

Orinda Idol 2008 Opens Up to All of Lamorinda

By Andrea A. Firth



Orinda Idol finalists, 2007

Photo provided

Admit it. At this time of year, your television is set to record Channel 2 at 8:00 pm on Tuesdays, right? You were bummed when the cute Aussie got kicked off so early. You can't understand how the boy with dreadlocks made it as far as he did. And although you think a couple of the female contestants can really sing, you are pretty sure it will come down to the cute David and the cool David. Face up to it—you are a closet *American Idol* watcher. You TIVO through Paula's comments, you can't wait to see which contestant has been bumped, and you are addicted to it. (You are probably a Thursday-night *Survivor* devotee as well, but that's for a different story.)

So it is no surprise that the Idol craze has swept its way to Orinda once again. The Orinda Arts Council will hold its third annual *Orinda Idol Competition*, and new this year will be two cate-

gories—High School and Group performances—that are open to all Lamorinda students. "It is such an engaging and fun event," says event organizer, Petra Michel. "We are excited to be able to open it up to all Lamorinda students."

Auditions for *Orinda Idol 2008* will be held on May 30th and 31st at the Orinda Library Theater. "Contestants must secure an audition spot by emailing their name, school, and grade, and requesting a time slot," explains Michel. "They should come prepared to perform for up to two minutes. They must bring their own accompanying music on a CD or iPod."

Celebrity judges will select up to ten finalist in each of the four categories, and the finalists will be announced just prior to the Summer break. "The finalists perform at the local farmers markets throughout the summer and at the Lafayette Art and Wine Festival, and people just love it,"

adds Michel.

The Orinda Idol finals will be held on September 7th at the Orinda Theater. Judging for the finals is based on the celebrity judges' input and audience voting. It is free to attend, but you might want to plan to get there early. "We had over 2,000 people attend last year," notes Michel. "The line outside the theater wound around Theater Square." For more information on *Orinda Idol 2008*, go to www.orindaartscouncil.org/orindaidol.html.

Orinda Idol 2008

Secure your audition spot now for Orinda Idol 2008 by sending an email request to orindaidol@bluestar.com.

Audition Times:

Friday, May 30th; 3-5 pm, Kindergarten to Grade 5, Orinda students only
Saturday, May 31st; 1-5 pm, Middle School, Orinda students only; High School and Group Performances (Open to all Lamorinda students)

Where: Orinda Library Theater
More Information:

www.orindaartscouncil.org/orindaidol.html