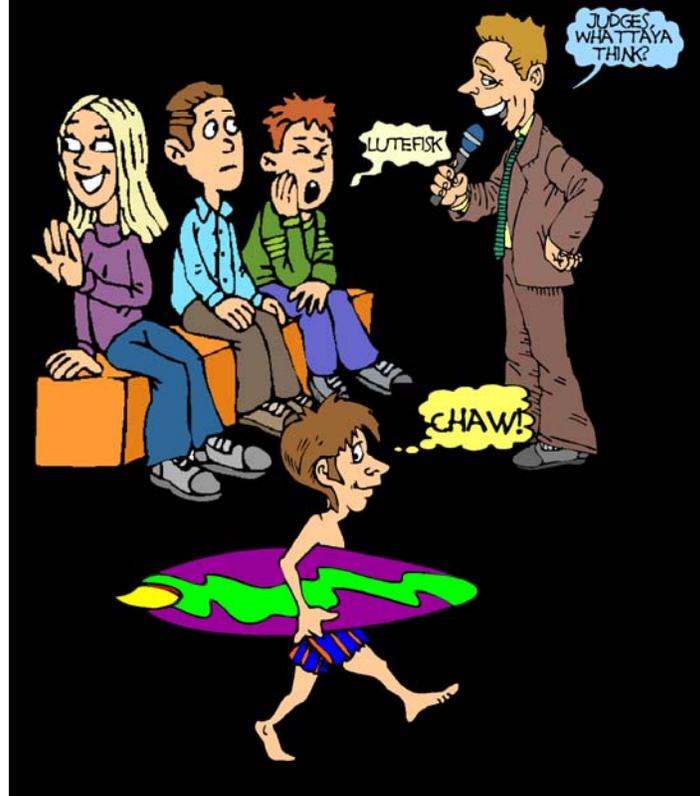


AMERICAN IDLE



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BIG DOG PUBLISHING

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AMERICAN IDLE: THE SEARCH FOR HIGH SCHOOL'S BIGGEST SLACKER

SPOOF. It's become the latest TV reality show craze! In "American Idle," contestants vie for the honor of becoming America's number-one high school slacker. Host Brian Seacrest takes us through rounds of hilarious auditions, mind-bending challenges, and brutal eliminations. Along the way, contestants compete to impress three judges with their supreme slacker skills. The judges include an inarticulate school janitor, a nasty guidance counselor, and a spacey drama teacher. But in the end, the biggest slackers of all may be the TV viewers themselves, who have become too lazy to vote for a winner! This hysterical spoof has a flexible cast and simple staging.

Performance Time: Approximately 60 minutes.

CHARACTERS

(Flexible cast 40+. With doubling: 3 M, 3 F)

BRIAN SEACREST: Host of “American Idle” TV show; wears trendy clothes and his hair is overly styled and highlighted.

HANDY JACKSON: Inarticulate school janitor and “American Idle” judge.

PAULA ABFOOL: Flamboyant and spacey drama teacher and “American Idle” judge.

SIMON FOUL: Crabby guidance counselor and “American Idle” judge.

ALEXIS: Extremely polite and very sweet Minnesotan; has a really thick Minnesota accent.

BJORN: Extremely polite Minnesotan; has a really thick Minnesota accent.

CINDY: Extremely polite Minnesotan; has a really thick Minnesota accent.

DAMIEN: Hick Texan; wears full western attire.

ELLIOT: Hick Texan; wears full western attire.

FELICIA: Hick Texan; wears full western attire.

GABY: Hick Texan; wears full western attire, her hair is extremely poofy, and she’s wearing way too much makeup.

ISSAC: Abrasive New Yorker.

JENNA: Abrasive New Yorker.

KIRK: Abrasive New Yorker.

LIZ: 33, mother and high school sophomore from New York; wears a sweat suit and carries a diaper bag.

HANNAH: Much sweeter than the other New Yorkers; aspiring actress from Indiana; wears her hair in pigtails.

NATE: Carefree California surfer dude; has long blonde hair and wears board shorts.

OLIVER: Carefree California surfer dude; has long blonde hair and wears board shorts.

PAPA JOHNNY: Owner of Happy Peppy Pizza.

SALLY: Customer of Happy Peppy Pizza; peppy.
GRANDMA: 90, stars in a Kodak commercial.
CRYSTAL: Teenager, stars in a Kodak commercial.
JAKE: Teenager, stars in a Kodak commercial.
PITCHMAN 1: Stars in a Crest and Wells Fargo commercial;
flexible.
PITCHMAN 2: Stars in an AT&T wireless commercial;
flexible.
PITCHMAN 3: Stars in a Ritalin and Coppertone commercial;
flexible.
MINDY: Teenager with lots of pimples; appears in an
insurance commercial.
DR. BOB: Appears in an insurance commercial; wears a lab
coat and uses it like a super hero's cape.
JILL: Giggly young girl; "American Idle" fan.
NANCY: Giggly young girl; "American Idle" fan.
RACHEL: Giggly young girl; "American Idle" fan.
JOE: Host of reality the TV show "Fear Factory."
DEREK: Contestant on "Fear Factory"
YOLANDA: Contestant on "Fear Factory."
MOM: Overworked mother.
DAD: Overworked father.
SON: Would like more attention from his busy parents.
STAGEHAND: Non-speaking.
EXTRAS (Optional): As "American Idle" studio audience
members and TV crew.

NOTE: The roles may be doubled, tripled, or even
quadrupled. Roles may be played by 40+ actors or as few as
six actors (3m, 3f), or any other combination in between.
Many of the roles are flexible. For flexible roles, change names
and pronouns accordingly.

AMERICAN IDLE
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set

A television studio. One platform sits CS. There is a sign that reads, "American Idle." Two other platforms, located DR and DL, are used for multiple locations. Simply rearrange blocks and cubes to suggest each setting.

LIGHTING

The lighting may be as elaborate as a major television show with spotlights, gobos and gels. However, it could be just as effective with no lighting effects whatsoever.

PROP2

Sign that reads, "American Idle"	Baby car seat
Mop and bucket	2 Surfboards
3 Puffy parkas, for Alexis, Bjorn, and Cindy	2 School desks
Table	Exams
Purse, for Paula	Baby doll
Wads of cash	Blue baby blanket
Bag	Hand mirror
Diaper bag	Lab coat, for Dr. Bob
Wallet	3 Cell phones
Microphone	2 Envelopes
Rocking chair	Papers
Photo album	Timer
6 Stools	Whisk
Drum roll	Bowl
Applause sign	Calculator
Card	TV

SOUND EFFECTS

Techno music	Beeping noise
Bell ding	Drum roll
Annoying cellular ring tone	Clock ticking
Cheesy music	Buzzer
Wild applause	

NOTE: The use of sound effects is entirely optional.

"ONCE A SLACKER,
ALWAYS A SLACKER..."

-GABY

AMERICAN IDLE: THE SEARCH FOR HIGH SCHOOL'S BIGGEST SLACKER

(AT RISE: Techno music begins to play and the American Idle sign starts blinking. Brian Seacrest enters and takes CS. His clothes are extremely trendy, and his hair is overly styled and highlighted. A spotlight lands on him.)

BRIAN: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen! Tonight you're joining us *live* for "American Idle: The Search for High School's Biggest Slacker"! The television show where you, the viewer, have a chance to vote for the laziest student in the entire country. My name is Brian Seacrest, your host for the competition. And my pearly white teeth are brought to you by Crest.

(Brian smiles brightly and shows off his teeth. At the same time, a bell dings. Pitchman 1 enters.)

PITCHMAN 1: Crest. Recommended by four out of five dentists. But keep in mind, that fifth dentist was British. *(Another ding. Exits.)*

BRIAN: Over the past few months, we've held auditions all over the country. And let me tell you, we came across hundreds of the laziest kids you'll ever lay eyes on. Students did their best, or should I say worst, to prove to the judges why they should win the title of "American Idle." We'll get to those auditions a little later. In the meantime, let me tell you what they're playing for. *(The techno music returns for a moment and the lights flash. They abruptly stop and the spotlight returns to Brian. In the blink of an eye, he's become very intense.)* Not only will the winner receive international stardom, but he or she will be presented with a high school diploma – no matter what their grade point average! That's right. Even if they failed shop. So look out, corporate America! Our winner just may waltz into your cubicle for

an interview. And with their GED, you won't be able to turn them down. It's quite possible that some 17-year-old slacker in Sarasota, who accidentally turned a Cadillac into a snowmobile, will someday be the VP of Wells Fargo Bank. And you thought identity theft was a problem.

(Pitchman 1 enters.)

PITCHMAN 1: Wells Fargo. More than just a song in "The Music Man." *(Exits.)*

BRIAN: *(Playful again.)* The judges have whittled down the hundreds of hopefuls to a group of six finalists. They will go head to head for the next few weeks, competing to win the hearts of you viewers at home. Get out your cell phones, America, as the voting lines will be opened sporadically during the program. And in case you were wondering, the voting lines are brought to you by [AT&T Wireless]. *[Or insert the name of another wireless company.]*

(An annoying cellular ring tone blasts. Pitchman 2 enters.)

PITCHMAN 2: [AT&T Wireless]. Making traffic much more interesting. *(Ring tone. Exits.)*

BRIAN: It's almost time to show you those auditions I promised. But first, I must introduce our judges. They scoured the nation for students with "D" averages. They forged into detention halls, stormed gym classes, and scouted parties. Those who couldn't care less were immediately advanced in the competition. But war was waged with any student who actually did their homework...or worse yet, attended band camp. The judges reigned with an iron fist to arrive at the final six. And let me tell you, their expectations were low. Very low. If anyone exceeded them, it was sayonara, kiddo! So, without further adieu, America...your judges. *(The music returns and the lights flash. Handy Jackson enters CS. He carries a mop and*

bucket.) Judge number one, Handy Jackson. Handy's a school janitor, so he has a lot of experience at loafing around. For proof, check out the boys' bathroom.

HANDY: Like I'm going in there! Peee-ew!

BRIAN: It took a lot for the students to impress him at auditions. Let's hear exactly what he was looking for.

HANDY: You know, well, I was looking for, well, um, something I can't quite put my, uh, well, finger, ya know, on...yeah, that's, um, about, uh, it...ya know?

BRIAN: Well put. Handy, here, was quite the slacker himself in high school. Needless to say, he didn't exactly rack up extra credit in speech class. However, he does have the distinction of reciting the longest oral presentation in history. It took him three class periods and one lunch break to give a two-minute lecture on "Catch-22." By the time he was finished, it was "Catch-48." *(To Handy.)* Any last words before we get to the competition?

HANDY: Well, um...ya know.

BRIAN: Very touching, Handy. Now take your seat. *(As the music returns, Handy takes his seat at the judge's table. As he does, Paula Abfool enters.)* Please give a warm welcome to judge number two, Paula Abfool. Paula's the resident drama teacher at her high school. She's not exactly what you'd call a slacker herself. In fact, the only day she ever took off from school was to see the national tour of "Nunsense."

PAULA: That's not true. After seeing the show, I used a whole week of vacation time. I was so moved by Sister Amnesia that I was unable to teach.

BRIAN: I stand corrected. But since that time, she's never missed a day.

PAULA: Ah, dear Brian, you're forgetting the sabbatical I took after seeing "Mamma Mia."

BRIAN: Oh, yes, that's right.

PAULA: Now that's theatre! For six weeks, I lived and breathed ABBA. And I still feel like a dancing queen!

(As the music returns, Paula twirls, does a little dance, and takes her seat at the judge's table. Simon Foul enters.)

BRIAN: Judge number three, Simon Foul. He's a guidance counselor, so he knows the wherefore and why students become slackers in the first place. And his supportive methods of therapy have helped hundreds of students over the years. He always seems to know the right thing to say to make a person feel better about themselves. Isn't that right, Simon?

SIMON: You're such an idiot.

BRIAN: Excuse me?

SIMON: Look at you. What's with that hair? And that makeup? And those clothes?

BRIAN: [Finesse.] [Max Factor.] [Abercrombie.] *[Or insert other suitable brand names for hair, makeup, and clothes.]*

SIMON: What's that, a rock group?

BRIAN: My hair. My makeup. My clothes. If I'm on TV, I have to look trendy. What do you think?

SIMON: You look like an idiot.

BRIAN: I do?

SIMON: Or a moron. Take your pick.

BRIAN: No, you take your seat.

SIMON: Will do, idiot-slash-moron. *(He moves to the judge's table and takes a seat.)*

BRIAN: See what I mean? He's very nurturing. I know I feel better about my place in the world.

SIMON: Get on with it!

BRIAN: Right, right. Now that you've met our judges, we can get on with the auditions...after this commercial break.

(Brian smiles. Blackout. Lights up on DR platform. Papa Johnny and Sally face forward, scowling.)

PAPA JOHNNY: Are you depressed? Run down? Angry? Do you feel like you're in a constant state of despair? Are

there days when you just don't want to get up in the morning? *(He suddenly becomes very, very happy. Sally starts dancing.)* Then come on over to Happy Peppy Pizza! Our mouth-watering pies are sure to make all your troubles disappear! This is Sally—one of our many satisfied customers. Right, Sally?

SALLY: That's right, Papa Johnny! Just the other day, I almost jumped off a bridge, but you know what stopped me?

PAPA JOHNNY: What, Sally?

SALLY: Why, Happy Peppy Pizza's pepperoni pizza, that's what! Just as I was about to hurl myself into the Mississippi, I smelled a little whiff of heaven. I turned around, and do you know what I saw?

PAPA JOHNNY: What, Sally?

SALLY: Happy Peppy Pizza's delivery van! The smell of your pies got me off that bridge in no time. Before I knew it, I was chasing the van down the street. As soon as it stopped at a red light, I jumped on the tailgate. I just had to take a bite! The rest is history.

PAPA JOHNNY: See that, folks? The next time you feel like calling it quits, think of Sally here. Try pizza, not Prozac!

SALLY: *(In a low voice, quickly.)* Happy Peppy Pizzas may cause indigestion, nausea, cramps, diarrhea, headache, fever, runny nose, memory loss, blisters, scorching rashes, pink eye, paranoia...and occasionally death. Consult your doctor before taking a bite of any Happy Peppy Pizza.

PAPA JOHNNY: Happy Peppy Pizza. The taste that stays with you...all night long!

(Blackout. Lights up CS. Brian is more energetic than ever.)

BRIAN: Welcome back to "American Idle." I'm your host, Brian Seacrest. And my hair is brought to you by Rogaine.

(Pitchman 2 enters.)

PITCHMAN 2: Rogaine. A vegetable garden on your scalp.
(Exits.)

BRIAN: Now it's finally time for those auditions I promised. The first stop on our search for lazy students was Duluth, Minnesota. With all that snow up there, they spend half the year cooped up inside. Let's see if those six months of frosty cabin fever gave them an edge. *(Blackout. Lights up DL. Alexis, Bjorn, and Cindy wait anxiously to the side. They all wear puffy parkas. The Judges watch from a table. Brian joins them.)* Alrighty, kids, you know why you're here. One at a time, you'll tell us why you deserve to come to Hollywood and vie for the title of American Idle. But before we begin, let's see if our judges have any words of advice. Handy?

HANDY: Yeah, well...uh-huh.

BRIAN: Excellent. Paula?

PAULA: It's freaking cold in here! "The Iceman Cometh" would shiver!

BRIAN: We'll get you a coffee. And Simon?

SIMON: Just don't suck, okay?

BRIAN: The stage is yours, kiddos. First up is Alexis.

(Alexis steps forward. She's very sweet and has a really, really thick Minnesota accent.)

ALEXIS: Oh, hi! Hi, there! My name is Alexis. I go to Our Lady of Ten Thousand Lakes High in the small town of Deer River, Minnesota. I enjoy ice fishing with my dad, scrapbooking with my mom, and making lutefisk for the Deer River Fair.

PAULA: Uh, lutefisk?

ALEXIS: Oh, yah! You betcha! Lutefisk is a Minnesota tradition.

PAULA: But what is it?

ALEXIS: It's fish soaked in lye.

BJORN: Then deep fried.

CINDY: On a stick.

PAULA: On a stick?

ALEXIS: Oh, yah! Everything in Minnesota is on a stick.

BJORN: Including pork chops.

CINDY: And cake!

BRIAN: Now, now, Bjorn and Cindy. You'll have your turn to speak in a moment.

CINDY: Sorry, Alexis. We didn't mean to interrupt. Isn't that right, Bjorn?

BJORN: Oh, yah. You betcha.

ALEXIS: *(To the Judges.)* So how did I do?

PAULA: Honestly, Alexis, you sound like a goody-two-shoes.

SIMON: Exactly. You're not a slacker at all!

ALEXIS: Oh, but I am! When I go ice fishing, I put all the trout back. When I scrapbook, I don't use Elmer's. And my lutefisk isn't very fishy. So that's why I should be on your show.

BRIAN: Why don't you step to the side, Alexis, and let Bjorn take a shot. The judges will make their decision once everyone's had a chance to speak.

ALEXIS: Oh, yah. You betcha.

[END OF FREEVIEW]