blue Jeans" was nicely mellow as Castro is wont to do. But the bridge should have been stronger and it smooth-jazzed itself out into blandness. Similarly, with "September Morn" (what, no "Red Red Wine" like we expected?), he started out great, handling the casual intro lines very nicely, but went off melody to no effect on the chorus. His intensity never varied throughout either song, though "Morn" at least should climax with the pain of a remembered love. They used to talk a lot about a "studio voice" on the show and that's what Castro has -- it's a tentative, small instrument but interesting with some unique quirks. He can't deliver live yet; he may never be able to deliver live. But in the studio where they can punch up weak moments and he can piece together an entire song bit by bit, Castro could prove surprisingly effective. Randy was mixed on both songs, Paula was very confused but seemed to like the first song but not the second and Simon was dismissive of both as forgettable, which was right.

**DAVID COOK** -- Sang "I'm Alive" from Diamond's 1982 album *Heartlight* (whose title track was inspired by *ET: The Extra-Terrestrial*) and "All I Really Need Is You" from 1991's *Lovescape*. Talk about digging up the rarities, especially when Diamond has so many well known songs Cook could have rocked out. ("Dry Your Eyes" could have been awesome and "Save Me A Saturday Night" from *12 Songs* is begging to be speeded up into a pop-punk hit.) But Diamond naturally was thrilled to have Cook dig deep into his catalog ("He's got the right material," Diamond said unblushingly) and Cook did it justice. Cook did a solid job on "I'm Alive" (with the initials AC and some strange symbols on his sleeves and AC on his guitar -- presumably a tribute to his brother?) He was even better with "All I Really Need Is You," starting with an acoustic guitar, showing off confident vocals, bringing it to a typical emo-ish rocker edge and then bringing it back down -- very true to himself, very confident and very engaging with two songs presumably most people had rarely or never heard.

Randy and Simon were mixed on the first and Paula was just confused. By the way, when they tried to do a rush review after everyone had performed once, Paula started critiquing Jason Castro's *second* song when he'd only performed one on the air so far. Utterly confused and batty, but Simon gallantly stepped in and asked a quick pithy question: Who was your favorite? Paula failed to answer even that so Simon jumped to a group review and said everyone needed to do better on their second song, giving Paula coverage for her wacky moment and moving the show along nicely. The man knows his job and does it well. There's no conspiracy here. Paula either mixed up her notes and was reading comments she wrote down for another performer (though not Cook) or more likely she had made notes about what she thought of Jason's second song performance based on the practice run-through. She could always adjust herself if -- rarely -- someone was dramatically better or worse on the live performance. Again, there is no agenda by the show to make certain this person or that person gets through. If Jason is cut, it's a scandal; if he isn't cut, he's a draw for having those nice eyes and a laid-back cool. The producers really, really don't care what happens. It all makes for good TV.

Everyone rightly raved about Cook's second song, with Simon calling it brilliant and Paula saying she felt like she was looking at the next American Idol. Frankly, that may not be so crazy. David Archuleta has been very safe and not great the last two weeks. If he stumbles at the finals and gives two mediocre performances, maybe it opens the door for Cook to win it. I assume, without any facts to back it up, that Archuleta is way ahead of everyone else in voting and that he'd have to

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faint on stage and forget every word to lose support. But since Brooke basically did that and didn't even have to suffer being in the bottom three, I don't know. But Cook as an upset winner is seeming more possible every week.

**BROOKE WHITE** -- Sang "I'm A Believer" with a guitar and "I Am...I Said" on the piano. "I'm A Believer" was of course the biggest hit of the Monkees' long career, which began with them taking songs from Brill Building writers like Diamond and later playing their own instruments and writing their own hits. (Maybe the *Idol* contestants will follow a similar path since they now play instruments and might write an original tune as part of the Top 12 competition some day the way they do on *Nashville Star*.) "I'm A Believer" was #1 for seven weeks in 1967. (The Beatles were the last act prior to the Monkees to stay at #1 for seven or more weeks, doing it in 1964 with "I Want To Hold Your Hand." The next act after the Monkees to do it? The Beatles again, in 1968 with "Hey Jude.") "I Am...I Said" may be Diamond's most notorious hit, a song that I believe sprang from psychoanalysis and features the absurd lines, "I am, I said/ To no one there/ And no heard at all/ not even the chair." Absurd, that is, until you hear Diamond sing it -- he sings it with such passion that you accept it completely and only smile or wonder about the line later. The man's so lost and confused he feels ignored even by inanimate objects -- that's just one interpretation. But in any case, something intense is going on. Brooke as usual has no feeling for the lyrics and the actual emotional content of a song. She sort of gets it should have a certain biting rhythm. "I AM I said, To NO one there" and so on, but there's no intent behind it. She just rambles through the first song, starting out too low, sounding flat and thin but looking good in serious flare pants and ruffly shirt. On the second song, she sits at the piano and is sharp and robotic in her singing again. The judges are indifferent or hostile to her first performance, which was just dull but -- rather bizarrely -- across the board positive about the second one.

Brooke did look comfortable at the piano and here's a chance to say introducing instruments has been a complete success. It doesn't seem to put the singers who don't play an instrument at a disadvantage and changes up the performances nicely. Mind you someone who is a major talent on one or two or three instruments could win a lot of attention and votes. Right now, they're all just competent. So it works but with someone truly gifted it could wow viewers and change the dynamic dramatically.

**DAVID ARCHULETA** -- Sang "Sweet Caroline" and -- of course -- "America." Diamond's first Top 5 hit as a performer, "Caroline" went to #4 and was also his first single to go platinum. "America" comes from *The Jazz Singer* soundtrack to Diamond's notorious flop of a movie from 1980 that was lambasted so viciously, it makes the reviews for Mariah Carey's *Glitter* seem sympathetic in comparison. Ironically, the soundtrack was by far the biggest smash hit of his career, selling 5 million copies and producing three top 10 hits including "Hello Again" (which Syesha tackled) and "Love On The Rocks" (which might have made a nice bitter, change-up moodwise for Castro) and his alternate national anthem "America." Archuleta bounced his way through "Sweet Caroline" but I had more fun looking for all his tics, like the breathing, the licking of lips and especially the closing of his eyes, an almost irresistible impulse for him. He really didn't do a very good job until the end, when he sang the last bit strongly and stared straight into the camera and closed the deal with those white, Osmond-like teeth. (However, [Ken Levine points out a huge mistake on Archuleta's part](#) by not letting the audience do the "oh oh ohs" that make the tune such a crowd pleaser. And yes, they play it at Boston Red Sox games but that just proves how lame they are since everyone knows Diamond is a lifelong Yankee fan.) "America" was equally unimpressive. He seemed rushed, just like the entire show. When his voice cracked on the word "today" Archuleta smiled just a bit and plowed on like a pro. He did everything but wrap himself in the American flag when it came to the section where Diamond inserted phrases from "America, My Country Tis Of Thee," with Archuleta looking more earnest than usual and staring deeply and wholesomely into the camera. Diamond mentioned in the taped section that Archuleta wasn't sure how to end the song (which fades out with a whispered "today.") Apparently he just decided to throw in some more patriotic tidbits, ending with "Let freedom ring!" Words that don't appear in the song, by the way. Did Diamond suggest them or approve of them, one wonders? Regardless, he sang them very strongly, hoping to erase the memory of the choppy earlier moments. I assume someone with the initials "D" and "A" will win the whole thing. But being so-so several weeks in a row at least adds a little suspense. Randy loved the first song while Simon was mixed and they all loved "America." But I take issue with Simon saying Archuleta's choice of "America" was clever. No, it was obvious.

**SYESHA MERCADO** -- Sang "Hello Again" (in bare feet) from *The Jazz Singer* and "Thank The



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Lord For The Nighttime," a 1967 hit from only his second album, *Just For You*. Syesha looked just smashingly good, threw in a high note early on that worked well, made the song dramatically her own and ended just beautifully with a bit of humming that led into a final, high, restrained "Hello." "Thank The Lord" indeed had a theatrical flair, as Randy said, with Syesha leading the clapping and taking us to church (a little). It had a lot of punch if not the complete success of the first tune. Randy and Paula were very enthusiastic about the first song with Simon mixed and calling it "old-fashioned." Randy and Paula again loved the second one, but Simon was mixed and said Syesha "may be in trouble." She was dismayed but handled it well by simply asking "why?" Given how good her performances were compared to Jason and Brooke, why indeed. But beware when Simon makes such a comment; they may be self-fulfilling to a degree but the end result is the same.

**BOTTOM THREE** -- It should be Jason and Brooke and Syesha. I'm going to ignore Simon and go with my ears and say Jason and Brooke in the bottom two and predict Jason is going home. Even Paula had nothing nice to say the second time around. So are you a fan of Neil Diamond? Do you think Carly went home because of a Christian backlash to "Jesus Christ Superstar?" Is Paula part of some nefarious plot or just airheaded? Whose performance did you like? And who is going home this week?

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What's interesting about the Paula mistake was revealing that what appears to be a spontaneous response to the 'live' performance turns out to be supported by the copious notes from the run-through,

so a basic opinion is formed ahead of time.

I must admit that it makes more sense of occasionally odd responses to a good performances (or the other way around). If you supposed that the earlier performance colored their opinion then what you have is sort of a composite critique partly based on something we'll never see in its entirety (except for snippets at the end).

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 09:58 AM on 05/01/2008

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yeah, that is kind of becoming a bit clearer for me as i continue to read that they watch the rehearsals because, at times, they can't really "hear" the live performance. this could explain the digs into syesha - i guess - after some truly good entertaining performances. but really, they need to come clean with this, if that is the case. very happy to see brooke cry us a river when she was booted....LOL...has no one used that in their lead yet?

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 10:36 AM on 05/01/2008

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Well, it's been clear that the judges watch rehearsals -- why wouldn't they? It lets them get an idea of what the singers are working on and going for, let's them make sure what songs the singers are doing and so on. A few weeks ago, when Michael Johns did "A Day In The Life" on Beatles week, Paula said he had done it much better in rehearsals. No one yelled and screamed that it was terrible for her to watch rehearsals and why not take notes while doing so? I almost always watch back every performance twice before posting my piece and if I could I'd certainly watch rehearsals. All the judges, including Paula, are capable of using any notes as a guide while reacting to the actual performance. Paula just got scatterbrained and was reviewing the performance of the second song during rehearsals. If she'd waited, she would have reacted to the final performance Jason gave, with the rehearsal notes giving her some context. No scandal, other than Idol's inept dealing with this tempest in a teapot.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 01:16 AM on 05/02/2008

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Well that was long overdue. Brooke was crying a river because she got tossed out of the sandbox...finally. Her continued presence while more talented contestants fell by the wayside took me all the way through the Idol stages of confusion: mild annoyance, full-on annoyance, rant, indifference, speechlessness.

Anyway, that was surely the worst group sing in the history of Idol (and I've been there for all of them), particularly the odd 'you take it, no you take it' exchange between Syesha and Brooke. Yikes. I'll bet that had Neil Diamond rolling over in his gra...dressing room.

Yes, that was mighty sloppy damage control on the Paula gaffe; protect, protect, protect. Let's face it, whatever meds are interfering with her neurons firing have become more evident with each passing year so this won't be the last time they have to call the PR fire department.

Finally, I really like Natasha Bedingfield because girlfriend has a great set of pipes and in an era of 'posers' she delivers the goods. Nobody needs to run a doubling track behind her strong vocals.

Just an aside but did anyone get the idea that when Bedingfield ran back over to the contestant set mentioning she had to say hello to 'David' that Cook stood up thinking she was referring to him? That is until she stopped and sat next to Archuleta. Maybe I'm delusional but that's how it appeared.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 07:13 AM on 05/01/2008

☰ **Michael Giltz** [See Profile](#) [I'm a Fan of Michael Giltz](#) [permalink](#)

Yep, I thought the group sing-along was especially awful and they're almost always awful. Many people wrote and had the same impression that David Cook stood up when Natasha mentioned David and then shamefacedly realized she meant Archuleta. I must admit I missed it because I fast-forwarded through her performance.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 01:18 AM on 05/02/2008

☰ **LiberalBuzz** [See Profile](#) [I'm a Fan of LiberalBuzz](#) [permalink](#)

I was really hoping to see SOLITARY MAN and CHERRY CHERRY done, but nada.

AND DARN YOU MICHAEL!!! DARN YOU ALL TO HECK. I actually watched part of the danged show so I could review your reviews better.

DARN YOU!

Plus I like Neil Diamond...I mean what the heck.

Now if we could just get them to do some Allman Brothers Band stuff. Yeah that's the ticket.

Or UFO's Strangers in the Night. Now THAT would be a challenge.

I'd like to see some really good rock done. NOT pop rock but get down rock.

Maybe even some doo wop.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 01:52 AM on 05/01/2008

Michael Giltz See Profile I'm a Fan of Michael Giltz permalink

Watchig the show just so you can doublecheck my reviews? Awesome. I too expected Solitary Man to be covered. Johnny Cash did a good cover but Chris Isaak did a great one that I figured Cook might cadge from. The Allman Brothers might be too far out of their comfort zone. Maybe the Band would give them more leeway?

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 03:34 AM on 05/01/2008

LiberalBuzz See Profile I'm a Fan of LiberalBuzz permalink

Actually it wasn't to doublecheck so much as to be able to keep up with your reviews. I kept reading them and thinking OKAY WHAT AM I MISSING HERE. I never really got into Idol as it just seemed to be so much "Pop" which i really don't have much use for, but I love reading your reviews (YES that is a bit of suck up but nonetheless true) so I figured what the heck, let's go check it out.

It was still kind of hard to swallow and I still think it is so over produced that we aren't seeing the real talent be able to shine through IF it exists, but I sat through a lot of it and it was kind of sad to see Paula being so confused, YES she might have mixed up her notes from the earlier rehearsal but one has to wonder is there isn't any substance that might be altering her ability to think clearly.

Maybe?

I like Paula, she is one of my favorite train wrecks and I just hope it doesn't become a serious train wreck. One of those great smiles.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 04:24 PM on 05/01/2008

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I have great respect for all the fine guest writers and singers on the show who mentor with their expertise and catalog but Idol has consistently gone 'old school' when it professes to search for the new, young, hip thing. There needs to be more balance between the old and new and I wonder why a more contemporary star (Beyonce and her relatively large catalog?) isn't inserted into the mix more often. Mariah Carey was not a choice I would have made and yet it did add an interesting element to the show and Carey, herself, was a surprisingly helpful mentor.

But I'm suggesting that there are plenty of good, contemporary artists who have solid catalogs that would work for the show. I can't imagine too many artists turning down the 'face time' you get on Idol.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 12:05 AM on 05/01/2008

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I think contemporary artists don't have enough of a catalog for them to dig into. But certainly a contemporary artist could be brought in to cover a classic genre they love, like say Usher for r and b or the Jonas Brothers for Sixties music (or whatever). Idol might be stuck into thinking you have to focus on that artist's particular songs too much. A lot of people agree with you that it's been too fuddy-duddy-ish. I think Andrew Lloyd Webber was the tipping point. Personally, I think Neil Diamond has so many songs to his credit that cover four decades of music and has been getting some of the best reviews of his life so that to me, he's a great choice. But Gwen Stefani and Mariah Carey shouldn't be the exceptions, they should be the rule.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 03:37 AM on 05/01/2008

observing See Profile I'm a Fan of observing permalink

Good insight Michael. But please, change your photograph.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 05:56 PM on 04/30/2008

Michael Giltz See Profile I'm a Fan of Michael Giltz permalink

Ouch. I'd like to use an illustration a friend did of me, but it doesn't fit into the space. I'll try for some better lighting, but believe me, the more shadows the better when it comes to me.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 03:38 AM on 05/01/2008

ghostofgrrrl See Profile I'm a Fan of ghostofgrrrl permalink

Two points I highly agree with:

1. allowing instruments was a great move
2. Jason Castro is very marketable

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 05:55 PM on 04/30/2008

ghostofgrrrl See Profile I'm a Fan of ghostofgrrrl permalink

yes, I just made a new verb "daughtry"

much the same as "ollie" became a verb to skateboarders.

if an Idol contestant makes it to the top 5, doesn't win, but reaches greater success than most of the winners, he or she has daughtried

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 05:45 PM on 04/30/2008

ghostofgrrrl See Profile I'm a Fan of ghostofgrrrl permalink

I think Carly (and Michael Johns) went home because they were not willing to sign over complete control of their careers to Idol which is a smart plan, on their part. They got what they needed out of it and both are poised to "Daughtry"

Saw Carly at a restaurant on Sat night. Trust, she is doing fine and is aligned with some serious power to go for it right now!

(oddly, another friend of mine, on the same Sat night., saw Jason and Sayesha and Brooke at a restaurant and said they all looked like deers in the headlights, but were trying to have fun) Carly was DEF having fun!

BTW, if little David A's dad is not going to relinquish full control, the kid is not going to win

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 05:39 PM on 04/30/2008

Michael Giltz See Profile I'm a Fan of Michael Giltz permalink

Hey ghostofgrrrl, thanks for the comments. Carly and Michel Johns don't have any choice yet about where they go. By appearing on the show at all, they must sign with the record label and management team of Idol if Idol decides to pick up their option, whether they win or hit the top 10 or just audition. And they certainly didn't maneuver to lose to avoid the typically awful albums Idol winners are forced to rush out. But I do agree with you wholeheartedly that Carly and Michael Johns will be better off artistically if they are not linked to the Idol machine. Maybe Jason and Syesha and Brooke looked like deers in the headlight because they all know each of them is going to be picked off one by one and that the two Davids will be in the final. It's kind of a weird time for them. And interesting that the three of them were together but not Cook and Archuleta. I don't think we know that David A's dad has been some sort of control freak -- that's just tabloid gossip as of yet. Though if David's dad is a stage mom it wouldnt be the first time an Idol parent has been controlling ad hurt their kid's chances. Daughtry does indeed make a good verb. Does it officially replaced "Aikenized?"

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 03:44 AM on 05/01/2008

kellygrrrl See Profile I'm a Fan of kellygrrrl permalink

this was up in Oak Park which is north of Calabassas that's also where I saw Carly on the same Sat night.

There was a film crew in the lot of the church across the street.  
I got the impression they were filming something up there.  
lots of films and TV use this site and the shopping center we were at.

I didn't see J and B and S, my friend did.  
but I had the same reaction - interesting that the Davids couldn't join them

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 11:15 AM on 05/01/2008

**cliffdvr** See Profile I'm a Fan of cliffdvr permalink

Have to agree with pretty much everything.

And I am really on board with the David A cynicism thing.

<http://cliffdvr.blogspot.com/2008/04/american-idol-pop-on-rocks-final-five.html>

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 05:07 PM on 04/30/2008

**auramac** See Profile I'm a Fan of auramac permalink

If that had been record tracks instead of a TV competition, I'd buy Brooke's and I'd buy David Cook's.  
DA annoys me, I can't stand his voice, and Jason should go. His worst yet. Carly went because she was extremely over-rated, soulless, and obnoxious.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 01:36 PM on 04/30/2008

**Charity** See Profile I'm a Fan of Charity permalink

you know, frankly, this is the first season of watching idol where i have felt the celebrity judges had it "in for" certain contestants - and for me, someone who can turn a show off and never watch again, that's pretty disturbing.

it's one thing to dis a bad singer/entertainer on the show, but to consistently dis someone who actually CAN sing and who actually CAN perform and who actually gives us an entertaining two minutes - well, something smells - and has smelled for weeks - very fishy.

and of course, i am talking about the constant dissing of syesha. she was, by far, the best performer of the evening and yet, my mouth flew open when simon ONCE AGAIN had the timerity to say he thought she was "in trouble."

WTF? i'm with syesha - WHY?

and yet, simon still loves his little tone deaf brookie. consistently. no matter what she does - brooke to simon simply remains just so adorable and so cute he cannot fully criticize her one-note-samba-read-no-range performances.

again, this is the first time i've actually felt an 'agenda' on the part of the celebrity judges - the season-long dissing of some good singers has forced me to feel this way. i'm usually in agreement with simon, but with his lack of knowledge of certain songs and his continual blindness to contestants who can actually sing, i think this show has finally jumped the shark. no wonder the ratings are down.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 01:22 PM on 04/30/2008

**ghostofgrrrl** See Profile I'm a Fan of ghostofgrrrl permalink

well, I've seen plenty of instances where Simon dissing someone is the best favor in the world nothing gets the voters out there like Simon hurting their feelings.  
conversely, many times Simon has praised someone and we see that person take the bullet.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 05:48 PM on 04/30/2008

**Colmore** See Profile I'm a Fan of Colmore permalink

I agree. I really like Syesha, she is a good performer. No comparison, talentwise, to Brooke or Jason. I find Jason obnoxious, not "charming" as Simon describes him. If Jason gets any further in this competition, it will be the last year for me. He is this year's Sanjaya, without the good looks.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 04:02 PM on 04/30/2008

**Michael Giltz** See Profile I'm a Fan of Michael Giltz permalink

Charity, I too have been gobsmacked by the constant negative reviews for Syesha, especially since she's so darn cute. There is an agenda from the judges in the

sense that they like certain contestants and therefore cut them slack on weak performances and overpraise them on good ones. I probably do the same thing. (Though I did change my tune on David Cook when he kept turning out really solid performances.) But that's the extent of the agenda -- their natural inclinations and prejudices peeking through, not any sort of plot by the show to rig it for certain outcomes as others have suggested. GoG makes a good point: knocking contestants can create sympathy votes for them just like saying they look like the ultimate winner can be the kiss of death. And I agree with Colmore, Syesha is head and shoulders above Jason and Brooke. Maybe it'll be Jason to go next week instead of her.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 03:49 AM on 05/01/2008

GeoNorth See Profile I'm a Fan of GeoNorth permalink

Cook is it. Syeesha was better than usual. Brooke is just so damn wholesome, it's spooking me. David A just bores me and Jason is going home. Paula, lay off the meds. You're hallucinating.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 01:17 PM on 04/30/2008

Michael Giltz See Profile I'm a Fan of Michael Giltz permalink

David A has definitely cooled off but those speed-dialing teenage girls still think he's cute. He can coast into the finals but he'll have to give a good (not great) performance to justify all the people voting for him who want to vote for him. He's still got to be the favorite but Cook has definitely given himself a shot at an upset if Archuleta stumbles.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 03:50 AM on 05/01/2008

mch755 See Profile I'm a Fan of mch755 permalink

cont'  
4. David A - I found both songs unwatchable. I have no problem with the boy's voice, I just can't watch this kid on TV. He has so many quirks, you can literally count them off when he's on the stage. 2nd song was shades of Kristy Lee's pander moment, I mean how can you diss someone when you had a huge American flag behind you during your performance?  
5. Syesha - 1st song was ok, too many runs thrown in, 2nd song was much better. She looked great and seems to understand her time is running out, so she seems much looser than usual.

I think David A and Jason were the bottom two, but reality will give us Brooke and Syesha, with Syesha given the boot. I really didn't like ND night, just boring and ND though a nice guy was boring personality wise. And Paula needs to stop medicating herself! Its getting embarrassing with all her gaffes.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 11:25 AM on 04/30/2008

kristineIA See Profile I'm a Fan of kristineIA permalink

I don't want Jason to go home tonight. He's my second favorite in this competition. I love his voice even though it isn't particularly strong. Carly had a strong singing style and even though I thought she was great, there were times when I wished she would have toned it down just a bit. There's just something about a guy and an acoustic guitar that makes me mellow and happy.

I liked Brooke in the beginning, but she has become boring to me now. Not bad, just blah. Except for "I'm A Believer". That was BAD.

I've liked Syesha much more in the last couple of weeks. I've always liked her voice, but she was forgettable to me. It seems as though she's much more comfortable now.

David Cook is my favorite. Love his voice, and he keeps undressing me with his eyes through my television.

David Archuleta should put on some white gloves and join the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. He makes me want to run and baste my turkey while he's singing so that I can finish before the Spongebob balloon floats by.

I'd like to put in my two cents about boosting the sagging ratings of AI: I think it's time for Paula to go. She adds nothing (except hairdo ideas) and listening to her speak is like watching a baby roll over for the first time; you wonder if she'll ever, EVER get to the point without assistance.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 11:25 AM on 04/30/2008

susieq1001 See Profile I'm a Fan of susieq1001 permalink

I COMPLETELY agree with your comments about Paula! She adds nothing at all.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 12:58 PM on 04/30/2008

▢ **Blueneck** See Profile I'm a Fan of Blueneck permalink

But having Paula on the show is like going to a demolition derby. It's all about the wreckage!

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 02:19 PM on 04/30/2008

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▢ **mch755** See Profile I'm a Fan of mch755 permalink

Wow, last night was pretty funny, but in the wrong ways. It did feel rushed and messy. Paula was a hoot with the whole mess up with Jason. Nice of Simon on that save. I agree the ND wasn't much of a mentor, compared with ALW or even Mariah. He seemed content to say nice things and let the singers do their own thing with his songs which in my opinion only David C seemed to something meaningful with them. Here's my take of the night.

1. Jason- on both his songs, he seemed sleepy and just not interested. Whats up?!
2. David C- first song was pretty good, 2nd song much better. I'm glad you think he's a serious challenger for little David, big Dave does try each week to bring something different to the table and I think the audience appreciates that. Though I'm not sure its a good thing Paula said he was the next Idol, people tend to not like that, just look at Archuleta who has been pimped since the beginning to win and people like me who liked him at the beginning can't stand him now.
3. Brooke- I hated her first song, just looked downright awkward and contorted on stage. The smile looked very forced. 2nd song was better, she seems more comfortable with some instrument in front of her.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 11:20 AM on 04/30/2008

▢ **Buffy57** See Profile I'm a Fan of Buffy57 permalink

Gee, Carrie Underwood as Simon's early pick, is the result of her current awesomeness? Gimme a break. Do you just not like women?

I didn't watch at the time, but CU is a cross-over singer and probably the best to come outa this ever. Daughtry is okay too. "Claiken" is also maybe great, ala Barry Manilow, who finished number two, to a fat-ass R&B karaoke singer.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 03:05 PM on 04/30/2008

▢ **Michael Giltz** See Profile I'm a Fan of Michael Giltz permalink

Thanks for reading. I also don't like how they keep pimping Archuleta -- last night's example was Ryan's joke about downloading songs and saying viewers could "own a piece" of Archuleta. It wasn't as bad as having a group of girls come on stage to hug him but it was still tacky and seemed to single him out. I'm not sure about Paula's prediction begin bad. We might get sick of the traditional media telling us "Archuleta -- Archuleta -- Archuleta" but the judges have a long history of picking finalists and winners, including Simon saying Carrie Underwood would win it all from the very first auditions. Paula, however, hasn't been as strong a predictor so that alone may minimize what she says. Plus, she picked the underdog, so she'll have a hard road to being right.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 11:53 AM on 04/30/2008

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