



Australian Idol



Australian Idol



Iconic star-maker series **Australian Idol** is ready to unearth a new generation of Australian artists when it premieres 7.30pm Monday, 30 January on Channel 7 and 7plus.

Helping find the next idol to take Australia by storm will be celebrated *American Idol* judge, musician, singer, composer and multiple Grammy® award-winning Harry Connick Jr; powerhouse Grammy® award-winning singer-songwriter Meghan Trainor; unapologetic top-rating broadcaster Kyle Sandilands; and beloved eight-time ARIA Award-winning singer-songwriter Amy Shark.

Australian musical treasure and former Australian Idol judge Marcia Hines also joins the series as a special guest judge.

A global success since 2001, the Idol franchise has launched the careers of many multi-award-winning artists including Aussies Guy Sebastian, Jessica Mauboy, Matt Corby, Ricki-Lee Coulter, Anthony Callea, Stan Walker, Casey Donovan and Courtney Act.

International music icons Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, Jennifer Hudson and Adam Lambert also launched their brilliant careers on the Idol stage.

What's the secret to Idol's world-wide success? "I think it's the simple, old-school nature of the show," says Harry. "It's a classic competition format that brings the audience on an insightful journey with the singers in the competition. No other show does it better."

In his search for the next Australian Idol, Kyle says he's focused on the bigger picture: "Can this performer become a superstar who'll have commercial success? Are they good enough to sell out shows and have radio and streaming platforms begging them for new music? I know there's a beauty to examining the artistry of music, but you can't buy a house and a Lambo with artistry."

Amy agrees, saying a successful artist needs more than just a good voice: "We're looking for the package. Unfortunately, gone are the days of just being able to sing. You have to be a likeable, talented and hardworking character to really make it in this business."

Meghan's performance advice for aspiring Idols is simple: "No more time for nerves. Walk in with confidence and remind us why you deserve to be on that stage."

Aspiring artists aged between 15 and 28 will showcase their talents during the nail-biting judges' audition rounds of the competition covering Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and the Gold Coast. Judges will also travel to regional Australia to ensure no stone is left unturned in their search for the best emerging music artists.

From the thousands of contestants who audition, those lucky enough to score a Golden Ticket from the judges will automatically claim their coveted spot in the top 50.


The top 50 will perform for the judges to secure a place in the top 24. The top 24 will perform again as the judges narrow the field to the competition's top 12 artists. The top 12 will feature in the live performance round of the competition, with Australian audiences voting each week to decide who will be crowned the next **Australian Idol**. The winner will receive a recording contract with industry giant Sony Music and \$100,000 in prize money.


Australian Idol is hosted by multi-platinum selling, ARIA Award-nominated singer-songwriter Ricki-Lee – who was discovered on Australian Idol in 2004 – and internationally renowned entertainment presenter and former E! host Scott Tweedie.


Australian Idol is produced for the Seven Network by Eureka Productions.


Australian Idol Premiering 7.30pm Monday, 30 January on Channel 7 and 7plus.


Get involved:

 @AustralianIdol

 @AustralianIdol

 @AustralianIdol

 @AustralianIdol

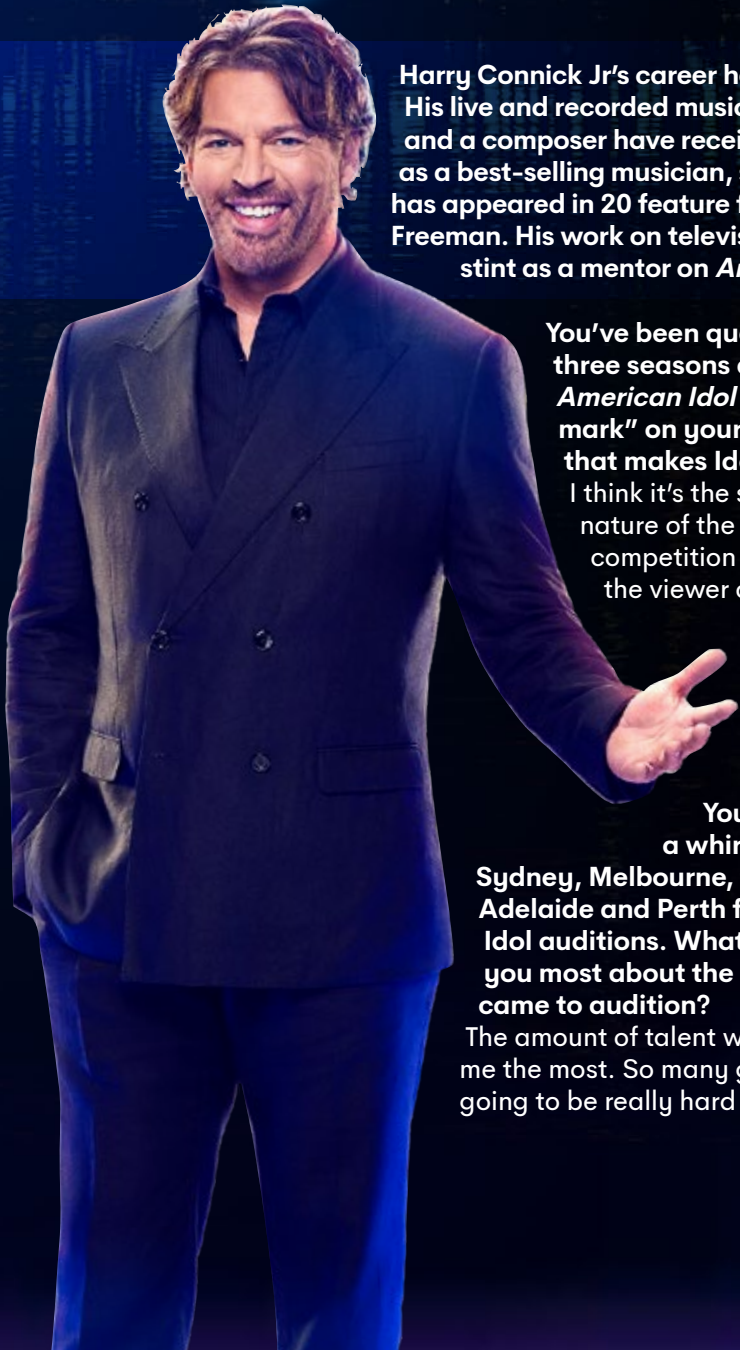
 7plus.com.au/AustralianIdol

#AustralianIdol



Harry Connick Jr Judge

@harryconnickjr



Harry Connick Jr's career has exemplified excellence across multiple platforms in the entertainment world over the past three decades. His live and recorded musical performances, achievements in film and television, and appearances on Broadway as both an actor and a composer have received Grammy® and Emmy awards as well as Tony award nominations. Harry continues to establish himself as a best-selling musician, singer, composer, actor and legendary live performer, with millions of recordings sold around the world. He has appeared in 20 feature films with actors including Sandra Bullock, Hilary Swank, Renée Zellweger, Sigourney Weaver and Morgan Freeman. His work on television includes starring roles in *Will and Grace*, *South Pacific* and *American Idol*. Following his very successful stint as a mentor on *American Idol*, Harry was invited to join Jennifer Lopez and Keith Urban at the judges' table from 2013 to 2016.

You've been quoted saying that three seasons as a judge on *American Idol* left a "wonderful mark" on your heart. What is it that makes *Idol* so special?

I think it's the simple, old-school nature of the show. It's a classic competition format that brings the viewer on an insightful journey with the singers in the competition. No other show does it better.

You completed a whirlwind tour of Sydney, Melbourne, the Gold Coast, Adelaide and Perth for the *Australian Idol* auditions. What impressed you most about the artists that came to audition?

The amount of talent was what impressed me the most. So many great singers! It's going to be really hard to pick a favourite.

How did you spend your downtime while on the road?

Downtime? What's that?! When you're a judge on *Idol*, there's no such thing as downtime - and that's how I like it. Intense and exciting!

What advice would you give contestants transitioning from the audition round to the Live shows?

I wouldn't change a thing. Whatever got them this far will serve them well throughout the rest of the shows. Keep tapping into who you are.

What's one mistake that you see aspiring artists make repeatedly?

We all make mistakes. Different mistakes. That's what makes this business so exciting; you fall, you get up, and you learn. It's different for everyone.

What role did music play in your family growing up?

We always had music playing in our house. I grew up in New Orleans, which is a music-filled town. There was music everywhere, all the time. I was super lucky to have that constant access.

Who was the biggest musical influence in the early stages of your career?

I had many, but Ellis Marsalis and James Booker were the biggest for sure.

Your online course, *Piano Party* combines your love of the piano and music.

How did this project come about?
I wanted to help people who knew nothing about music to have a better understanding of how music works. Maybe, with some basic knowledge, they'll be able to tap into some of their own talent and creativity and create something of their own. We're building a community of learners, and I drop in for live sessions periodically. I hope to welcome some folks from Australia to our community too.

Meghan Trainor Judge

@meghantrainor



Australian Idol judge Meghan Trainor made history in 2014 with her diamond-certified smash single *All About That Bass*. Since then, the award-winning singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist has garnered a Grammy® for Best New Artist, achieved eight multi-platinum singles and two platinum albums, sold out three world tours, penned multi-platinum hits for peers across the pop and country genres and received countless industry awards and nominations.

Meghan's television credits include *The Four: Battle for Stardom* and *The Voice UK*. Meghan's third full-length album, *Treat Myself*, featured the platinum smash *No Excuses*, as well as blockbuster anthems and collaborations like *Nice to Meet Ya* (featuring Nicki Minaj), *Genetics* (featuring Pussycat Dolls) and *Wave* (featuring Mike Sabath). Meghan's recently released fourth full-length album, *Takin' It Back*, debuted Top 20 on the Billboard 200 and features the smash-hit single, *Made You Look*, which has garnered over 132 million streams worldwide.

The *Idol* franchise has launched unknown artists into international stardom.

Why do you think *Idol* is so successful in producing stars?

Idol is successful because the fans who vote are the greatest in the world and know how to recognise great talent.

You travelled to Alice Springs as part of the audition tour.

Tell us what that was like.

It was unlike any place I have been to in the entire world. I felt like I was on a different planet! It was so beautiful and you could feel the history everywhere you looked.

What advice would you give to contestants transitioning from the audition round to the live shows to get the most out of their performance?

No more time for nerves. Walk in with confidence and remind us why you deserve to be on that stage!

As a judge, what's important to you when giving feedback to contestants on their performance?

I always want to ensure I give constructive feedback smothered in kindness.

What's the one mistake you see aspiring artists make repeatedly and what's your advice to remedy it?

Sometimes aspiring artists can focus too much on striving to be like another artist. The most important thing any artist can do is be true to themselves and focus on what is unique about them.

What role did music play in your family growing up?

Music was everything growing up. My dad is an incredible musician and we even had a family band growing up.

Who was your biggest musical influence in the early stages of your career?

T-Pain, Bruno Mars, Beyoncé and Carole King.

Live TV is back with the return of Australian Idol on our television screens.

What do you like most about live TV?

I love live TV because it is a magical way to bring millions of people together.

Body positivity is a recurring theme in your songwriting.

Why is this message so important?

I have always written songs that I needed to hear but wasn't yet hearing on the radio. Since releasing *All About That Bass* I saw how helpful songs like this could be and wanted to continue to spread these types of messages.



Kyle Sandilands Judge

@kyleandjackieo



Kyle Sandilands is one of Australia's most high-profile and recognisable broadcasters. With extensive experience as a personality across both radio and TV, Kyle has perfected what has become his unique trademark of irreverence. Since 2000, Kyle has hosted the nationally syndicated Kyle & Jackie O Show, winning a record-breaking 48 Australian Commercial Radio Awards. Kyle was a judge on *Australian Idol* from 2004 to 2009, *The X-Factor Australia* from 2010 to 2011 and *Australia's Got Talent* from 2010 to 2013. Kyle also runs his own production and investment company, King Kyle, which has interests across music, television, radio, retail and tech.

The *Idol* franchise has launched many unknown artists into international stardom. Why do you think *Idol* is successful in producing stars?

Idol is the original talent show. It doesn't have gimmicks or tricks; what you hear and see is exactly what you get. As judges, we put together a shortlist of contestants who we think are good enough to be the next **Australian Idol**, but it's then up to the public to decide who will be crowned our next **Australian Idol**. There's something so raw and pure about the *Idol* process which is why there's so many contestant names you can rattle off who, thanks to *Idol*, have become household names.

What advice would you give to contestants transitioning from the audition round to the live shows to get the most out of their performance?

The live shows are 100 times harder than the auditions. With the auditions either you can sing or you can't. If you can sing and – as judges – we think there's something there, we'll probably

put you through. But when you're at the live shows, it's a different level and a whole different question that we ask ourselves: "Is this contestant singing in front of me right now the next **Australian Idol**?" If the answer's anything other than a yes, you're out.

As a judge, what's important to you when giving feedback to contestants on their performance?

We have some of the world's best singing experts who have won Grammys and ARIAs on the judging panel. When I'm giving feedback, I'm less concerned with the nuts and bolts of the singing and more focused on the bigger picture: can this performer become a superstar who will have commercial success? Are they good enough to sell out shows and have radio networks and streaming platforms begging them for new music? I know there's a beauty to examining the artistry of music, but you can't buy a house and a Lambo with artistry.

You have a very direct judging style. What do you say to those who say your critiquing style is too direct?

This is the real world and I'm doing these contestants a favour by getting in early and letting them know what the real situation

is. The way I see it, it would be cruel of me if I strung these contestants along and told them how great they were when there were obvious issues that needed to be addressed. This may surprise people to hear this, but the music business isn't a bunch of executives sitting around holding hands and singing Kumbaya, so my style of judging is perfectly suited to what's required.

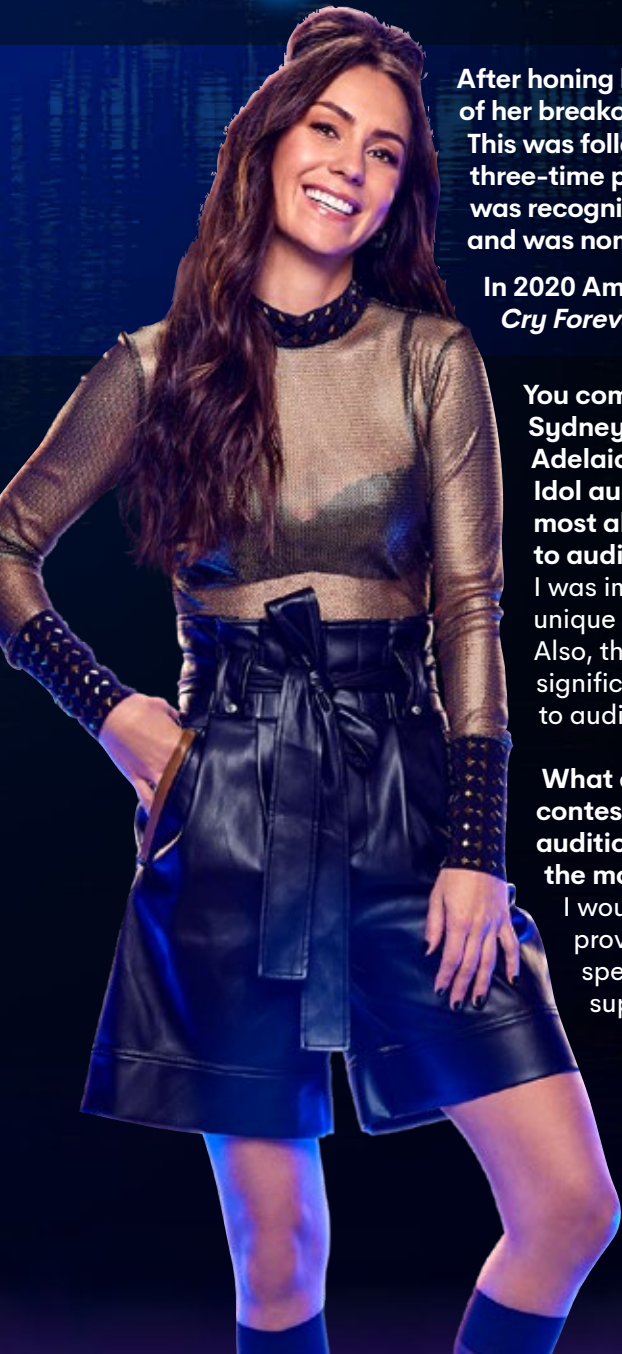
As a top-rating commercial radio host, you see artists come and go. What do you think is the secret to career longevity in the music industry?

A lot of people think getting signed to a record deal is the hardest part of being in the music business. Nope. What's really hard is remaining on top, because when you're on top, there's really only one way you can go: down. The song selection is vital. As an artist, when you bring out particular songs, you'll be made to feel like you've got to please so many different people in the business, but at the end of the day, it's your name on the song, so you've got to make sure you're 100% onboard with everything you put out.



Amy Shark Judge

@amyspark



After honing her craft and self-producing her music for years, Amy Shark became a household name in 2016 with the release of her breakout hit, the six-time platinum single, *Adore*, which put her on the map as one of Australia's most formidable songwriters. This was followed by APRA Song of the Year-winning, six-time platinum, #1 Australian Airplay Chart hit *I Said Hi*, and 2019's three-time platinum single *Mess Her Up*. Amy's debut #1 ARIA album and platinum-certified *Love Monster*, released July 2018, was recognised with four ARIA Awards for Album of the Year, Best Female Artist, Best Pop Release, Best Producer (Dann Hume) and was nominated for another five. *Love Monster* became the highest-selling album by an Australian artist in 2018.

In 2020 Amy released her ARIA Award-winning, platinum-accredited single, *Everybody Rise*, from her 2021 sophomore album, *Cry Forever*: her second #1 ARIA debut. Amy's latest single, *Only Wanna Be With You*, is out now.

You completed a whirlwind tour of Sydney, Melbourne, the Gold Coast, Adelaide and Perth for the Australian Idol auditions. What impressed you most about the artists that came to audition?

I was impressed by their confidence, unique personalities and backgrounds. Also, the number of people who travelled significant distances to major cities to audition.

What advice would you give to contestants transitioning from the audition round to the Live Shows to get the most out of their performance?

I would say: "Ok you've already proved to us that you have something special, so get out there, be a superstar, but also have fun."

As a judge, what's important to you when giving feedback to contestants on their performance?

My aim is kindness, humility and honesty. All three can be a very hard combination to pull off.

What's the one mistake you see aspiring artists repeatedly make and what's your advice to remedy it?

Stop caring about what other people think. Find someone you trust, who has your best interest at heart with no hidden agenda, and navigate this brutal industry with them. Try to become numb to the internet comments and never open your DMs.

What role did music play in your family growing up?

My parents were very young when they had me, so I was lucky to have a pretty cool library of bands and artists to learn from and listen to. That's about it. No one plays an instrument but me and no one writes music.

Who was your biggest musical influence in the early stages of your career...

I liked Silverchair first because I learned you didn't have to have a Mariah Carey voice to sing your own songs. I also loved Alanis Morissette because she taught me it's OK to be upfront and honest when writing songs.

Describe the first time you sang in front of an audience. Where were you and what do you remember about it?

My boyfriend at the time decided to enter me into a songwriting competition and I hated him for it because I didn't see myself as a singer; I just wanted to write songs for other people. But I did it and I loved every second of it. It was extremely nerve-wracking but so satisfying.

Marcia Hines

Guest Judge

@themarciahines



Guest judge Marcia Hines is an Australian musical treasure with a career spanning five decades. She has released 22 albums, selling 2.6 million copies, and garnered countless chart-topping singles and multi-platinum records globally.

A popular judge on the original *Australian Idol* panel from 2003 to 2009, Marcia was inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame in 2007. She received the Order of Australia Medal in 2009 for her services to the Australian Entertainment Industry as a performer, judge and mentor, and to the community through various charitable organisations.

Marcia has recently returned to the recording studio and added two new songs to the upcoming greatest hits package *Still Shining – The 50th Anniversary Collection*, followed by *The Gospel According to Marcia*, an album of gospel songs that Marcia grew up singing in the churches of Boston.

The *Idol* franchise has launched unknown artists into international stardom.

Why do you think *Idol* is so successful in producing stars?

It's because *Idol* is a worldwide brand that's very trusted.

What was it like working alongside fellow judge Kyle Sandilands again?

Kyle and I have a great relationship. I know that he has a much bigger heart than anybody realises (but don't tell them I said that!).

As a judge, what's important to you when giving feedback to contestants on their performance?

I've always thought constructive criticism is the way to go because that's how I was taught coming up. The contestants are very brave because they are basically plucked from obscurity and placed in everybody's living room. I know it's not easy.

You were known as the "nice" judge in the original series. What do you say to those who say your critiquing style is too kind?

When you're giving criticism, it's hard to know how much is being taken in by the performing artist, so my style was to be slow, measured and kind.

What's the one mistake you see aspiring artists repeatedly make and what's your advice to remedy it?

The most important thing in anything you do, is to be prepared. Be overly prepared. It can't hurt. When your nerves take over and you can't even think, if you are prepared, you will get through it.

What do you think is the secret to career longevity in the music industry?

The secret to career longevity is learning to listen and take advice from those who mean you well.

Please finish this sentence:

To make it in today's music industry, emerging artists must...

Have a strong character, be tenacious, and keep their eye on the prize.

Where did your love of music come from?

Church choirs and my godmother who took me along to see them.



Ricki-Lee Host

@therickilee



Ricki-Lee is a multi-platinum selling, ARIA-nominated singer-songwriter. Since she was discovered on **Australian Idol** in 2004, she has become a household name and is one of Australia's most loved pop stars.

With a string of hits to her name, the powerhouse vocalist from the Gold Coast has sold over one million records globally and had over 75 million streams of her music, with four #1 hits on the ARIA Dance Chart and UK Club Chart, 10 ARIA top 10 singles, two ARIA top 10 albums, five ARIA top 20 singles and albums, and a top 10 single on Japan's Billboard Hot 100 Chart.

Ricki-Lee has received two double platinum, two platinum and six gold certifications, as well as a nomination for ARIA Song of The Year for double platinum hit *Do It Like That*. Her latest single, *Last Night*, went straight to #1 on the Australian iTunes chart.

Your celebrated music career was launched on the Australian Idol stage as a contestant in 2004. Why do you think Idol has success producing stars?

Idol is purely about raw talent. You have to walk into a room with just your voice and make the judges feel that you have something special. You have to fill the room with your voice. If you can't sing, there's nowhere to hide.

What did it feel like stepping onto the Australian Idol stage as the show host all these years later?

It was surreal but a full-circle moment. **Australian Idol** changed my life. For the last 18 years, I have travelled the world doing what I love and had dreamt of since I was a kid. I know what it's like to go through this whole crazy process and I'm there to support the contestants through it. I want everyone to walk away from this experience having enjoyed it and learned something. If I can help them achieve that in any way, I feel like I've done my job.

You completed a whirlwind tour of Sydney, Melbourne, the Gold Coast, Adelaide and Perth for the Australian Idol auditions. What impressed you most about the artists that came to audition?

I was impressed with the individuality and diversity of the talent we found this year. It was insane. There are so many amazing voices and people that I already know Australia will fall in love with.

What was your go-to strategy to help contestants overcome their nerves during the auditions?

I've walked in their shoes; I know exactly what they are going through every step of the way. I tell them that it's easy to spiral and let fear, worry and self doubt creep in, but all that does is ruin your performance. I always try to get them thinking about going in and smashing the audition, hitting every note, the judges loving them and coming out with a golden ticket. It was really cool to be able to help the contestants.

As a former contestant, what advice would you give to contestants transitioning from the audition round to the live shows to get the most out of their performance?

Song choice is very important. Choose songs that everyone knows and loves. Every time you perform, you have an opportunity to show the judges and Australia who you are as an artist. Think of the performances as stepping stones to your success and achieving your dreams.

Live TV is back with the return of Australian Idol on our television screens. What do you like most about live TV?

There's nothing like live TV. It's so unpredictable. I've been a contestant on this show and performed on live TV many times over the last 18 years, but this is the first time I'm hosting. I'm a little nervous, but I know that once we get started, the nerves will go away and it will be so much fun.



Scott Tweedie

Host

@stweedie



Returning to Australia after hosting *E! News* in New York, Scott Tweedie is a unique entertainer, successfully merging the irreverence and buzz of digital with classic television broadcaster skills. Launching his career as host of ABC's cult hit *Prank Patrol* in 2009, Scott's cheeky style saw him become an instant household name with every Australian under 20, with the show airing for five years worldwide.

Network Ten recruited Scott to host Saturday morning music show *The Loop*, and he became an all-rounder for the network, and roving reporter for *Studio 10* and host of *Saturday Schoolies* – the companion show for *I'm a Celebrity Get Me out of Here!*. In 2019 Scott was invited to the United States by NBC Universal to host new *E! Entertainment* programs and interviewed icons including Jerry Seinfeld, Dolly Parton and Harry Styles.

As someone who grew up watching Australian Idol, what did it feel like stepping onto the stage as the show's host?

It was an iconic moment for so many reasons. On a personal level, I'd dreamt of hosting **Australian Idol** right back when I began my TV career. Then to my right on the stage was Ricki-Lee, Idol royalty. She is living proof of the type of career **Australian Idol** can produce.

You completed a whirlwind tour of Sydney, Melbourne, the Gold Coast, Adelaide and Perth for the Australian Idol auditions. What impressed you most about the artists that came to audition?

They wore their hearts on their sleeves and left nothing behind. The auditions blew all of us away and while some triumphed, others pushed through the nerves and sweat to scrape through. We returned to what Idol is known and loved for: the brutal audition room. It was so good to be back!

What was your go-to strategy during the auditions to help contestants overcome their nerves?

I was working hard to get them to slow down and be in the moment. Deep breaths, relaxed shoulders, plenty of water (plenty of last-minute nervous toilet trips too).

Live TV is back with the return of Australian Idol on our television screens. What do you like most about live TV?

Live TV is fun, fast and furious, and adds an extra layer of energy. We will have moments where things don't go according to plan, but the Aussies at home love seeing authentic, real and unproduced moments. Live TV brings out the best.

Please finish this sentence:

To make it in today's music industry, emerging artists must...

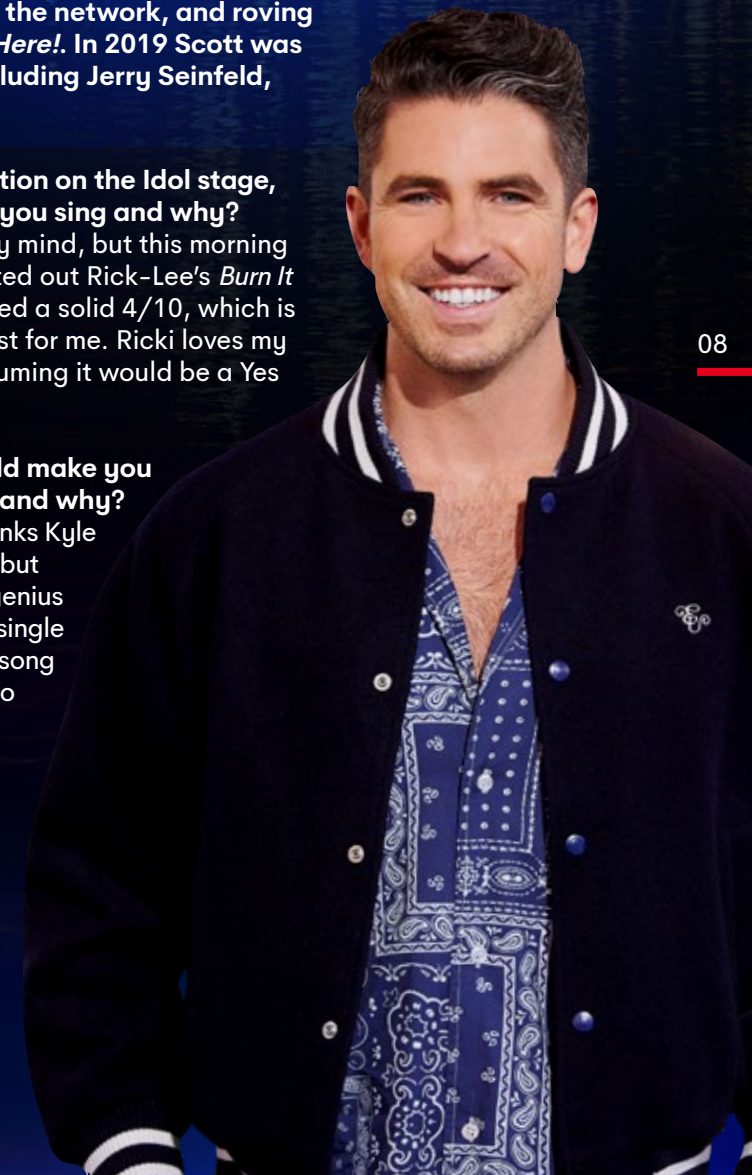
Be a superstar in their own right! Do whatever it takes to cut through the noise and masses of artists also trying to win over the fans. You need to be so unique, and usually you have a few seconds to do it or we will all scroll past you. Oh, and you need natural talent and a bloody good voice.

If you had to audition on the Idol stage, what song would you sing and why?

I keep changing my mind, but this morning in the shower I belted out Rick-Lee's *Burn It Down* and it sounded a solid 4/10, which is a new personal best for me. Ricki loves my singing, so I'm assuming it would be a Yes from her.

Which judge would make you the most nervous and why?

I know everyone thinks Kyle is the big bad wolf, but Harry is a musical genius and dissects every single millisecond of your song and performance, so I'm going to lock in Harry.



Contestant Snapshot



Aaliyah Bise

20, Victoria
Singing teacher and barista from Ballarat.



Amali Dimond

16, New South Wales
Works at an ice-cream shop and hopes to trade sundaes for superstardom.



Angelina Curtis

15, Western Australia
Year 9 school student ready to share her natural talent with the world.



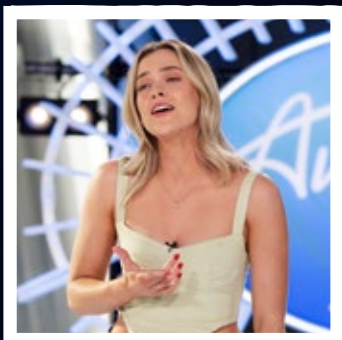
Angus Holmes

21, Queensland
Grew up in Japan but now calls Gold Coast home. Brother Bobby is also auditioning for **Australian Idol**.



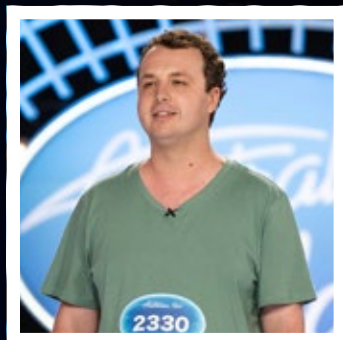
Anya Hynninen

19, Victoria
Small-town singer accompanied by her talented step dad, Bernard.



Bec Voysey

24, Western Australia
Perth-born gamer and mining admin officer.



Ben Sheehy

24, Queensland
Pharmacy worker who wants to share his unique vocal talent with Australia.



Bobby Holmes

17, Queensland
Grew up in Japan but now calls Gold Coast home. Brother Angus is also auditioning for **Australian Idol**.



Charlie Chech

18, New South Wales
Uni student by day, crooner by night.



Cooper Turnbull

18, New South Wales
A singer with style from Sydney's Hawkesbury region. Brother Spencer is also auditioning for **Australian Idol**.

Contestant Snapshot



Damien Agius

27, Queensland
Country singer and coal miner from rural Queensland.



Deon Mai

22, South Australia
A 22-year-old software engineer and medical student from Adelaide.



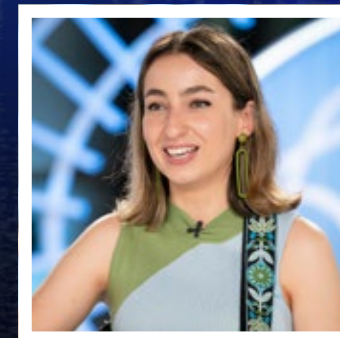
Edwin Fejo

22, Northern Territory
A 22-year-old Indigenous support worker from Darwin.



Erica Padilla

21, Victoria
TikTok star with 1.3 million followers.



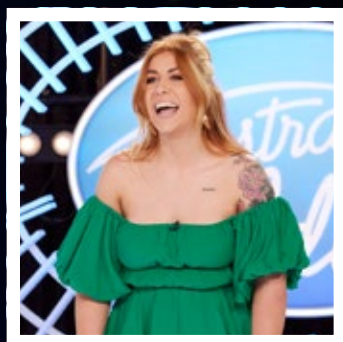
Finn Burton

21, Australian Capital Territory
TikTok comedian with over 600,000 followers.



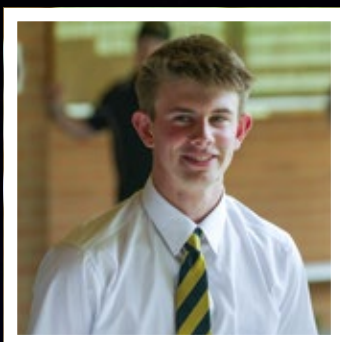
Fenn Idle

27, New South Wales
Original songwriter who shares a last name with the show.



Gemma Ann Rourke

25, Victoria
Singing dog groomer from the suburbs of Melbourne.



Hamish Guiana

18, New South Wales
Year 12 student from regional NSW.



Harry Carman

26, Australian Capital Territory
New dad and humanitarian from the nation's capital.



Harry Hayden

18, Victoria
Year 12 student who is passionate about the arts.

Contestant Snapshot



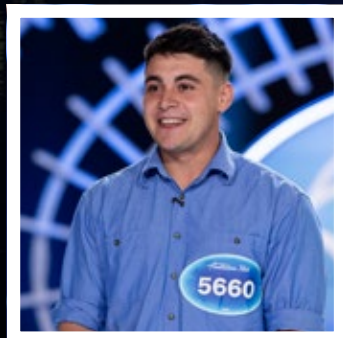
Isha Ramji

18, Victoria
Zimbabwean-born retail worker from Melbourne.



Jenaya Laidler

15, Northern Territory
A 15-year-old from Alice Springs with dreams of making it in the big smoke.



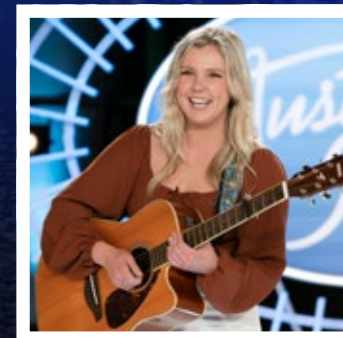
James Vawser

28, South Australia
A singing sparky from Adelaide.



Jasey Fox

25, New South Wales
A 25-year-old dancer from inner-city Sydney.



Jess Crossman

25, New South Wales
A full-time paramedic from the south coast of NSW.



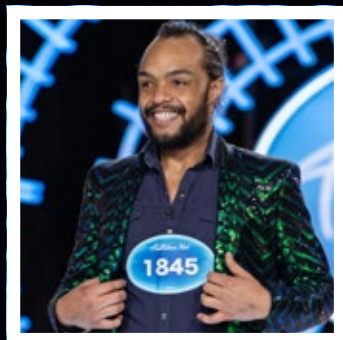
Joshua Hannan

20, Victoria
Lives on a rose farm and studies physiology.



Kaitlyn Thomas

22, Victoria
Singing-school teacher.



Kaiyai Doenau

28, New South Wales
Acting, singing and drag performer from the mid-north coast of NSW.



Kartik Kunasegaran

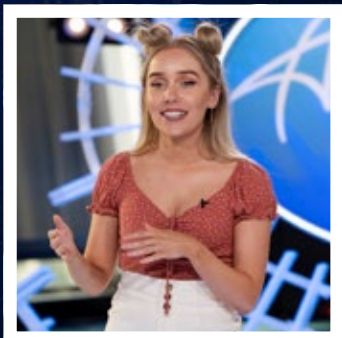
27, New South Wales
Once a member of the Singapore Army, now a Sydney wedding singer.



Kristie Roberts

28, Queensland
Soon-to-be-wed pub singer from the Gold Coast.

Contestant Snapshot



Laura Byrnes

28, Western Australia
Motorsport racer from Perth.



Layla Schillert

16, New South Wales
A 16-year-old school student who busks with her dad.



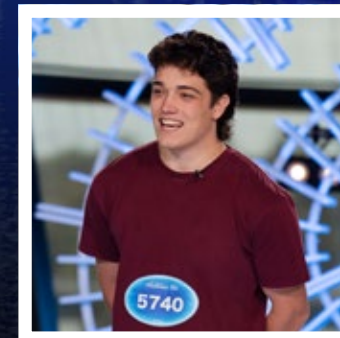
Lucy Smith

19, Western Australia
Op-shop worker from southwest Western Australia.



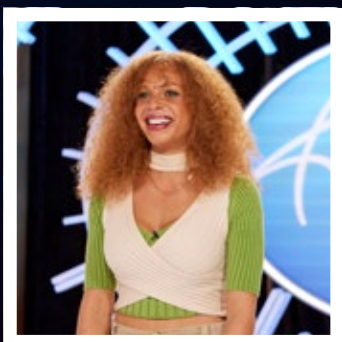
Malaika Temba

20, Victoria
Auditioning for her mum, who gave up her dreams to raise a family.



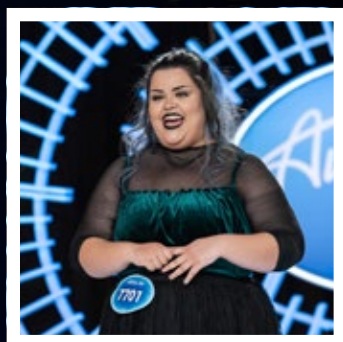
Matthias Gault

19, Western Australia
A 19-year old mechanical engineering student.



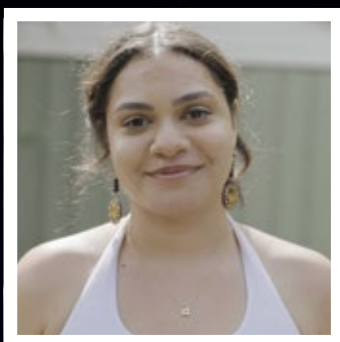
Maya Weiss

28, Victoria
Yoga teacher and DJ from Melbourne's St Kilda.



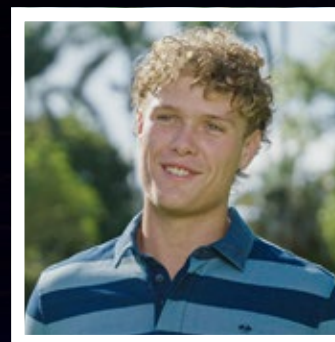
Michaela George

26, Queensland
Young mum who busks online for her adoring fans.



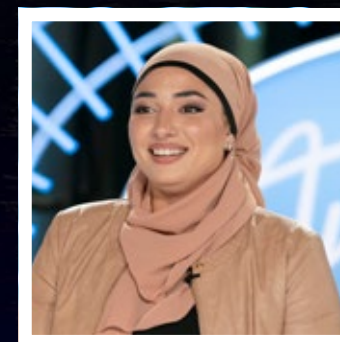
Naomi Gipey

22, Northern Territory
Alice Springs born jewellery designer who's inspired by Jessica Mauboy.



Noah Cookson

19, Queensland
Gave up rugby to follow his passion for music.



Noora H

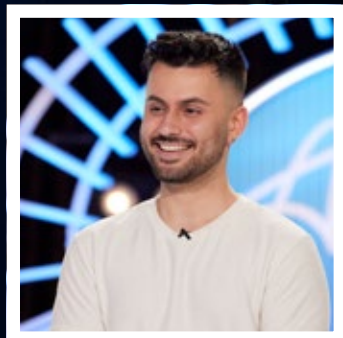
27, New South Wales
Singing travel agent from south-west Sydney.

Contestant Snapshot



Onarsé

19, New South Wales
Charity worker who dedicates their life to performing.



Peter Karagounis

21, Victoria
Melbourne office administrator with dad as his number one fan.



Phoebe Stewart

15, Western Australia
A 15-year-old school student lives on a farm.



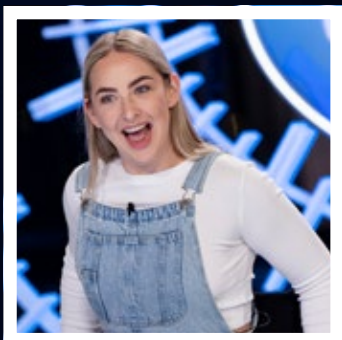
Piper Butcher

18, New South Wales
Vintage car fanatic who lives on the outskirts of Newcastle.



Royston Sagigi-Baira

23, Queensland
A 23-year old youth worker from far north Queensland.



Sara Houston

26, Western Australia
Represents Australia in Wheelchair Basketball.



Sash Seabourne

25, Western Australia
A 25-year old surfer from Margaret River.



Sharin Attamimi

24, Western Australia
Cafe worker and personal trainer.



Spencer Turnbull

20, New South Wales
A singer with style from Sydney's Hawkesbury region. Brother Cooper is also auditioning for Australian Idol.



Watson Blaikie

21, Queensland
Insurance Salesman from Brisbane.

Australian Idol Winners

2003 Winner: **Guy Sebastian**

2004 Winner: **Casey Donovan**

2005 Winner: **Kate DeAraugo**

2006 Winner: **Damien Leith**

2007 Winner: **Natalie Gauci**

2008 Winner: **Wes Carr**

2009 Winner: **Stan Walker**

Runner Up: **Shannon Noll**

Runner Up: **Anthony Callea**

Runner Up: **Emily Williams**

Runner Up: **Jessica Mauboy**

Runner Up: **Matt Corby**

Runner Up: **Luke Dickens**

Runner Up: **Hayley Warner**