

Georgia Napolitano Wins the ASPVA Cup in the YouthCast™ Finale



Pictured left to right: Ed Spacek, Dan Shaw, Carol de Cardenas, Nathaniel Mayfield, Georgia Napolitano, Jorge de Cardenas, Betsy Young, Berlin Schinbag, and Michael Druck at The Long Center. Photo by Fabrizio.

AUSTIN, Texas--(Newswire)--June 01, 2009—The Austin School for the Performing and Visual Arts (ASPVA), a non-profit organization created to serve students in the Austin area gifted in the performing and visual arts announced Georgia Napolitano as the winner of the ASPVA Cup in the YouthCast™ Finale.

To launch the school and its inspiring mission, ASPVA has created **YOUTHCAST™**, a public talent event for students of all ages to showcase their talents in the disciplines of dance, music, theater and more. An exciting season finale was held at The Long Center on Saturday, May 23 where Georgia Napolitano, a singer-songwriter born in London, was awarded with the ASPVA Cup; a new tradition in Austin where the grand prize winner's name will be engraved upon the cup and proudly displayed for 100 years to come! Georgia also won over \$1000 in prizes including a limousine ride to a celebration dinner in her honor.

“The judges were very impressed with the level of talent that participated in the contest. We had over 200 students attend casting calls hosted around the greater Austin community,” said Carol de Cardenas, ASPVA Executive Director. “Those selected went onto compete for the YouthCast™ Choice Award, an award presented to the top six highest scorers determined by a panel of industry professionals. Eighteen YouthCast™ Choice Awards were presented, and recipients were invited to compete in this season finale.”

The judge's panel represented industry professionals and included:

Michael Druck, a booking agent and talent scout with The Atherton Group (TAG Talent), a licensed talent agency, Kathryn Berlin Schinbag, the head coordinator for the Kids Are Alright Fest, Dan Shaw an Assistant Director of feature films, network and cable television including RESCUE ME, FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS, LAW & ORDER CRIMINAL INTENT, and SPYKIDS, Ed Spacek, founder of The Spacek Company and former Vice-President of Promotion and Artist Development for MCA Records, Elizabeth Young, a former member of the Houston Metropolitan Dance Company, an award-winning Houston Texan Cheerleader, and choreographer for the NFL.

About ASPVA

ASPVA provides an environment which promotes academic success, exposes students to the variety of artistic endeavors, and challenges students to continue to develop and perfect their unique talents. ASPVA began by offering dance classes for all levels as part of Phase I of its development. Phase II currently offers master classes in

the arts and unique wellness activities including a performance jump rope team through *Connections*, an outreach program created for 1st – 12th graders, on-site in partnering schools and other student organizations. Ultimately, ASPVA will unveil a private school offering a full-academic curriculum developed according to accreditation standards, a world class arts education and daily wellness program in Phase III, initially for 6-8th grade adding additional grades up to 12th in consecutive years.

Be sure to subscribe to the ASPVA newsletter to be the first to know about upcoming YouthCast™ events by visiting www.theaustinschool.org! Casting calls will be announced and contests will be held at The Long Center in November 2009 and June 2010.