

EYES on the PRIZE

Could we soon be seeing another Aboriginal Australian Idol?

The astonishing vocal abilities of a young Aboriginal songstress have seen her reach the final stages of *Australian Idol*.

Darwin's Jessica Mauboy has been wowing audiences and judges alike with her amazing voice, prompting judge and legendary diva Marcia Hines to tell the 17-year-old, "I think that you happen to be one of the most naturally blessed singers I've ever heard".

Jessica is no stranger to such accolades. The young star has been singing since she was three, having grown up surrounded by a musical family. When she was only 14 years of age, Jess blew away the competition at the hotly contested Telstra Road to Tamworth at the 2004 Telstra Country Music Festival, winning the Grand Final.

At the time this magazine went to print, Jess was into the final four on *Idol*. The only girl in the series to score a "Touchdown" from judge Mark Holden, Jess has been soaring to new heights each week, recently delivering what was described by one journalist as "one of the most extraordinary vocal performances in the history of *Australian Idol*" when she performed a remarkable rendition of *What The World Needs Now*.

If previous series of *Australian Idol* are anything to go by, it will be anyone's guess who'll be on stage at the Opera House for the naming of the 2006 *Australian Idol*. But with Jessica's stunning looks, gorgeous smile and incredible voice, she definitely has a real chance of taking home the prize.



"I think you happen to be one of the most naturally blessed singers I've ever heard"
Marcia Hines





Preparation before reading

This report tells us that Jessica Mauboy has reached the final stages of the Australian Idol competition. It tells us more about her life and singing achievements.

Jessica was brought up in Darwin in a musical family and has been singing since she was three years old. She won the Telstra Road to Tamworth Grand Final at the 2004 Telstra Country Music Festival when she was just 14. Jess has been described as delivering one of the most extraordinary performances of the competition.

Read Eyes on the Prize on page 11.

ACTIVITY 1: SCANNING FOR SPECIFIC INFORMATION

From the article, fill in information about Jessica Mauboy and her life below.

Jessica Mauboy lives in _____ . She is _____ years old. Jess started singing at the age of _____. She won the Grand Final of the _____ at the Telstra Country Music Festival in _____ . The naming of the 2006 Australian Idol was held at _____ .

ACTIVITY 2: UNDERSTANDING WORDS IN CONTEXT

Write your own meaning for the words from the article in the boxes below.

(Read the words from the article as well as the sentences around them).

Words from the article	My words that mean the same thing
Jessica Mauboy has "astonishing vocal abilities."	
Darwin's Jessica Mauboy has been wowing audiences and judges alike with her amazing voice.	
Jessica is no stranger to such accolades.	
At the time this magazine went to print, Jess was into the final four in Idol.	
She performed a remarkable rendition of What the World Needs Now.	



ACTIVITY 3: BIOGRAPHY

Jessica Hilda Mauboy was born August 4 1989 in Darwin, Northern Territory. Mauboy was born to an Indonesian father and a mother of Aboriginal, Cherokee and English descent.

At the age of 14, Jess won the Road to Tamworth talent search. She auditioned for Australian Idol in Alice Springs with the support of her mother.

On November 13 2006, Mauboy was voted into the final four. The Grand Final was held at the Sydney Opera House on November 26. She competed against fellow Idol Damien Leith.



Fill in Jessica's details in the spaces below:

Birth, heritage	Jessica Mauboy was born in She was born to an father and and mother.
Singing experience	Aged, Jessica won the Talent Search.
Achievements and honours	Jess auditioned for Australian Idol, in The final performance was held at



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