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Abilene Idol '24



AUDITIONS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27TH, 2024
THE MALL OF ABILENE

FINALE

7PM | SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH, 2024
THE HISTORIC PARAMOUNT THEATRE

CHORUSABILENE.ORG/IDOL

Abilene Idol 2024 Junior Finalists



Taylor Wood is a sophomore at Wylie High School participates in Theatre, Varsity Choir, Speech and Debate, Student2Student, and serves as president of Texas Association of Future Educators. She is a student at Abilene Performing Arts Company and Frush Piano Studio and she leads her church youth praise team. Taylor has been in numerous theatrical productions and truly loves opportunities to perform.



Veta Lafuente is a 1st grader who loves singing, art, & gymnastics. Veta began her music career with APAC's Kindermusik program; she performs with Chorus Abilene and takes private voice lessons. Her art projects have been displayed at The Grace and the West Texas Fair & Rodeo. Veta serves as a member of her school's Student Lighthouse leadership team.



James Wilson is an eleven year old in the fifth grade at Lueders Avoca Elementary. He loves to sing! James has been singing in church since he was three years old. He won two talent shows in Odessa, the first when he was four years old. James is currently taking guitar lessons. He says he wants to become a Christian singer to lead people to Jesus.

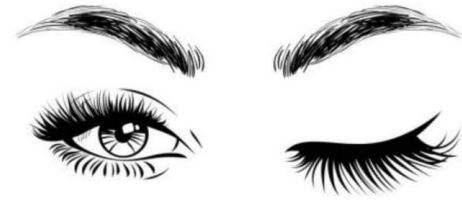


Natalie Cannon is a 13 year old 7th grader and the oldest of 4 children. She is a remarkable girl with a heart of gold, full of compassion for the earth and every human on it. Natalie enjoys reading, writing, art, and all things music, especially singing! She has experience in dance, clarinet, theater, and choir. Natalie is a youth leader at church and has a strong spiritual side. Her family could not be more proud of her!



Hallie Griffith is 12 years old and a 6th grader at Hawley Middle School. She loves softball, basketball and singing! She is a voice student of Serayah Peters. Locally known, Hallie has recorded the national anthem which is played during Hawley sporting events. She is active in the FCA and church and recently was baptized. She enjoys sewing, reading, drawing and spending time with friends and family.

Looking Chic



THE SALON



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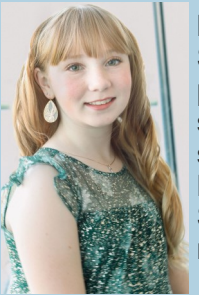
Ellie Lolopulos is in fourth grade at Wylie West Intermediate, she is an “A” honors student in the GT program. She participated in Moana Jr. last summer with Wylie PAC, and she is an entrepreneur who has her own pet sitting business. Ellie enjoys exploring her Colombian roots and the ability to perform in English and Spanish.



Kamryn Whitehead is a 7th grader at Wylie East JH. She was recently in *Cinderella* with Wylie Junior High theatre and is hoping to become even more involved in theater in the future. Kamryn has been singing at church with her sister and grandmother since she was very young. She has always loved to sing and dance and it never mattered who was watching. Kamryn definitely dances to the beat of her own drum!



Julien Little sophomore at ACS loves to sing, act and dance! She loves musical theatre and has been in 11 musical productions. Besides theatre, she also participates in ACS’ choir and show choir. She dances at APAC and loves to participate in productions within the Abilene theatre community. She loves everything about the Paramount Theatre and is honored to perform in the Finale as an Abilene Idol Jr. finalist.



Maryellen Yocca is a 6th grader at Hermleigh ISD. She has been singing since before she could talk and performed in her first musical at age 5 and many shows since. She has sung the National Anthem at numerous sporting events, as well as headliners like the Bellamy Brothers, Lorrie Morgan, and Shenandoah at the Coyote Store. She performs with Tuesday Troupe junior company, through the Ritz Theater, dances with Studio 92.

Juan Martinez - Auditions Judge

Claire Shuler - Auditions Judge

Brenda Heffernan - Auditions Judge

Thomas Hicks Sound - Abilene Idol Auditions sound

Mall of Abilene staff

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*Good Luck
Maryellen!*

RENEGADE

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**TERRY MASHBURN
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Abilene Idol 2024 Adult Finalists



MC Josiah is a Hip Hop musician originally from Houston. Born in 1997, his whole life has been engulfed in music & Church. He started freestyling at 12, spending his teen years writing, performing, & recording and later began doing open mics, shows, & karaokes in the area, sharpening his skills. He was chosen as a finalist Abilene Idol '18 performing an original song called "Letter 2 Dad".



Journee Pugh was the youngest Abilene Idol Finalist of 2012 and is back 12 years later! She owns The Neon Cowgirl Salon, and is the mother of a 3 year old daughter and 1 year old son. Journee has a passion for the hair and beauty industry, but music was her first love. Raising her babies and running a salon take up most of her free time, but she's ready to share her love for music again!



Kelsie McIntee is a 26 years old employee for the City of Abilene Emergency Water Department. She has been a Worship Leader and Youth Leader at Fountaingate Fellowship Church, for over ten years. She finds it both a joy and an honor to use her gift of singing and playing piano to create a space for people to have an encounter with the Lord.



Aaron Bailiff enjoys singing karaoke and is an employee of Key City Septic and Plumbing.



Nora Vellis is a '22 ACU Theatre graduate. She has been performing onstage for over 17 years in Musical Theatre, and working backstage for over 15. She is currently in the process of becoming a theatre teacher! Nora enjoys designing hair/makeup for productions, performing in the CALF Festival, playing Mario video games, and going on roadtrips with her friends and family.



Hannah Sloan is a 19 year old who loves animals, snow boarding, and serving in mission, including at Love and Care Ministries. Hannah's favorite pastime is singing and playing the guitar and piano.

**Knock it
outta the park,
Hallie Jeane!**



**Love,
MOM & DAD**





Caroline Wade is a seventeen year old junior at Abilene Christian School. She is known for her bubbly and bright personality on and off stage! Caroline has been singing and dancing since her toddler years and she plans on making it her career.

Meet Tonight's Judges!



Remel Derrick-Composer, conductor and choral editor is a music graduate of Southwestern Christian College and Abilene Christian University. Remel is the Associate Director of Choirs at AHS where he shares in directing both varsity and non-varsity choirs, and he teaches AP Music Theory, as well as music directs the school musical. Remel's compositions are self-published with his company, Summit Pointe Music Publishing (BMI), and he also has works published with Walton Music, Brilee Music, and will have a piece published with Heritage Music Press in 2025.



Neena McClain is a professional actor, director, storyteller and theatre educator. She began her career as the Artistic Director for Playmakers of Baton Rouge and later she made the move into education. Neena worked as a storyteller for Louisiana Endowment for the Arts, Prime Time for Reading Program, and was a founder for Third Wheel Theatre. She's served on boards for Texas Educational Theatre Association, et al and now serves on the boards of APAC and YAA. She is currently an Assistant Professor and Head of Theatre at McMurry University.



Blaise Regan is a Councilman on the Abilene City Council. He is an attorney and owner of Regan Law Firm, focusing on business law and estate planning. He is the founder of Abilene It's Getting Better, host of the radio/podcast Reganomics with Blaise Regan, co-founder of Work Again West Texas, a charity helping the homeless, is a member of the Military Affairs Committee, and serves on the Taylor Expo Center Board. He is musically gifted, but only in the shower.



Thank you, Dr. & Mrs. Melnyk, for your Platinum Sponsorship!



Junior Finalists

Pulled from <i>Addams Family</i>	Taylor Wood
I've Got No Strings from <i>Pinocchio</i>	Veta Lafuente
Nobody	James Wilson
World Record	Natalie Cannon
Sweet Symphony	Hallie Griffith
Rescue	Ellie Lolopulos
Rolling in the Deep	Kamryn Whitehead
Journey to the Past from <i>Anastasia</i>	Julien Little
Greatest Love of All	Maryellen Yocca

INTERMISSION

"Best of Luck,
Caroline!"

~ Shawna Hutcherson

Adult Finalists

September	MC Josiah
All I Ask	Journee Pugh
Creep	Kelsie McIntee
Wondering Why	Aaron Bailiff
One and Only	Nora Vellis
I Have Nothing	Hannah Sloan
Defying Gravity from <i>Wicked</i>	Caroline Wade

Audience vote

Special Performances by:

Saya Mueller, Junior Idol 2023
Claire Shuler, Adult Idol 2023
BackBeat

Presentation of Winners

"Good luck,
Taylor!"

~ Dr. Samantha Goodman, M.D.





ALEXIS EDWARDS
PHOTOGRAPHY



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