

Dear 2009 **FINALIST**,

CONGRATULATIONS! You have been selected to be in the final competition for the "Spotlight On Talent" contest. ALL of our finalists are winners, because the competition was so stiff! Included are the comments from the preliminary judges to help you prepare for the finals. PLEASE NOTE – if a comment slip with a slash across it is included, it is from the producer/timer and is included just for your information. These scores were not included in the judging totals. Keep in mind that in this type of contest we have to have a panel of judges with a variety of backgrounds. That means that a “dance” judge has to do their best in judging piano and vocal performances, and vice-versa. Also remember that different judges have a different range of scores they use – what is a lower number from one judge could be one of that judge’s higher scores. **Concentrate on the comments.**

YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FOLLOWING POLICIES!! You, your parents and teachers need to read this to be prepared even if you have been in it before, many things have changed!

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT COMPETITION

- We will have **TWO final contests** on **Saturday, March 28, 2009**, in the same Wesley Chapel theater as the auditions. **You are in “Act I” at 12:00 noon.**
- **TICKETS** will be **\$10 each** for everyone 8 years and older, \$5 for under 8, and under 2 free, with a combo ticket available to those 8 and older at \$15 for both shows.
- Because of sound checks, doors will not open until 11:30. The theater does not allow any food, drinks or gum inside the building. Refreshments will still be offered but will need to remain outside on the covered entranceway.
- **Personal videotaping** was fine for the preliminaries because no audience was present. However, for the finals we will have a professional videographer who will make DVDs of each show available for a reasonable price. There will be **NO** personal videoing allowed, although snapshots are fine. We have included an order form for ordering a copy that you can bring to the finals – forms will be available there also.
- If you have any **props or instruments**, please have them back stage before the show begins.

SOUND CHECKS

- We do want anyone interested in a sound check with mics to do so, and pianists can run-through on the stage piano. **Sound checks** will be done in the same order as the show. Category 1 – 9:00 am, Category 2 at 9:30, Groups at 10:00. When you come to the stage for your check, let us know if there is a specific part of your piece that you definitely need to run. Please bring an extra CD with you in case of sound “emergencies”. All **pianists** who wish to run-through on the stage piano need to come at 11:00 am.
- After registering in the lobby, you will proceed into the auditorium.
- Sound checks are not a practice, and you will probably not be able to finish your entire piece.
- Before or after your sound check, you may take your performance attire backstage and change into it or leave it backstage.

PLEASE TURN OVER THE PAGE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SOUND CHECKS, ON AND OFF STAGE INSTRUCTIONS, WINNER INSTRUCTIONS, ETC. !!

SOUND CHECKS CONTINUED

- If coming for a **sound check**, **one parent** can purchase a ticket starting at 9:00 and come in with you but will be asked to exit and clear the auditorium by 11:15 for the pre-show meeting. When they exit they can get in line early for the doors. We are sorry, but parents who come for sound checks **may not** leave personal items in the auditorium and **may not reserve** any seats. That would not be fair to the families of talents which do not require sound checks.

--- NEW --- PARTICIPANT PRE-SHOW MEETING

- There will be a meeting for all participants and approved group chaperones in the auditorium from 11:15 to 11:30. We will introduce some of the important HACA volunteers who will help you during the show, go over stage instructions for bios and awards and other important instructions as well as answer questions. If you are not able to attend this meeting, you must get pre-approval by the Producers.
- You can be backstage before or after the meeting to drop off costumes/makeup/props, get ready, etc. but **NOT DURING THIS MEETING**.

WHERE YOU SHOULD BE DURING THE SHOW

- If you don't need a sound check, you need to arrive **no later than 11:15 for the meeting**. You will need to sign in at the lobby table where you will be given a color-coded backstage pass. **Wear it at all times except on stage.**
- **NO PARENTS OR EXTRA FRIENDS ARE ALLOWED BACKSTAGE** after 11:45.
- **Category 1 and 2 solo contestants** will be directed backstage after the meeting.
- After each **category's** awards are given out, soloists are escorted into the back left of the auditorium, where **ONE** family member can sit with them if they wish. You'll be seated together in the back left until at least intermission, and you may stay there through the Groups also.
- If in **category 1 and a group**, you need to exit the back stage after group 1 is done and sit in the auditorium until right before intermission. **THEN** you will be prompted backstage to switch your costume, etc.
- **Right** before intermission the MC will announce when it is time for the Groups to go backstage. **It is important that you are sitting down during the show** and not hanging around in the restrooms or lobby. No one is allowed to go down the side ramp to backstage until called with your category.
- **During intermission Group** contestants, parents, and chaperones can go backstage to prepare costumes, makeup, etc., but the parents will have to vacate backstage at the end of intermission.
- **Contestants who are in only a group** need to be in the auditorium and be in your seats for the show **by 11:45**. You may take costumes & makeup backstage, but need to be back in your seat **at 11:45**.
- Each group may have up to 1 adult per child sitting with them in the auditorium, and should have **at the most 3 designated chaperones to be with each group backstage during the performances**. We can provide additional helpers if requested.
- **Chaperones**, please check in for your backstage pass and wear it while backstage.

ON STAGE

- There will be a taped line near the front of the stage. Please stay behind that mark as you perform.
- We will see and award each of the categories one at a time. Details for bios and awards will be discussed at the pre-show meeting.

WINNERS

- **Prize winners will need to remain momentarily backstage for pictures.**
- **The grand champion** in Act I will be invited to be a guest performer(s) at the evening show. The contestant(s) and 1 parent need to meet with producer Barbara Friedman directly after the show at the check-in table! We will need to know if you are able to do this to prepare our evening show announcements.

Remember to SMILE, ACKNOWLEDGE THE AUDIENCE, and HAVE FUN! If you have any questions or concerns, **please email the producer at hacaspotlight@yahoo.com** or call Mrs. Friedman at (352) 567-1720, mornings or evenings only. If there is no answer please leave your name and number, and I will return your call.

Thank you very much for your participation and BREAK A LEG!