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American Idol Season One – Where Are They Now?

By Libbles

If you've watched American Idol in the past, you may be wondering what has happened to the singers from American Idol Season One. Here is a brief look at how some of the more popular contestants have fared:

Top Ten Finalist - Ejay Day

Ejay performed along with the other finalists on the 2002 U.S. American Idol tour. He's sang at several events for boxing champ Muhammad Ali and assisted in writing Raven-Symone's song "Pure Love" for her Undeniable album. Currently, Ejay is performing on the cruise ship Explorer of the Seas.

Top Ten Finalist - Jim Verraros

Jim has been active in both music and acting since American Idol ended. Jim recently released his album Rollercoaster, featuring the dance hits "I Want You" and "You're Getting Crazy." He starred in the 2004 film Eating Out and is set to reprise his role in Eating Out 2: Sloppy Seconds.

7th Place - Ryan Starr

Despite finishing 7th, Ryan has been one of the busier contestants from Season One. Her single "My Religion" peaked at #7 on the American iTunes Top 100 and she plans to tour in 2006–2007. She made guest appearances on several shows and also appeared in the VH1 show The Surreal Life in 2004. She also starred in the movie Ring of Darkness.

6th Place – Christina Christian

After American Idol, Christina guest starred on CSI: Crime Scene Investigation and is now a correspondent for the TV Guide Channel.

5th Place - RJ Helton

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RJ Helton made the top 10 as a wildcard choice. RJ signed with Gospo-Centric Records and released an album, *Real Life*, in 2004, which made the Billboard Christian Top 20.

4th Place - Tamyra Gray

Tamyra had a reoccurring role in *Boston Public* that allowed her to sing as well. She also guest starred on *Half and Half*, *Las Vegas*, *Tru Calling*, *What I Like About You*, and *All of Us*.

She co-wrote and sang duet with winner Kelly Clarkson on "You Thought Wrong." She appeared on Season Three of *American Idol* and co-wrote the song "I Believe" which was a number one hit for Fantasia Barrino. She received writing credit for "If You Were Mine" and "The Lover in Me" on Jessica Simpson's *A Public Affair* album.

In 2004, she took to the stage with the Broadway show "Bombay Dreams." She had a supporting role

in 2005's *The Gospel* and one song on the movie's soundtrack.

3rd Place - Nikki McKibbin

Nikki signed with 19 Management and RCA Records after her *American Idol* success, although she is currently under contract with Astral Records. Her single "The Lie" reached #1 on the Idol Waves online radio station.

She has appeared on several reality shows, including *Fear Factor* and *Kill Reality* and appeared in the made for television movie *The Scorned*.

Runner-Up - Justin Guarini

After coming in second, Justin starred in the unsuccessful movie *From Justin to Kelly* with winner Kelly Clarkson. He secured a deal with 19 Management and RCA, but he had to wait until Kelly's album was released before he could work on any solo projects. Because of this contractual obligation, he had to refuse a guest role on *Friends*, a role in *The Fast and Furious*, and a modeling contract for Tommy Hilfiger.

When his self-titled album did come out nine months after his *American Idol* success in June 2003, it flopped and he was eventually released from his contracts. His second album *Stranger Things Have Happened* was released in late 2005.

He appeared on stage in the musical *Good Vibrations* at Vassar College but declined to accept continue the role. He's been in several independent films and is involved in many charities such as Support Music Education, Habitat for Humanity, and Children's World Organization.

Winner – Kelly Clarkson

The most successful of all the *American Idol* contestants, Kelly signed with RCA and released two

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singles. "A Moment Like This" shot to #1 on the Billboard charts. In 2003, she released her debut album, *Thankful*, that certified double platinum, selling over 2 million copies. Her single "Miss Independent" reached the Billboard Top 10 and earned her a Grammy nomination in 2004.

Her second album, *Breakaway*, produced four top 10 singles and she won the Grammy award for "Best Female Pop Vocal Performance" and "Best Pop Vocal Album."

She's appeared on *Saturday Night Live*, *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, and *The View* and she is scheduled to headline an HBO concert featuring her greatest hits in February of 2007.

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Review Of American Idol

By Edward Charkow

American Idol first debuted on American television under the name of *American Idol: The Search for a Superstar*. It is part of an Idol series which started in the United Kingdom as *Pop Idol*, and now has versions all over the globe including *Australian Idol* and *Singapore Idol*. All shows run under a similar basic format and operate as talent shows meant to find the best undiscovered talent in each country. Although founded as a singing competition, American Idol has grown into a massive marketing machine that is driven by sponsors who pay a million dollars for a 30 second commercial during run time. Product placement is another key moneymaker for American Idol; you'll often see contestants drinking of Coca-Cola plastic cups or lounging backstage in the Coca-Cola Red Room, complete with a red leather Coca-Cola couch.

American Idol is shown on the Fox network in the United States and managed by 19 Entertainment. Initially shopped around and rejected by many other networks, American Idol has found its permanent home and has become a huge hit for Fox, partly due to the presence of judge Simon Cowell. The acid-tongued Brit, Simon Cowell, was initially a judge on Britain's *Pop Idol*, and has since become an American household name due to his blunt and searing critiques of many of the American Idol contestants. Simon Cowell has since produced *American Inventor* and the latest television talent competition, *America's Got Talent*.

The success of American Idol is irrefutable, having won the top spot on Nielson Ratings for the last 4 years and earning a larger viewership than the Olympics, The Grammy Awards and the NBA Playoffs.

American Idol Season One – Where Are They Now?

American Idol is hosted by the affable Ryan Seacrest who we first meet during the audition process. The talent competition holds auditions in several US cities including LA, Memphis, Salt Lake City and Boston, where associate judges weed through thousand of Idol hopefuls in booths and tents in arena parking lots.

If a contestant has what it takes to entertain American television audiences, then he or she is passed through to Directors Nigel Lythgoe and Simon Fuller. If the contestants impress either or both of these two men, the contestant is then able to reach the highest stage of judging — meeting Simon Cowell, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson. Once the contestant performs a song or two for Simon, Paula and Randy, the final judgment on whether they will advance to Hollywood is given. Each contestant needs two out of three votes, and if the vote is in the contestant's favor, he or she gets the famous yellow ticket and is sent to Hollywood for a week of exhausting performances and tough judging. At the end of Hollywood week, the top 24 have evolved and usually represent a diverse group of males and females of all races and musical genres.

There are several criteria one must meet in order to try out for Idol. All audition hopefuls must be between the ages of 16–29 years of age and not have a recording contract or talent representation. Release forms must be signed by all in order to enable American Idol to use your voice or image during any part of its broadcasts.

Find more out about American Idol, season 6! and the entire reality t.v. world at

<http://www.reality-tv-updates.com>



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