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When Success Shines Through Failure In American Idol

By Roy Thomsitt

Like about 200 million other people around the world, my wife and I settled down to watch the

American Idol Grand Finale earlier this week. With the benefit of satellite, we watched live from our tropical island home by the Sulu Sea in the Philippines. We were already happy, as our two favourites, Katherine McPhee and Taylor Hicks had, the previous evening, been where they belonged, singing in the final. Whoever won did not matter; we loved them both, but after Taylor Hicks final song, he did look the likely winner. However, they would both, as well as Chris Daughtry, have made worthy American Idols.

There were many memorable moments during the American Idol 2006 series, but for me one of the most memorable, and significant, came with the announcement of Taylor Hicks as the winner. I was delighted for him. He has been an inspirational entertainer all the way through the American Idol series, never flirting with the exit door (despite Simon Cowell's attempts to shove him there), and with a unique ability to take just about any song, turn it into his own, and bring the audience to its feet. Taylor Hicks is...well, Taylor Hicks; never afraid to do his own thing and entertain the audience. Even if Simon Cowell wrote a funeral dirge, Taylor Hicks could turn it into something special with his unique character, and have the house rocking.

Taylor Hicks being announced as the winner was, of course, the peak of the series; it was what all the contestants had been aiming for since the auditions. However, for me there was something very special about that moment, that some may not have been so aware of: the reaction of Katherine McPhee. Her reaction was one of genuine delight for Taylor's success. There were no artificial congratulations, no tears of disappointment, no sombre face because she had lost the final; just magnanimous delight for Taylor Hicks being voted American Idol 2006.

Katherine McPhee is a born star, and she will have a good singing career, a dream come true for her. Yet, despite her stunning beauty and exceptional singing talent, she remained modest even at the pinnacle of the show. In her own failure to win the contest, she simultaneously recognised with magnanimity the success of Taylor Hicks, and glowed in her own success of getting that far herself. She did not exude one iota of failure in her demeanour as the announcement was made. If anything, she epitomised success.

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Seeing Katherine McPhee at that moment reminded me of how intermingled success and failure are. Even the same achievement can be viewed by one person as a success, and another as failure. No doubt there are some mean spirited people who will dismiss Katherine with a simple "oh, she was beaten, she failed." But anyone who genuinely respects achievement of any type would appreciate what she has done to get as far as she has, and in such style.

The parents of Katherine McPhee must be very proud of what their daughter can do, has done, and will do in the future. But they should also be very proud of themselves for bringing up such a delightful young woman, who can take her moment of disappointment and turn it into a celebration of success, both for her and her conqueror, Taylor Hicks.

This success article

http://www.routes-to-self-improvement.com/Success_Articles.htm

was written by

Roy Thomsitt, owner and part author of the Routes To Self Improvement website.

<http://www.routes-to-self-improvement.com>

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 Neilson Ratings for the last 4

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years and earning a larger viewership than the Olympics, The Grammy Awards and the NBA Playoffs.

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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