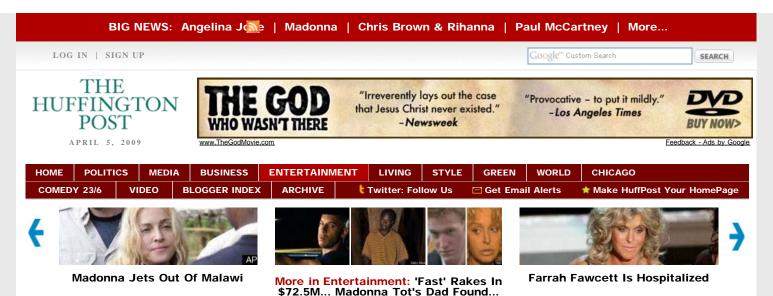
Michael Giltz: American Idol Top 16: The Results



Farrah's Son Arrested...

Michael Giltz

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## American Idol Top 16: The Results

Posted March 6, 2008 | 10:46 PM (EST)

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Four say goodbye and we name the Top 12. But not before last season's runner-up Blake Lewis performs his new single "How Many Words." Nice dance moves but not a great vocal. I think five of the performances this week would make stronger singles. But in defense of last season's finalists: Blake's album is easily one of the best reviewed debut albums by an *Idol* alum (only Carrie Underwood's blockbuster was received better). And while people dismissed Jordin Sparks as just teen fluff, who's that I see with two hit singles at the moment ("Tattoo" and "No Air" with Chris Brown)? Yep, Jordin Sparks.

David Cook, David Archuleta and Jason Castro all took seats in the Top 12. Does this, I wonder, track with the number of votes they got? I wouldn't be surprised if they were this week's top three vote getters among the men. For the gals, Brooke White (singer-songwriter, Brooke; think "singer-songwriter!") and my crush Syesha Mercado made it through. I find it hard to believe Syesha was in the top two of vote getters but I'd like to think so. They gave each other a half-hearted hug. Brooke is all sweetness and light but I think she's gunning for the finals. Brooke don't mess around.



Kady Malloy -- Nodding her head because she knew she was going home. My first pick and I was right. Asia'h Epperson burst into tears even before Kady gave a dreadful, off-key rendition of Queen's "Who Wants To Live Forever." No final insult from the judges, which was nice, though someone could have

said, "You're an entertainer; not a singer." Take acting lessons, try out for sketch shows, Kady. A group hug from the gals at the end, which did NOT include Brooke or Syesha. Hey, once you're in the Top 12 you do not want to give up that seat.

David Hernandez must have been nervous since the first gal was eliminated. But David sported military tags (a leftover from his days as an adult entertainer, one couldn't help wondering?) and sailed through. Michael Johns also made it. I should have been smarter and realized he was safe: when all three judges anoint you as going through to the next round, it's very very rare that



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## someone gets cut.

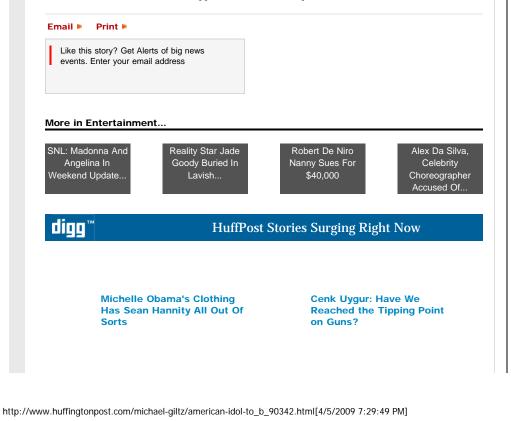
**Luke Menard** -- All three judges did not anoint Luke, who was sent home. He was very composed and seemed to know his number was up. At the very least, he can switch from his job of carpet cleaning to a little runway work. Paula said some nice things, of course. All night long she told every single person going home that they were going to be a great, big beautiful shining star. Your appreciation for her kind words dims a little when you hear her saying it to the janitor, the chauffeur, the doorman, and on and on.

Ramielle Malubay was safe and got a hug and gentle pat from Danny. Both he and Chikezie were on the spot, but he was still able to applaud her. Nice kid. Carly Smithson and Amanda Overmyer were also safe. That left a showdown between...

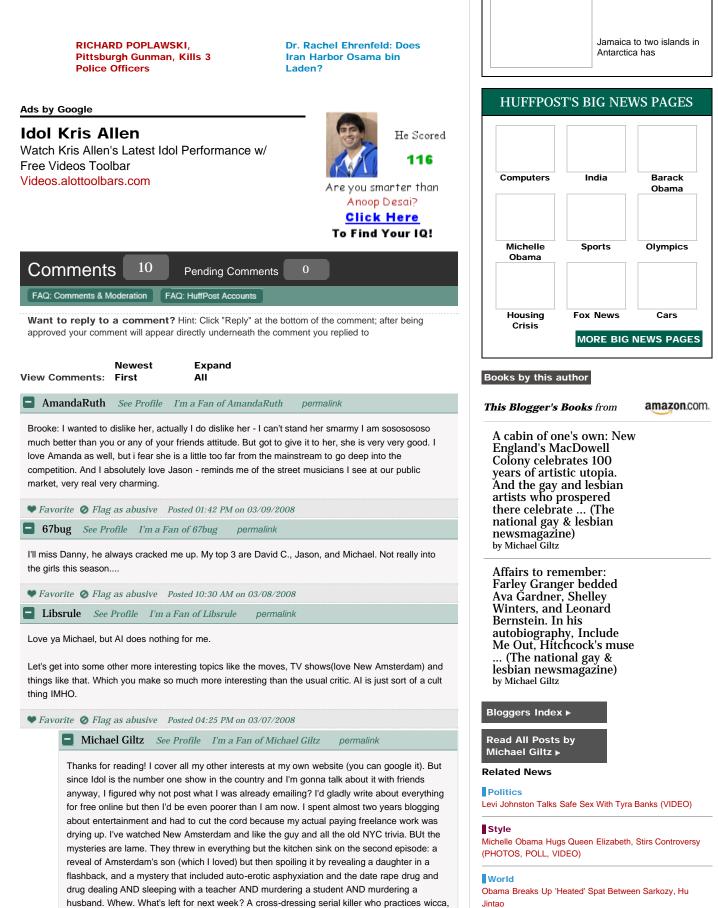
Asia'h Epperson v. Kristy Lee Cook -- I had picked Asia'h to go and I was right. Kristy gave a very nice distinctive, fresh performance of a classic tune. (And Middle America loves country; I was wrong by the way -- listening to the song again she gave it more than a little twang than I first thought). Ryan said, "I'm going to give you the choice" again when it came time for her to sing. Ryan, they always have a choice. What are you going to do? Kick her off the show if she refuses? She did a fine job with Paula yelling out that it was her best vocal yet. Danny and Chikezie clapped dutifully along though they looked like they were at a funeral.

**Danny v. Chikezie** -- Chikezie took Danny's hand and held it as they walked to the center of the stage and then put his arm around Danny while Ryan spoke. Ramiele is crying because Danny looks upset. Then Chikezie nodded his head because he just knew he was the one going home. He does this every time and every time he's safe. Chikezie has to start believing in himself. Danny is sent home and now he starts crying and Ramiele is crying and he and Chikezie have a big long hug and Chikezie doesn't seem to want to let go and his parents are seen giving thanks to God for his win. Danny was totally bummed about not making it because he knows getting into the Top 12 means the tour and immortality of a sort that just missing the Top 12 does NOT get you. I'd felt he reached a tipping point of campiness with "Tainted Love" but wanted to believe one of the most entertaining contestants had another week or two in him. Is America ready for an openly gay *Idol?* He gave a stronger vocal performance tonight, with David Hernandez clapping and pumping his fists and dancing along. Good to see scandal hasn't inhibited him.

So Kady Malloy and Asia'h Epperson and Luke Menard and Danny Noriega are going home. I got three of four right (I picked Michael Johns to go instead of Danny) so maybe I'm finally starting to hit my stride a la Brooke White. Hope I haven't peaked too soon. Are you happy with the final 12 and is David Archuleta still the moppet to beat or has HE peaked too soon?



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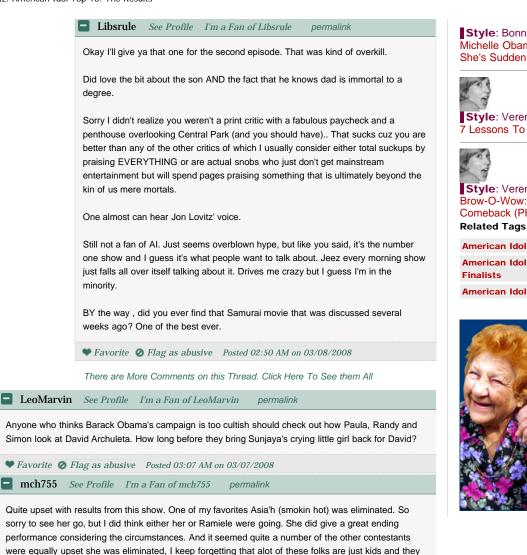


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Not surprised Kady was booted, she just didn't have it vocally to go forward.

bonded off set.

As for the guys, no surprise Luke was eliminated but I did laugh with you noting he could have career as a runway model, the dude was pretty buff. Maybe he should have gone to the tight shirt earlier to at least get more of the female vote. All my female coworkers liked him. But the guy couldn't sing! I was really shocked Danny got eliminated, too bad, he was pretty campy but at least he has a personality (unlike David A, who I like, but just too rehearsed!) and he could do some witty repartee with Simon.

Glad Chizikie made it thru now, maybe he can relax a little and really show his stuff.

And I gotta say David C has gone to the top of my list as favorites, loved his version of Hello. Bought it on Itunes and I even hum it at work! I hope he can give a stern challenge to the favorite, David A. Lets have an adult win AI this year!

Plus also really glad David H got thru, he's a great singer and apparently most people agreed with me that the stripper affair was a big "so what?"

Favorite 🖉 Flag as abusive Posted 01:04 AM on 03/07/2008 **johntal** See Profile I'm a Fan of johntal permalink

at LEAST that light-weight fem-bot Danny is finally off-the young female population could not relate to "Tainted Love" and with David in ; the gay pop can have a "MAN" in there for them! One blonde is still in ,tho I 'm not sure why. And I do not mean Brooke )

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I don't think Danny was a contender but I did appreciate that he didn't try to butch himself up or pretend to be someone he's not -- and his repartee with Simon and Ryan and the rest was def a highlight the last few weeks.

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