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Michael Giltz

Freelance writer and raconteur
Posted: March 12, 2010 12:51 AM

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Idol Season 9: Top 16 Elimination: Meet The Top 12

What's Your Reaction:

- Inspiring Funny Hot Scary Outrageous Amazing Weird Crazy



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Four more contestants were eliminated on *American Idol*: Katelyn Epperly, Todrick Hall, Alex Lambert and Lilly Scott. So this is the Top 12, the performers who get to go on tour and -- no matter how soon they're eliminated -- get a shot at a career of some sort. (Has anyone in the Top 24 who didn't make the Top 12 ever made a name for themselves?)

TOP 12

(in order of announcing on the show)

1. Didi Benami
2. Siobhan Magnus
3. Paige Miles
4. Casey James
5. Tim Urban
6. Lee Dewyze
7. Crystal Bowersox
8. Michael Lynche
9. Lacey Brown
10. Aaron Kelly
11. Andrew Garcia
12. Katie Stevens

I had a pretty good night prediction-wise: I predicted the bottom four of the women perfectly, but thought Katie Stevens would go home instead of Lilly Scott. I only predicted three of the four men in the bottom four (I thought Aaron would be in it, rather than Lee) and again only nailed one of the men going home, since I thought Andrew would go home instead of Alex.

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BECK IN TROUBLE?

The night began with another godawful lip-sync, this time of a Michael Buble song. Then we were told "breaking news" -- the theme of the Top 12 performance night will be the music of the Rolling Stones. (I immediately started wondering what song would be good for Crystal.) Even better, they're going to make the playlists of songs that the contestants choose from available on iTunes. This gives the fans a lot more to think about. iTunes lists 50 songs that the Top 12 can choose from. Assuming these are the only songs they get to select from, we have a much better insight into the options they're given and how smart they are in their choice.

Then the Top 12 was slowly announced. Paige Miles and Katelyn Epperly faced off, with a resigned Katelyn going home and Paige heaving a huge sigh of relief (as I predicted). Todrick Hall and Lee Dewyze faced off, with Todrick still sporting the fingerless gloves that probably spelled his doom. (Todrick also gave a strong goodbye performance; he just needs a stylist.) Alex Lambert and Andrew Garcia faced off and Alex was devastated by being sent home. He was genuinely heartbroken, frustrated that he didn't have the confidence to show his talent to the fullest. That was followed by a dueling pianos rendition of Billy Joel's "Tell Her About It" (one of my favorite songs of his) by last season's Scott McIntyre and Matt Giraud. After it was over, I wondered which one would be going home. (My pick would have been Scott.) Finally Katie and Lilly faced off and Lilly was sent home, to the astonishment of everyone.

So now we know the Top 12 and the playlist of 50 Rolling Stones songs they get to choose from. Here's your chance to help your favorites on the show. Which song would you recommend they sing (and how, if you think they need to give it a new arrangement).

ROLLING STONE PLAYLIST

Angie
 As Tears Go By
 Beast of Burden
 Black Limousine
 Brown Sugar
 Can't You Hear Me Knocking
 Country Honk
 Doo Doo Doo Doo Doo (Heartbreaker)
 Emotional Rescue
 Fool to Cry
 Get Off My Cloud
 Gimme Shelter
 Happy
 Hang Fire
 Heart of Stone
 Honky Tonk Women
 Hot Stuff
 It's All Over Now
 It's Only Rock 'n' Roll (But I Like It)
 Jumpin' Jack Flash
 Lady Jane
 The Last Time
 Let It Bleed
 Live With Me
 Love In Vain
 Midnight Rambler
 Miss You
 Mother's Little Helper
 19th Nervous Breakdown
 No Expectations
 Paint It, Black
 Play With Fire
 Ruby Tuesday
 Salt of the Earth
 (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction
 Shattered
 She Was Hot
 She's a Rainbow
 She's So Cold
 Shine a Light

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 Street Fighting Man
 Sympathy for the Devil
 Time Is On My Side
 Too Tough
 Tumbling Dice
 Under My Thumb
 Waiting On a Friend
 Wild Horses
 You Can't Always Get What You Want

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kirtlandpat 01:55 PM on 3/14/2010

166 Fans



Crystal should sing Let it Bleed, though they would probably make her clean it up. She'd turn the place into a party.

And Blogger Michael, do you know if they are going to subject the winner to the horrid Clive Davis



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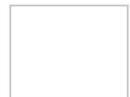
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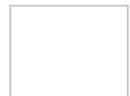
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treatment this year? I'd hate for him to get his hands on Crystal and wreck her like he did Bo Bice.

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DCDan 02:35 PM on 3/14/2010

2 Fans

Absolutely. Let it Bleed would be great for Crystal. And if she got away with singing "You can come all over me" it would be the funniest thing since Andrew Garcia's "I'm a genie in a bottle/You gotta rub me the right way."

Ah ... Andrew? Heads up. No one watching wants to rub you the right way, the wrong way, or any way.

Please.

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Michael Giltz 04:44 AM on 3/17/2010

59 Fans



I bet no one sings Let It Bleeed Or Start Me Up for those very reason. You make a dead man come? Not gonna happen. Clive davis probably can't stay away, though they'd make more money by putting her with T-Bone.

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DCDan 11:12 PM on 3/13/2010

2 Fans

Is it too early to pick our Top 3, America? Crystal Bowersox, Michael Lynch, Siobhan Magnus.

Here are the songs I would like to see them do:

Crystal -- Tumbling Dice

Michael -- Emotional Rescue

Siobhan -- Can't You Hear Me Knocking

I bet though Siobhan will opt for Gimme Shelter (read: Mary Clayton, "It's just a shot away ...") so she can cater to the judges' infantile request for another "moment" like she had with the big scream in the Aretha Franklin song. I wish they would shut up and just let the girl sing. They're gonna ruin it for all of us by trying to groom her. I think she's the most dynamic and interesting singer in the competition.

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DCDan 02:30 PM on 3/14/2010

2 Fans

Spelling correction: MERRY Clayton sang on "Gimme Shelter."

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HUFFPOST BLOGGER

Michael Giltz 04:45 AM on 3/17/2010

59 Fans



No biggie. They got it wrong on the original album notes, too.

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mrlmsw 10:45 PM on 3/13/2010

24 Fans



Didi could do an indi version of "Wild Horses" like the Indigo Girls did once at a concert I attended. There's also another female artist that has done it recently (not Susan Boyle).

I'll be interested to see what Crystal does - she is suited to this genre - hope she changes it up a

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Binea 03:39 PM on 3/13/2010

8 Fans

"satisfaction" for Lee

"Wild horses " for Michael

"Angie" for Casey (keep to the original version)

I like Andrew but can't figure out what Stones song he would sound good doing, Same goes for the women.

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CAMBEL 10:33 AM on 3/13/2010



317 Fans

I see the rumors about Ellen having the lighting changed and softened was true, she looked less ghostly, but still really added nothing to the show for me. LOVED it when Simon said that Kara's comment about the song having to relate to the singers life was "Rubbish". No wonder all of Kara's songs are about breaking up with a boyfriend. What a weird limited provincial view she has of music.

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HUFFPOST SUPER USER

auramac 11:38 PM on 3/12/2010

66 Fans



I'd be embarrassed if I were one of the judges or producers of the show. Bobby Sherman's performance of Hallelujah was so horrid and shallow I thought he'd be mugged instead of hugged. Then again, I do Not find Ellen "adorable" as a judge of music or singing. I find her way more annoying than Paula ever was- and she was useless.

This past show was a wakeup call- it's all a big joke- anyone can lose, anyone can win. Whose records are you gonna buy- if any? Simon's leaving, so this is my last season watching. It's more aggravating now than entertaining. Then again- the only thing watching on TV on New Years Eve is Kathy Griffin- certainly no music. Truthfully, I'd rather watch Guy Lombardo than the Black Eyes Peas or Carrie Underwood. And he's Way before my time!

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Michael Giltz 04:46 AM on 3/17/2010

59 Fans



Bobby Sherman! That was funny and spot-on.

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court 06:21 PM on 3/12/2010



114 Fans

I've been seeing outrage all over the place (such as Entertainment Weekly) and I have to ask...why? I really appreciate people who can sing well or have a unique sound and I just did not get the whole Alex Lambert thing. He had an ok voice but especially the other night, I just didn't buy it. He didn't connect to what he was singing.

I'm surprised more people haven't picked up on the complete double standards the judges have for the men and women. Katie and Aaron are both young singers with older voices and presences. Aaron gets commended for singing songs that are arguable too old for him and does not get the talking down that Katie received every week about "singing her age" and "appearing young".

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Michael Giltz 04:48 AM on 3/17/2010

59 Fans



I think Aaron got grief for that too, such as when he sang "I'm Already There." With his country vibe, I think it's just that Aaron sort of knows better what works for him. They're definitely struggling with Katie, but I don't think it's because she's a girl.

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Charity 06:12 PM on 3/12/2010

43 Fans

Both Alex and Lilly deserved Top 12. Both had a chance to go further into the program than either Andrew or Katie - neither of whom will win American Idol. Alex has a unique voice - a soulful voice, if you will, for such a young guy. Let's hope a record producer will recognize that and develop this kid. He needs guidance and seasoning - and I hope he doesn't give up any aspirations for becoming a professional singer and recording artist.

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JohnKevari 04:35 PM on 3/12/2010

2 Fans

To better understand "American Idol" and how it works I ask the following question.

BOBBY SHERMAN or JIM CROCE?

WHICH ONE WOULD ADVANCE FURTHER ON "AMERICAN IDOL?"

(Now of course I'm assuming you're old enough to remember who Bobby Sherman and Jim Croce were and so I'll skip describing who these men were and what they were as performers)

So who would win?..... Obviously it would be Bobby Sherman.

I know, I know, Jim Croce had more talent, was a better artist, and Dawg never sounded pitchy in his life!

But the Jim Croce's of the world are not what "American Idol" is all about. Never has been and never will be.

The Idol is about the Bobby Sherman's of the world, and I'm not writing this to be cynical or anything like that.

We may not admit it, but we all have a place in our collective hearts and souls for a Bobby Sherman and the type of entertainment that he represents.

That's why the Lilly Scott's of the world never quite make it and why someone like Paige Miles and her wholesome good-looks and image just might beat out someone like Crystal Bowersox.

IS IT FAIR?

Well, it is only entertainment so one shouldn't really take it all seriously in the first place.

Or in other words;

Easy come, easy go.

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Binea 11:48 AM on 3/13/2010

8 Fans

Sad ,but true. Simon should consider doing a show that would find and expose talent like Jim Croce or Roger Hodgson,Dylan and so on...not just assembly line music. They could do the American Idol type interviews and auditions,but the contestants must all audition with a song they themselves wrote.There should be no age limit, just anyone over 16 and unknown. Each week they would have to come on with a new song they have written,which at that point could have some help from good and established song writers and musicians. That's a show I could watch without having to make the excuse " My kids make me watch it with them" :)

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JohnKevari 12:29 PM on 3/13/2010

2 Fans

And if you had a show which catered to the Jim Croce's and the Bob Dylan's of the world I guarantee you it would be a snooze-fest..... Those prison shows on MSNBC would get higher ratings than watching some guy sing a song he wrote about his time in Denver.

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Michael Giltz 04:49 AM on 3/17/2010

59 Fans



You might try Nashville Star if you like country music. There is no age limit and they perform at least one original song, which is often the week that cements a winner.

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Michael Giltz 04:52 AM on 3/17/2010

59 Fans



I definitely agree that a lot of artists wouldn't do well on Idol. However, for those that do, Idol is a great platform. I haven't seen Bobby Sherman talk too much so no idea how he does on camera. Jim Croce I have even less impression of as a personality. But Bob Dylan for example was a handsome devil, very quick-witted and has a wide appreciation for all sorts of genres. If Idol were on in the Sixties, he would have done great, gritted his teeth during the obligatory album deal and then gone off on his own to fame and fortune.

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timverhaegen 01:18 PM on 3/12/2010

0 Fans

It is definitely a travesty since the voters didn't vote that way. The producers chose this, they are allowed to ignore the voters as they make sure to disclaimer in the credits. There's far too much at stake, it's a number one show. The advertising revenue comes first and the producers needed a Top 12 that would target as many advertising demographics as possible.

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Michael Giltz 02:06 PM on 3/12/2010

59 Fans



Tim, There is little to no chance the show rigs the results and ignores the votes. The main reason? There's no point. The drama of who the viewers do and don't pick is far more exciting than any choices they could make. If the producers were picking, Adam Lambert would have won last year, the chubby Ruben Studdard would never have won Season Two over dorky but lovable Clay Aiken and on and on. The disclaimer refers to their reasonable ability to eliminate computerized voting or any voting via phone and text they decide violates reasonable understanding of what should be allowed That's to more accurately reflect the voting of fans, not to ignore it. A hundred computers with software shouldn't be able to decide the winner; that's all they want to avoid.

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Namanh Hoang 01:03 AM on 3/12/2010

3 Fans

I think if next week we hear Andrew does another acoustic rendition of something (probably a song originally sung by a girl) American will know they've made a grave mistake, let's hope he surprises us.

OMG what a travesty!!! Alex Lambert really had the most unique voice with real potential. An Lilly who came as a surprise to everyone. I can't believe it but I think it wasn't a surprise to me. He had some of the lowest online fan base which goes to show why people who let's be honest don't still belong there like Tim Urban and sadly also Andrew Garcia who have a ridiculously huge fan base. Same with Lily who just didn't have much of an online presence.

Goes to show people should have been more active in spreading the world online to support their favorites. No one to blame but yourselves. Studies done by Baduku show that Baduku and Twitter fan base have been the most accurate when it comes to defining the top 12. <http://www.baduku.com/americanidol9>

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