

QUEER IDOL SEEKING TOP VOCAL STARS

CONTEST MARKS 'NEW ERA' IN TALENT COMPETITIONS

BY SANDY CAETANO

With trailblazers like k.d. lang, Melissa Etheridge and Elton John leading the way, aspiring singers are becoming more open about their sexual orientation.

Queer Idol producer Ralph Hamelmann is putting out a call to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community for talented singers to audition for the competition's second season.

"Last season, I received twice as many applications as I had anticipated," Hamelmann said. "This told me there were a lot of queer singers out there wanting to be recognized."

Hamelmann said he launched Queer Idol because he felt the Church Street village didn't have enough opportunities for talented young people — singers and dancers alike. And even though Queer Idol is an LGBT event, the producers are inviting queer-friendly heterosexuals to both compete and attend.

"To us, the final stage of Queer liberation is when the lines around sexual orientation and gender are blurred," he said. "Queer Idol marks a new era where vocalists no longer have to be closeted and queer talent is front-and-centre in the mainstream."

Queer Idol has raised over \$42,000 in prizes and that number is still climbing. Prizes include movie passes from Rainbow Cinemas for everyone who auditions, gift certificates from Steve's Music and George Brown College, and a makeup package valued at \$3,300 for the five finalists. The winner of Queer Idol 2010 will receive a \$12,000 package to launch their career.

POLANSKI FILES MOTION TO BE RELEASED

ZURICH, Switzerland — The Swiss Criminal Court says imprisoned director Roman Polanski has filed a motion requesting to be released.

The court said in a statement today that it will make a decision "in the next weeks."

Any verdict is subject to appeal from both sides.

Polanski was arrested Saturday as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award from a film festival.

Authorities in Los Angeles consider Polanski a convicted felon and fugitive. The di-

rector had pleaded guilty to unlawful sexual intercourse in 1977 with the underage girl. He was sent to prison for 42 days, but the judge tried to renege on the plea bargain.

On the day of his sentencing in 1978, aware the judge would sentence him to more prison time, Polanski fled to France.

The 76-year-old filmmaker has been the focus of an international tug-of-war, as France and Poland both want him released from prison. Their foreign ministers have pressed U.S. officials all the way up to Secre-

tary of State Hillary Clinton on the case.

In the southern Swiss city of Bellinzona, the Federal Criminal Court said it had yet to receive an appeal asking for his release. Mascia Gregori Al-Barafi, the court's general-secretary, said she didn't know when the motion might be filed.

Swiss officials, however, have said there will be no rash decisions on the matter. Any verdict on his release would likely take a few days, and would be subject to immediate appeals from both sides.

Associated Press



From left: Queer Idol 2009 Winner Stacey Tennen, runner-up Maya Beauchamp and second runner-up Philippe Escayola. Sitting: Queer Idol producer Ralph Hamelmann.

THIS WEEK'S NEW MOVIE RELEASES

Monsters vs. Aliens	Shrink
Management	The Girlfriend Experience
Away We Go	Flood
Superman/Batman: Public Enemies	Steam
Bob's Big Break	The Unit: Season 4

PRIMETIME LINEUP

8PM	Citytv: The Biggest Loser (N) CTV: So You Think You Can Dance Canada (N) Global: NCIS (N)
9PM	A: So You Think You Can Dance (N) CBC: Being Erica (N) Global: NCIS- Los Angeles (N)
10PM	ABC: The Forgotten (N) CTV: Law and Order - SVU (N) Global: The Good Wife (N)

REALITY CHECK

THE BIGGEST LOSER: Contestants get an offer that is very hard to refuse; players face their first temptation, which will leave the winner with control over the weigh-in; an incline challenge tests the players' stamina.

HELL'S KITCHEN: The remaining chefs compete in their first individual challenge by attempting to create a dish that looks as good as it tastes.

DANCING WITH THE STARS: One celebrity is eliminated from the competition.

LATE-NIGHT GUESTS

Jay Leno Show	Julia Louis-Dreyfus
The Hour	Drew Barrymore
Jon Stewart	Ron Paul
Stephen Colbert	Matt Latimer
Conan O'Brien	John Krasinski
David Letterman	Kelsey Grammer
Jimmy Kimmel	Ricky Gervais
Jimmy Fallon	Jude Law
Craig Ferguson	James Spader