



- HOME
- POLITICS
- MEDIA
- BUSINESS
- ENTERTAINMENT
- LIVING
- STYLE
- GREEN
- WORLD
- CHICAGO
- COMEDY 23/6
- VIDEO
- BLOGGER INDEX
- ARCHIVE
- Twitter: Follow Us
- Get Email Alerts
- Make HuffPost Your HomePage



Madonna Jets Out Of Malawi



More in Entertainment: Farrah Hospitalized... Madonna Tot's Dad Found... Choreographer: Rapist?...



WATCH: SNL: Madonna And Angelina In Weekend Update Adoption-Off



Michael Giltz

Freelance writer and raconteur

Posted February 12, 2009 | 12:45 PM (EST)

- BIO
- Get Email Alerts Bloggers' Index
- Become a Fan

American Idol -- Hollywood Week Day Four: The Final 36



Read More: American Idol, American Idol Season 8, Joanna Pacitti, Joanna Pacitti Disqualified, Pop Music, Reality TV, Entertainment News

Buzz up! Be the First to Submit This Story to Digg

Get Breaking News Alerts

never spam

Share Print Comments

OK, a long night finally gives us **the top 36**. Surely some of the difficulty in sorting everyone out begins with the fact that they've made the final group before determining the Top 12 bigger than ever. Of course the big news was **the disqualification of Joanna Pacitti after she got put into the final 36**. I was a little stunned she actually made it that far -- not because of her conflicts of interest (friends with Idol producers, etc.) but because she stumbled every single step of the way. During Hollywood Week, she forgot the lyrics EVERY SINGLE TIME. How could

anyone who forgot their lyrics throughout three (or more) different performances possibly deserve to go forward? If you're wondering why she got through last night and then was eliminated today, don't forget this was all taped months ago, including her getting in and Felicia Barton getting the boot. To avoid ruining the drama, they just kept the news that Pacitti had been booted until after the episode aired. But the judges were still wrong.

The ratings were strong, up a tick from the night before and down a modest 7% from a year ago, according to MediaWeek's Marc Berman. That means an audience of about 25 million people and bigger than the other four networks combined from 8-9 p.m. and a little less from 9-10 p.m. Berman also insists that putting forward Tatiana Del Toro and Nick Mitchell that Idol has nothing to do with talent and everything to do with oddball personalities. I have a good friend who also insists the show is not about singing -- it's about stories.

I strongly disagree. First, there's a big difference between how the show is edited to entertain audiences (especially before the Top 12) and the selections made. Yes, people like Tatiana and Nick seemed to get through because the producers wanted them. Still, we heard Simon objecting strenuously about Nick and possibly about Tatiana as well. Nothing really matters until the Top 12. And once we hit the Top 12 it's clear that the judges ARE focused on talent, despite some odd ringers that slip through like Sanjaya. This is why the top 12 has consistently produced successful

Popular Stories on HuffPost

- Fashion Face-Off! Michelle Obama And Carla Bruni-Sarkozy Finally Meet In France (VIDEO, PHOTOS, POLL)
*Video, poll and slideshow (to...)
- Levi Johnston Talks Safe Sex With Tyra Banks (VIDEO)
UPDATE 8:30pm: People.com is reporting that Sarah Palin has issued...
- Oscar de la Renta Slams Michelle Obama's Buckingham Outfit As Major Designers Feel Ignored
While Michelle Obama has made lesser...
- Verena von Pfetten 7 Lessons To Be Learned From Carla Bruni
So here's the thing. There's no shortage of articles dedicated to that certain je ne...
- Huff TV Arianna Discusses Michelle Obama's "Fantastic"

recording artists and performers who have released singles and albums that have sold millions in numerous genres, performed on Broadway, won Emmys, won Oscars and on and on. The list of talent the show has produced is impressive and growing more every year and it all comes from that Top 12 talent pool. If the show was focused on goofballs a la The Real World, it wouldn't have that track record and we wouldn't still be watching.

The big twist last night was the Sing Off. In the past, the selection ended with two contestants coming in together and the judges choosing between them, forcing a miserable time on everyone because the winner felt like they couldn't celebrate and the loser had the shame of standing by while someone else gets ahead. So why not have LOTS of awkward moments? At least it was based on more singing.

We had three Sing Offs during the two hour show and it certainly made for good TV, thanks to the fact that each guy could hear the other one perform. At least they had the good taste not to face off Gokey and Rogers, which would have been silly since everyone knew Gokey was going through.

CODY SHELDON VS. ALEX WAGNER-TRUGMAN

The first Sing Off was the best, thanks to the fact that the two guys liked each other and Alex seemed genuinely upset about seeming to get through at the expense of his friend. Cody didn't really sing the lyrics so much as just perform words and phrases -- an ok voice but if you can't tell a story, it doesn't matter. Alex to me was much better with "Don't Let The Sun Go Down On Me" even though he started in too high a key (and immediately walked away and whispered the same opinion after I'd already written it down). They were very metrosexual while comforting each other, which was nice to see and Alex appealed as a person for his reaction to the situation. He's got to change that last name, though. How about just Alex Wagner or Alex T?

JENN KORBEE VS. KRISTEN MCNAMARA

Neither one was very good in my book. Jenn sang a Dixie Chicks tune and Kristen was a tad better singing "I Will Always Love You." Paula seemed to call Kristen insane, which is pretty damning coming from kooky Paula but the women seemed to prefer Kristen and the men the prettier Jenn. When the women suggested why not just have all models singing, Simon seemed to think that was a perfectly good idea. Kristen remains clueless -- in the midst of a sing off when it's clearly one or the other, she sat next to Jenn but remained completely oblivious to the girl and the awkwardness of the situation and stayed focused on herself and how she hoped she would get through. Nonetheless, she got through. I feel worse and worse for Nancy every episode.

FRANKIE JORDAN VS. JESSE LANGSETH

Simon at his bluntest best. He comforts the loser Frankie by telling her, "You wouldn't have won anyway" and when that brings out moans from the other judges, he tops it by telling Jesse -- the girl who just made the final 36 -- "You won't win either." Hilarious. And true.

JACKIE MIDKIFF VS. NATHANIEL MARSHALL

Jackie sang "When A Man Loves A Woman" but we found out that Nathaniel's mom has been (or is) in prison and of course he cries at the drop of a hat. Putting all that aside, Nathaniel was a tad better and gets through. But Simon could have given the same speech to both of them that he gave to the last group: Jackie wouldn't have won and Nathaniel won't win either.

MICHAEL SARVER VS. MATT BREITZKE

The two tough guys, a wildcatter on an oil rig and a welder. Why was Sarver in this spot? He got stronger and stronger throughout Hollywood Week so what were they wondering about? It just seemed an easy way to flip the drama and put them both through.

The music cues were also fun last night: Anoop got a funky soul track, Gokey and Rogers got Mazzy Star as Gokey said goodbye to his best friend and wittiest of all, Nick Mitchell (who got through because he promised to keep goofing around as his alter ego) broke down to the tune of "Tears of A Clown."

So what did you think of the Sing Off? Cheap stunt or was it at least nice to see them refocus on singing? How about the Top 36? Voting starts next week, but obviously the Top 12 seems destined for a handful like Danny Gokey, Anoop, Lil Rounds, Alexis Grace, Adam Lambert, 16 year old

Style On CBS' "Washington Unplugged"

Arianna was on CBS' "Washington..."

Alex Leo The "Real Housewives Of New York City" Flowchart Of Hate

I'm a little embarrassed to love this show as much as...

"BRUNO" TRAILER! Calamity, African Babies, Chase Scenes And More (NSFW VIDEO)

IT'S HERE! The trailer for this Jul's Sacha Baron Cohen...

NATO Leaders Focus On Afghanistan, But Most Reject Obama's Plea For Troops (SLIDESHOW)

STRASBOURG, France — On the eve of the NATO...

First Lady Fashion At Friday's NATO Concert (PHOTOS)

Another night, another fashion opportunity for NATO leaders and their spouses! See...

Diana Palin, Sarah Palin's Sister-In-Law, Arrested For Breaking Into Home

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Police say Alaska Gov....

John Oliver Explains The Real Reason You Never Touch The Queen (VIDEO)

Obama Teases Reporter From India During Press Conference (VIDEO)

Obama held a conference packed with press from around the world on Thursday. He called...

Terrifying Horse And Rider Fall During English Race (SLIDESHOW)

A harrowing horse fall at the John Smith's Fox Hunters' Chase...

Jim Cramer Declares The Depression "Over" (VIDEO)

On Thursday's episode of "Mad Money" host Jim Cramer declared that the depression...

Scientists Find Rocket Fuel Chemical In Infant Formula

ATLANTA — Traces of a chemical used in rocket

Allison Iraheta and Michael Sarver. Who else seems a lock to you?

More in Entertainment...

[Reality Star Jade Goody Buried In Lavish...](#)
[Robert De Niro Nanny Sues For \\$40,000](#)
[Demi Moore's Twitter-Based Suicide Intervention](#)
[Anti-Chris Brown Song Hits Radios](#)

digg™ HuffPost Stories Surging Right Now

[Michelle Obama's Clothing Has Sean Hannity All Out Of Sorts](#)

[Richard Poplawski, Gunman 'Lying In Wait,' Kills 3 Pittsburgh Police Officers](#)

[Dr. Rachel Ehrenfeld: Does Iran Harbor Osama bin Laden?](#)

[John Demjanjuk, Ohio Man Accused Of Being Nazi Guard, Avoids Deportation](#)

Sponsored Links

[The Most \\$100K+ Jobs](#)

Search 72,384 Jobs that pay over \$100,000 at TheLadders.com. [www.TheLadders.com](#)

["My Teeth Are so White"](#)

Read the trick, discovered by a mom, to turn yellow teeth white. [CathysTeeth.com](#)

[Arthritis Information](#)

Sign Up to Receive a Free Info Kit About Rheumatoid Arthritis. [www.RAStraightTalk.com](#)

[Buy a link here](#)

Comments 5 Pending Comments 0
[FAQ: Comments & Moderation](#) [FAQ: HuffPost Accounts](#)

Want to reply to a comment? Hint: Click "Reply" at the bottom of the comment; after being approved your comment will appear directly underneath the comment you replied to

View Comments: [Newest](#) [Expand](#)
[First](#) [All](#)

AGarcia [See Profile](#) [I'm a Fan of AGarcia](#) [permalink](#)

They should call it:

"The Greatest American Karaoke Singer"...

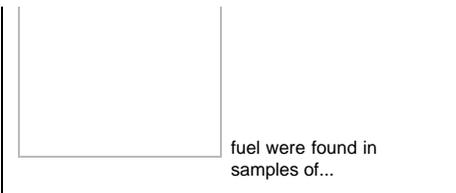
Simon Cowell has no respect for music, he wants models. Time to cancel this travesty.

[Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) [Posted 04:51 PM on 02/13/2009](#)

Victoria Thomas [See Profile](#) [I'm a Fan of Victoria Thomas](#) [permalink](#)

I cannot stand Tatiana, she should have gone home but I think they've kept her in for the drama. If she gets through to the final 12 I will eat my hat. Simon would know there's no commercial gain in having her stay much longer. She wrecks of desperation - not an attractive facet to anyone's personality.

[Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) [Posted 05:37 PM on 02/12/2009](#)



HUFFPOST'S BIG NEWS PAGES

[Women's Rights](#) [Michelle Obama](#) [Europe](#)
[Newspapers](#) [Cars](#) [War Wire](#)
[Video](#) [Financial Crisis](#) [Barack Obama](#)

[MORE BIG NEWS PAGES](#)

Books by this author

This Blogger's Books from [amazon.com.](#)

A cabin of one's own: New England's MacDowell Colony celebrates 100 years of artistic utopia. And the gay and lesbian artists who prospered there celebrate ... (The national gay & lesbian newsmagazine)
by Michael Giltz

Affairs to remember: Farley Granger bedded Ava Gardner, Shelley Winters, and Leonard Bernstein. In his autobiography, Include Me Out, Hitchcock's muse ... (The national gay & lesbian newsmagazine)
by Michael Giltz

VicksieDo [See Profile](#) [I'm a Fan of VicksieDo](#) [permalink](#)

I absolutely HATED them putting through Tatiana the weirdo and Nick the theater actor! I'm done.

[Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) [Posted 04:26 PM on 02/12/2009](#)

epotruchyeahright [See Profile](#) [I'm a Fan of epotruchyeahright](#) [permalink](#)

3 hours with no comments? OK, I'll go first...

My top 12 picks:

- Anoop
- Gokey
- Adam Lambert
- Lil Rounds
- Jackie Tohn
- Jasmine Murray
- Alexis Grace
- Anne Marie Boskovich
- Matt Giraud
- Stephen Fowler
- Allison Iraheta
- Ju'Not Joyner

[Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) [Posted 04:04 PM on 02/12/2009](#)

Hauptalani [See Profile](#) [I'm a Fan of Hauptalani](#) [permalink](#)

I'm with you on the first three. The rest I couldn't care less. And while I agree that Tatiana is annoying and can only be happy when she talks to the mirror while batting her lashes at herself, I have to admit that she can sing. Oh, the drama.

[Favorite](#) [Flag as abusive](#) [Posted 07:27 PM on 02/12/2009](#)

Comments are closed for this entry

You must be [logged in](#) to reply to this comment. [Log in](#) or

Ads by Google

Watch Idol Performances
 Watch The Idol Performances Free! It's Easy
 w/the Free Videos Toolbar
Videos.alottoolbars.com



HOME POLITICS MEDIA BUSINESS ENTERTAINMENT LIVING GREEN STYLE WORLD CHICAGO COMEDY FUNDRAISE

[Advertise](#) | [Login](#) | [Make HuffPost your Home Page](#) | [RSS](#) | [Jobs](#) | [FAQ: Comments & Moderation](#) | [FAQ: Huffpost Accounts](#) | [Contact Us](#)
 Copyright © 2009 HuffingtonPost.com, Inc. | [Archive](#) | [User Agreement](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Comment Policy](#) | [About Us](#) | [Powered by Movable Type](#)