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## American Idol's Tenth Season Rises To Greatness

**Idol returns for a tenth season with all new judges and fresh talent**

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### REVIEW

On January 29th, "American Idol" returned following, what some called, its worst season since its debut in 2001. Having lost three members of the judging panel, Idol Season 10 was indeed ready for a much needed revamp.

Producers decided that it was time to return to the three judge panel and brought on superstars Jennifer Lopez and Steven Tyler to help out seasoned judge and record producer Randy Jackson.

It wasn't just the judging that was subject to change for season 10. Among the hopefuls that auditioned were the youngest contestants in Idol history, with the age limit dropped to fifteen.

The judging for season 10 was talked about constantly since the end of season nine. Simon Cowell left to bring his show, "The X-Factor," stateside, Kara DioGuardi's contract ran out and Ellen DeGeneres quit after claiming that she wasn't a good judge.

Randy Jackson was alone at the judges table until it was announced that Tyler and Lopez were signed up for season 10.

Everyone seemed to have the same question on their minds, "Can the show go on without Simon?"

After audition episodes, all

signs pointed to yes. This season's judging panel is, without a doubt, a breath of fresh air.

It is clear that both of the new judges love being there. Any viewer can see that they are really listening to the music; it's not an act, they just love music.

Steven Tyler is openly enjoying his time on the show. As a judge, he is making real technical points; he critiques the singers on specific aspects, actually helping instead of humiliating or insulting. Tyler's eccentric personality is humbling, but he really needs to stop hitting on the underage girls that come through to audition.

It's safe to say that Jennifer Lopez is the best on the panel. She did get off to a rocky start, letting through some unacceptable singers based on guilt. However, after each city, J Lo is becoming the judge that season 10 of Idol needs.

Lopez is not just concerned about the talent, she is looking at the entire picture, having been through the cycle before. Can they sing? Do they have charisma? Perhaps most importantly, are they ready? She proves that you don't need to be a "cranky Brit" to know something about potential singing sensations.

Though the judges are always a hot topic, the show is about the talent that comes through.

Every year Idol says the same thing. "This is the best talent we have ever had." Can this year make up for the lie that was season nine? From the looks of it thus far, there is a great amount of

potential.

Ideally, the show is about the singers and their potential futures as recording artists. Despite that, there are always clips of outrageously terrible singers in the audition portion. The poking fun seems to be quite unfair, not only to those that steal some screen time, but to those who lost it.

Of the fifty-one that received golden tickets on day one, forty were not granted screen time, screen time that went to a "Party in the USA" montage and someone who wouldn't stop burping.

The decision to drop the age limit to fifteen wasn't in vain. This season's teens are stacking up to be some of the greatest competitors.

Though the production of her over-the-top personality made her seem like a dud, fifteen year old Victoria Huggins surprised the judges with her beautiful voice. Robbie Rosen wowed the judges with his rendition of the Beatles hit "Yesterday," while Travis Orlando synched his golden ticket with Jason Mraz's "I'm Yours."

Lauren Alaina blew the judges away when she sang "Like We Never Loved at All." The fifteen year old not only won her ticket, but also a duet of "I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing" with the songs original singer, judge Tyler.

Don't think that it's just a kid's season. Twenty year old singing waitress, Devyn Rush, made the judges believe in her dream of stardom. Though her look didn't scream star, Rush's enthusiastic personality and killer vocals were enough to nab her a



photo provided by daemonstv.com

### Jackson, J. Lo, Tyler and host Ryan Seacrest promote season 10

golden ticket.

Harvard graduate and White House assistant, Molly DeWolf Swenson, shocked the judges with "Sitting on the Dock of the Bay."

Jordan Dorsey, a piano teacher, made his way to the Hollywood round after he sang "Over the Rainbow" for the panel. Dorsey could be a real contender this season.

"American Idol" hasn't seen a solid R&B vocalist hit the live shows in years. Since Carrie Underwood wore the Idol crown, country-western singers haven't made it too far in the competition either. However, that hasn't stopped Scotty McCreery and John Wayne Schulz from reach-

ing for their dreams.

Though McCreery's extremely low-singing voice may seem like a challenge, J Lo believes that "with the right songs" he can make it in the competition.

Idol only has one episode of auditions left. After the judges hit San Francisco, they will be headed to Hollywood.

The contestants will be cut down to forty after the judges deliberate their performances in the Hollywood round.

Once the forty emerge, episodes will go live and the future of the show will be in the hands of the viewers once more. It's shaping up to be a great season, and in the end we'll have one more "American Idol."