

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Special Talents America Seeking Performers with Disabilities for Regional Competition**

(Naperville, Illinois) -- [Special Talents America](#) is reaching for the stars – talented children and adults who love to sing, dance, and perform and who happen to have disabilities.

During the next few months, these talented performing artists will have opportunities to audition and qualify for the regional competition, which will be held at Wentz Concert Hall and Fine Arts Center on the campus of North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, on November 5, 2012. The event will draw talent from four states – Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan – and will be broadcast on cable television throughout the Midwest. Finalists will perform on the main stage of the beautiful concert hall before a live audience. Celebrity guests and judges will also be part of the evening’s excitement.

Special Talents America, in partnership with [The Western DuPage Special Recreation Association](#) (WDSRA), is inviting singers, musicians, dancers, actors, comedians, and magicians who have disabilities to audition to be part of this inspiring and innovative contest.

According to one of the executive producers of Special Talents America, Greg Bizzaro of Jaffe Films, “We’ve simplified the audition process by creating several ways for people to demonstrate their talents to our judges. Contestants can send audio or video submissions through the mail or online. They can even e-mail their submissions or place their performances on YouTube and send us the link.” Bizzaro explained that all the details are on the Special Talents America website. All applications and A/V submissions must be received by Jorie Meyer at WDSRA on or before July 27, 2012.

Staff will review each submission and narrow the field to 15 semi-finalists based on performance mastery, ability to engage the audience, use of props if necessary, confidence in front of a camera, and costume/appearance.

The top 15 will be invited to audition live in front of three judges from Special Talents America. Eight finalists will perform at the November 5, 2012 show.

“This is the third year of our special talents competition,” added Bizzaro. “The first year we did a local competition in a television studio. The second year we held this

competition statewide in Illinois. This year we are expanding the talent show to encompass a four-state region. It has been an incredibly exciting and rewarding experience for everyone involved.”

For more information and [audition forms](#), visit [www.specialtalents.org](http://www.specialtalents.org).

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Christine Honeywell’s beautiful singing performance of “You Raise Me Up” earned her first place in the 2010 competition.



At the 2010 competition, which was open to Illinois residents with disabilities, Cory Bolletino warmed hearts of everyone in the audience when he sang “Morning Has Broken” by Cat Stevens.



Steve Freeman took second place in the 2010 competition with his performance, dancing to “P.Y.T. (Pretty Young Thing)” by Michael Jackson.

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