

Rialto Idol 2011

CONTEST RULES AND REQUIREMENTS

The Rialto Idol Contest in 2011 is divided into two groups, based on age:

Junior Idol – for ages 5 to 15 years

Rialto Idol – 16 and over encouraged, all ages welcome)

Requirements:

- A non-refundable fee of \$20 for Rialto Idol contestants and \$10 for Junior Idol contestants is required to be paid and submitted with the entry form. Make check or money order to: “*Rialto Square Theatre.*”
- Submit a short personal bio with your entry form to include highlights of your vocal and theatrical accomplishments.
- Contestants must submit a video audition. Contestants may submit more than one video audition to be reviewed. Each additional entry must meet all entry requirements to be considered.
- **Entry form, entry fee, bio, DVD or YouTube link, and signed liability and publicity release must be completed and submitted to the administration offices.** (15 East Van Buren, Joliet, IL 60432 Attention: Rialto Idol). (YouTube link must be emailed to rialtoideal@rialtosquare.com)
- Contestant must pay for their own expenses, i.e. transportation to and from the performance venue, meals and lodging.
- No video or audio recording will be allowed at the Rialto Square Theatre during any part of the production.

Eligibility:

- All ages over five years are welcome. Those under the age of eighteen will need a parent or guardian’s signature to enter the contest. **All Junior Idol contestants must provide proof of age.**
- All contestants must read, understand and sign the liability and publicity release form.
- No individual under contract (recording, entertainment, management or otherwise) or employed by, or affiliated with the WCMEAA will be eligible to participate in the contest.

Qualifying Process:

- Each DVD or YouTube link audition will be viewed and judged by members of the Festival of Trees committee. No member will be allowed to vote on contestants that they know.
- If an original song is submitted, the contestant must submit acceptable documentation to prove ownership of his/her music. It shall include either a certificate of copyright, proof of song registration with BMI, ASCAP, etc., or a notarized copy of the application applying for the copyright with a signed statement by the contestant as to its status, and the lyrics.
- No tracks with back-up vocals will be allowed.
- All performances must be done in good taste and suitable for general audiences.
- Each entry will be judged on vocals, performance and audience appeal, with vocals and performance weighing more.

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- Contestants may submit more than one video audition to be reviewed. Each additional entry must meet all entry requirements to be considered.
- From each division of Idol, the 40 top scores will be asked to perform a live audition in a semi-final round. The Top 40 will be announced October 3, 2011. If you cannot make the audition, you will be dropped and the next high score will be included – no exceptions. Audition date for Junior Idol is October 9, 2011. Rialto Idol live auditions will be held on October 16, 2011.
- For the semi-final live audition, each contestant will perform one song live, four minutes or less, with background track on a CD player, or self – accompanied. Each semi-finalist is required to provide their own CD. No background vocals are allowed.

Finalists

- From each division of Idol, 20 finalists will compete on stage at the Rialto with a live audience, on Saturday, November 26, 2011. If you cannot make this date, you will be dropped and the next highest score will be invited. Semi-finalists will be judged on vocals, performance, and audience appeal, with performance and vocals weighing more.
- There will be one rehearsal that all finalists are required to attend. This sets your performance order, and mic levels. If you cannot be at rehearsal, you will be dropped from the competition – no exceptions.
- You must bring the clothes you will be wearing for the Finals to rehearsal for approval by the producers. Dress tastefully - like a STAR!
- You must have two songs prepared for rehearsal. One will be your primary song, and one will be used for a sing-off tie-breaker, if needed. Only CD's will be accepted. **Each song must be on it's own CD and labeled clearly – 1st song, 2nd song.**
- Contestants may accompany themselves on their instrument of choice.
- All contestants must arrive at least one hour before curtain. Junior Idol will check in at 12pm, with curtain at 1pm. Rialto Idol will check in at 5pm, with curtain at 6pm.

Voting and Judging

- There will be five judges with two alternate judges voting on each contestant. If a judge is familiar with a contestant, the alternate judge's scores will be used.
- Scores will be given in three categories: voice, performance, and crowd appeal.
- Voice will be broken into tone, pitch, control, demonstration of range, and song choice.
- Performance will be broken down into technique, presence, connection to music, and interpretation.
- Crowd Appeal will be judged on audience response and reaction, and determined by judges.
- Once all contestants have performed, scores will be tallied, and judges will confer. In the event of a tie, there will be a sing-off. Each contestant involved will perform their second song choice for the judges.