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Posted: March 31, 2010 11:12 PM

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Idol Season 9: Top 10 -- Didi Says Bye-Bye

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Didi Benami -- who maintained her dignity on Tuesday when Ryan Seacrest tried to mine her personal life for TV fodder -- said goodbye on *American Idol* Wednesday. As predicted, the bottom four was Siobhan Magnus, Katie Stevens, Tim Urban and Didi Benami.

Siobhan was safe and the rest were in the bottom three. Then Katie was safe, leaving the ever-smiling Tim and the ever-tearful Didi, with Didi receiving the

least amount of votes and going home. The judges, of course, didn't use their save, which might have come into play for Katie and definitely would for Siobhan.

This season was touted as the year for the gals, but the men have proven far more consistent. Three of the bottom four were women and only the faltering Siobhan could be joining Crystal Bowersox in the top four. Numerous men are contenders, from Aaron Kelly to Michael Lynche to Casey James to Lee Dewyze.

The show began with a tie-in to *Clash Of The Titans*, a silly cross-over trailer that paid off when Zeus (Liam Neeson) said the catch-phrase "Release the Kraken" and they cut to scenes of Simon eviscerating contestants.

Thankfully, the show mirrored my advice and skipped the horrid lip-sync performances and stuck with the Ford Focus commercials, this time to the tune of "Kung Fu Fighting" (which is perfect for Tim)! I have to admit, the ads have been tolerably amusing this season.

Ruben Studdard was fine with his boilerplate r&b, looking slim and telling Ryan about his upcoming tour with Clay Aiken. Usher gave a killer performance of his new single...if he were appearing on *So You Think You Can Dance*. While his moves were very good, his singing was so-so (often difficult to do when delivering an elaborate routine). And I couldn't really follow Sean Combs' performance because my head was still reeling from the fact that he'd changed his moniker *again* from Diddy to Diddy Dirty Money

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(complete with new logo). Maybe I'm late to this, but I had to laugh. On the other hand, it was interesting to hear Combs say that he was nervous appearing on the *Idol* stage. Humble isn't exactly his thing so I'll take him at his word.

Didi was sent home after singing Fleetwood Mac's "Rhiannon (Will You Ever Win)" again, which Simon politely said was far better than her performance the night before. Would it kill the judges to simply say, "This is the end of the road; congratulations on making the Top 10 and going on the tour" instead of just awkwardly blurting out that they're not going to save her?

I doubt many people will argue Didi should have been saved. That would only make sense if you believed she were destined to make the finale and voters had made a tragic mistake. But what about the contenders? Who do you see in the final four and the finale right now?

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anonimost 12:18 PM on 4/02/2010

6 Fans

My final four preference:

Crystal
Lee
Casey
Siobhan or Aaron

My final two: Crystal and Lee.

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CAMBEL 11:30 AM on 4/02/2010

311 Fans



I do love the irony of Usher advising them on their performances and then coming out and singling badly. Additionally, I actually thought Ruben sang badly as well. This has just been a bad overall year. And I get that they got attacked for scewing too old in their song styles in previous seasons by having Neil Diamond days, Barry Manilow days etc... nothing says that you can't have older

Fall

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more experienced mentors and then allow them to sing younger songs. Have Barry Manilow, LuLu, whoever you want, but just don't force the kids to sing their songs. Having Miley Cyrus on as a mentor seems to be a bad idea since she hasn't worked to become good in the same way others have. She was fed to the public on a TV show. Get somebody who has worked for ages and really knows the business as a mentor.

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filmex 12:48 AM on 4/02/2010

43 Fans

More to the point...here is my original post. Please e-mail at filmex@cox.net if you feel more comfortable explaining in private what you found so objectionable...

These shows are getting more and more painful.

First of all, it was like Seacrest either did a dozen shots before the show, or his Ritalin overloaded. I don't blame Simon for being uncomfortable around him, the way he leans in like a perve looking down a girl's blouse.

In what universe is Ruben "slim"? Maybe he used to be as big as an Airstream, and I just don't remember, but getting down to Burl Ives shape hardly constitutes a miracle success story. He's a reminder why Big Mike won't win...the producers won't let it happen. Ruben didn't sell any records and neither will Big Mike.

Studdard-Usher-Diddy...OMG, shoot the audience right now. And me while you're at it.

Will look forward to seeing Didi in the movies, since she seemed to be morphing into Lauren Bacall the past couple of weeks anyway. Like Katharine McPhee, music will be something she used to get into acting.

Still Crystal-Casey-Siobhan in the final three, believing that Siobhan will get back on track and that Lee will also get back on track, on the second tier.

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anonomost 12:20 PM on 4/02/2010

6 Fans

That is unkind to say about Ruben. He was indeed obese and has made a significant effort to reduce his weight. Anyone who works that hard at improving himself deserves applause not ridicule.

And Lee "getting back on track" What does that mean? He was the blow out performance of the night.

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filmex 12:58 PM on 4/02/2010

43 Fans

That is unkind?? My point was I was a fan of Ruben, but to my eyes he did not look substantially different than he did 7 years ago. Am I missing something? He still looked BIG, not "slim", and really looked the same size as Big Mike (whom I also wouldn't call "slim" which his name would attest to), especially in profile. How is recognizing that constitute "ridicule"?

I just thought Ryan getting all giddy and acting like Ruben was the new Jarrod of Subway was a bit peculiar.

And regarding Lee, unlike Simon, I don't think his life is going to change from that one performance. Crystal-Casey-Siobhan are still the ones to beat. My guess is Lee will revert back to his "There-are-a-million-Eddie Vedder-growing-singers-out-there" and rejoin the second tier of the competition.

And Lee on his best night has never been as good as Crystal on her worst, not that she's had one. It's just we all expect less from Lee, so one is surprised when he isn't mediocre or boring.

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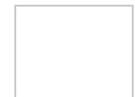
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cardiaccare 08:33 PM on 4/01/2010

52 Fans

His name should be P. Diddley.

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LCDTV 06:05 PM on 4/01/2010

30 Fans

america got it right for not voting for didi. she has a very week voice.

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stratdude 05:44 PM on 4/01/2010

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Mamasox! Mamasox! Mamasox! My favorite Idol contestant ever. I can't wait until someone tells Big Obnoxious to keep his hand off people.

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HUFFPOST SUPER USER

RhiannonRings 04:42 PM on 4/01/2010

51 Fans



Usher sucked big time.

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Burnsey 03:37 PM on 4/01/2010

14 Fans

I think Tim has a great attitude. He KNOWS he's not as good, and he's making sure he has fun regardless. Isn't that what we should all do? When we can't finish first, we should finish while having fun and enjoying something we may NEVER see again. And Glitz, you had me fooled for a moment on your opinion of Usher's performance. It WAS BAD. He should have lip-synced. REAL BAD.

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Michael Giltz 09:47 PM on 4/01/2010

59 Fans



Gotcha! on Usher! I agree 100% with you about Tim. I don't understand why the judges act like a cheery personality is some sort of crime. He's on national TV having fun and getting famous and enjoying himself. Literally millions of people enjoy his singing enough (or just looking at him) that they get on their phones and vote (some of course because they think he's bad). He absolutely knows he'll be gone in a week or two, so what's the big deal? "Put On A Happy Face: A Guide To A Successful Life" by Tim Urban. It could happen.

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Don Parker 02:31 AM on 4/02/2010

52 Fans



Yeah, I think Tim figures he has nothing to lose so he just keeps smiling. And some people just naturally smile or laugh in uncomfortable situations. He's not going to argue with them. And I agree, the judges have to give their critiques but why make such a big deal out of it when he nervously laughs at himself? They act amazed that "he just doesn't get it." Sure, he gets it. He knows he doesn't have star singing talent, so why not just hang in as long as you can, keep on smiling and see what happens.

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Don Parker 02:37 AM on 4/01/2010
52 Fans



Why are you assuming Siobhan was in the bottom four? They always stage drama and everyone knew she hadn't done as well last night, so they lined her up with Katie to up the drama. But before last night Siobhan had been the one who brought it every week and wowed the crowd and the judges so I really doubt that she was the fourth lowest.

Why aren't you saying Andrew was in the bottom four? They also staged the drama with him and Tim. Nor do I assume Katie necessarily received more votes than Tim. Again, it's all about the drama. All we know (or do we?) is that Didi was voted off.

Tim should have been sent home long ago. I can't imagine how he made the top 24. Oh, but Tim is so "adorable."

It's hard to imagine Katie, Aaron, Andrew, or Tim making the final five. But depending on how well they bring it each week from now on, Siobhan, Crystal, Michael, Lee, or Casey could win it. And of course, we'll never know for sure what moves the voters to keep someone going. Lilly and Katelyn, both long gone, for instance, were better than some of those who still remain.

The drama goes on.

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HUFFPOST BLOGGER
Michael Giltz 03:26 AM on 4/01/2010
59 Fans



You're quite right: unless Ryan specifically says "these two were only separated by only 10,000 votes" or some such comment, we can't assume anything about their ranking. We only know the bottom three for certain. Tim should have been gone before, but how and when people leave is somewhat random; we know who we think will be going in the next few weeks and they all probably will. The order isn't so important. But there's a lot to be said about making the Top 4; that's what matters since they get a lot more visibility and a better shot at a career. And of course making the finals is the real guarantee of doing at least two or three albums. I'll bet Tim gets an acting gig at the very least.

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Don Parker 02:21 AM on 4/02/2010
52 Fans



Probably several of them can have at least a minor career. The ones who have some personality, a reasonably good voice, and good looks. With a good singing/performing coach and a manager who plays up the American Idol connection, maybe lands them on some minor TV shows, even regional.

I don't keep up with the pop music scene much, but I like Idol because of the human drama and the individual stories. And I haven't really followed any of the previous ones who finished low in the top ten. Just like there's thousands of writers making a good living without ever having a best seller, I'm guessing that there are tons of singers out there doing okay, making a good living, traveling the circuit, cutting a few CDs now and then.

Do you know if any of the lower ten have continued on with much success?

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