



DECEMBER 21, 2010

ADVERTISEMENT

Connect

FRONT PAGE	POLITICS	BUSINESS	MEDIA	ENTERTAINMENT	COMEDY	SPORTS	STYLE	WORLD	GREEN	FOOD	TRAVEL	TECH	
LIVING	HEALTH	DIVORCE	ARTS	BOOKS	RELIGION	IMPACT	EDUCATION	COLLEGE	NY	LA	CHICAGO	DENVER	BLOGS



Michael Giltz

Freelance writer and raconteur
Posted: February 4, 2010 12:16 PM

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

Idol Season 9: Auditions -- Finale

What's Your Reaction:



- Inspiring
- Funny
- Hot
- Scary
- Outrageous
- Amazing
- Weird
- Crazy

Read More: [Kara DioGuardi](#) , [Pop Music](#) , [Randy Jackson](#) , [Reality TV](#) , [Ryan Seacrest](#) , [Simon Cowell](#) , [Singing](#) , [Talent Contest](#) , [Entertainment News](#)

0

SHARE

0 views

retweet

Buzz

Get Entertainment Alerts

Email Comments

The auditions finale for *American Idol* was both the most entertaining and enjoyable show so far...and the lowest rated at just 20.8 million viewers. It's been a weird season ratings-wise with one week inexplicably jumping 30% over last year and now last night's show hitting a season low. Why was the show so enjoyable? Because it focused on the auditions and good singers instead of sob stories. In fact they may have set a record by going 36 minutes before a sad back story took center stage. I, for one, was relieved. But with ratings down, producers will rightly decide those

stories are exactly what compel viewers during the auditions.

Wednesday was a grab bag of auditions from throughout the season, with our first look at some of the best singers yet.

JESSICA FURNEY -- Sang the Simon Cowell-penned tune (with others) "Footprints in the Sand," (a fact which amazed Victoria Beckham no end). Jessica auditioned before. This time she had a better audition and a better look. Definitely improved.

AMANDA SHECTMAN -- Sang "Good Morning, Heartache." She was the actress who claims she finds it difficult to connect with an audience (odd, since that's exactly what Broadway performers do all the time; there's no rule that during singing they have to ignore the audience). Simon had a lot of fun teasing her high drama but her performance was fine and mellow and she deservedly got through.

LEE DEWYZE -- Sang "Ain't No Sunshine" while **CRYSTAL BOWERSOX** -- sang "Piece Of My Heart." Both were very brief clips, with Lee seeming a bit mannered and Crystal giving a nice laidback spin. Both got through but all I could think was, "Choose less obvious songs!" If you've heard it performed on *Idol* before -- skip it!

LACEY BROWN -- Sang "Somewhere Over The Rainbow." Lacey made it to Hollywood in the past and made it again, even though I thought she slipped into a new key during her audition. Still, pretty subtle

ADVERTISEMENT

SPONSORED BY

MOST POPULAR ON HUFFPOST ◀ 1 of 2 ▶

VIDEO & PHOTOS: Rare Lunar Eclipse On Winter Solstice

Like 11K

Stunning Eclipse Photos

Like 43K

Don't Ask, Don't Tell Repeal Passes Senate Procedural Vote

Like 40K

Timothy Karr Obama FCC Caves on Net Neutrality -- Tuesday...

Like 11K

Al Franken The Most Important Free Speech Issue of Our Time

Like 12K

PHOTOS: 10 Things We've Accidentally Learned From Crime Dramas

Like 1K

Sarah Palin Jabs Michelle Obama's Anti-Obesity Campaign

Like 6K

Amanda Knox Court Makes

singing.

RACHEL HUBBARD and **THADDEUS JOHNSON** and **GENESIS MOORE** -- All 16 and all gone through via a montage where we just heard seconds of each.

MICHAEL LYNCH -- Sang "Unchained Melody" by the Righteous Brothers. A personal trainer, Michael could obviously bench-press the competition with ease. Solid performance, though he's as memorable for his formidable size as for his singing.

DIDI BENAMI -- Sang "Hey Jude" by the Beatles. The first sad story of the night came 36 minutes in when Didi talked about her best friend dying some four years ago. Happily, she delivered a very good performance of the song before emotions overcame her. Interesting possibility.

AARON KELLY -- Sang "The Climb" by Miley Cyrus. This 16-year-old kid had parents who couldn't hold it together. He was going to be sucked up into the foster care system when his aunt and uncle adopted him. Quiet kid a la Clay Aiken and with good vocals like him too. Perhaps too young and shy? Or maybe that will help him remain within himself and not get caught up in the drama.

HOPE JOHNSON -- Sang "I Hope You Dance" by Lee Ann Womack. The back stories are coming fast and furious now, with Hope growing up so poor she went hungry sometimes and took food home from her school lunch so she could share it with her little brother. Decent performance though a bit thin when she went high and every line faded out, as Randy made clear.

So more than 100,000 people auditioned and 181 are going to Hollywood. We didn't see half of them and *Idol* still **bizarrely refuses to post video of each and every winning audition**. Why not? Sheer stupidity. It would drive traffic to their site and give every contestant a fan base -- not just the ones who got air time. Imagine finding out that an audition that never aired was suddenly garnering the most views on the *Idol* website, which would pull in people to check it out. They're missing a very obvious opportunity to exploit the web.

Ellen Degeneres joins the show permanently next week, and I, for one, am excited. Yes, they never should have dumped Paula, but Ellen is a great addition. If they'd chosen her over Kara, this could be a very different and better *Idol* today. So what did you think of tonight's crop of singers? Did you agree with the judges or were you puzzled why some of them weren't sent home? And do you agree with me that Ellen is someone to look forward to or do you agree with **Marc Berman of Mediaweek** who believes she is a bad choice?

Follow Michael Giltz on Twitter: www.twitter.com/michaelgiltz

Related News On Huffington Post:



Taylor Swift's Grammy Performance Defended By Her Label: "Technical Issue"

NASHVILLE, Tennessee ♦ The head of Taylor Swift's record label is fired up and defending his superstar against critical comments about her Grammy-night performance. "She...



Denver American Idol: Who Would YOU Have Voted For (VIDEO, VOTE)

American Idol's Denver auditions aired Tuesday night, and city didn't disappoint. From bizarre characters like bikini boy to Italians who traveled 14 hours to try...



Ellen Vs Simon As Cowell Is Very Late For First Day Of Taping

It was American Idol's newest judge Ellen DeGeneres first day of taping the Hollywood segment, and she was excited and nervous, sources tell us. But...



Michael Lynche Disqualified From 'American Idol' After Dad Talks To Paper

Michael Lynche (a.k.a. Big Mike) was reportedly told to pack his bags after his father revealed to his local Florida paper, The St. Petersburg Times,...

More News Posts: « [First](#) [Prev](#) [1](#) [2](#) [Next](#) [Last](#) »

[More in Entertainment...](#)

Crucial Ruling

[f Like](#) 158

Shep Smith Unloads On Blockers Of 9/11 Responders Bill: 'How Do They Sleep At Night?'

[f Like](#) 7K

DON'T MISS HUFFPOST BLOGGERS

◀ 1 of 5 ▶



Billie Jean King
[Repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell Is a Big Deal](#)



Al Franken
[The Most Important Free Speech Issue of Our Time](#)

HOT TRENDS

[johnston in playgirl](#)
[kardashian christmas card](#)
[miley cyrus lap dance video](#)
[sarah palin michelle](#)
[obama true grit](#)

People.com



Shania Twain: 'I'm in Love!'
[READ MORE ▶](#)



Sing-Off Champs Committed Thrilled to Perform with Boyz II Men
[READ MORE ▶](#)



Harry Potter Actress's Brother Pleads Guilty to Assaulting Her
[READ MORE ▶](#)

[More Celebrity News at People.com](#)

Popeater



Will Kathy Griffin Crack on New Year's?



Chris Brown Graduates From Domestic Violence Class



Bret Michaels Is Finally Engaged

[More Celebrity News at Popeater.com](#)

Survivor 21: Infants vs Senior Citizens: Fetuses...

Jud 'Fabio' Birza Wins 'Survivor: Nicaragua'

Shania Twain Engaged To Frederic Thiebaud

'The Fighter' Star Amy Adams Talks Weight...

Comments

0

Pending Comments

0

[View FAQ](#)

Comments are closed for this entry

[View All](#)

[Recency](#) | [Popularity](#)

TOP VIDEO PICKS

◀ 1 of 10 ▶



Ben Stiller's Little Fockers Fun



Lea Michele's Early Days



Vince Vaughn's New Bundle of Joy

MOST DISCUSSED RIGHT NOW



PHOTOS: Heidi Montag's Plastic Surgery Scars: Bald Spots, Uneven Boobs, Lumpy Legs

36 Comments



The Next Buffy?

42 Comments

HOT ON FACEBOOK



Tracy Morgan Undergoes Kidney Transplant

211 Comments



ENGAGED

282 Comments

HOT ON TWITTER



PHOTOS: Paris Hilton Dons Leather Bodysuit

135 Comments



WATCH: Are Celebrities Changing The Face Of Philanthropy?

3 Comments

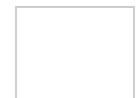
HUFFPOST'S BIG NEWS PAGES



NBA



David Axelrod



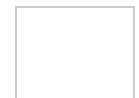
NY Real Estate



Funny Videos



Lindsay Lohan



Pharmaceuticals



Video



Sex



MSNBC

[MORE BIG NEWS PAGES »](#)

FOLLOW HUFFINGTON POST



SEARCH

FRONT PAGE	POLITICS	BUSINESS	MEDIA	ENTERTAINMENT	COMEDY	SPORTS	STYLE	WORLD	GREEN	FOOD	TRAVEL	TECH	
LIVING	HEALTH	DIVORCE	ARTS	BOOKS	RELIGION	IMPACT	EDUCATION	COLLEGE	NY	LA	CHICAGO	DENVER	BLOGS

[Advertise](#) | [Log In](#) | [Make HuffPost your Home Page](#) | [RSS](#) | [Careers](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[User Agreement](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Comment Policy](#) | [About Us](#) | [Powered by Movable Type](#)

Copyright © 2010 TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. | "The Huffington Post" is a registered trademark of TheHuffingtonPost.com, Inc. All rights reserved.