

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Arrest Warrants Doom 'Gentle Giant'

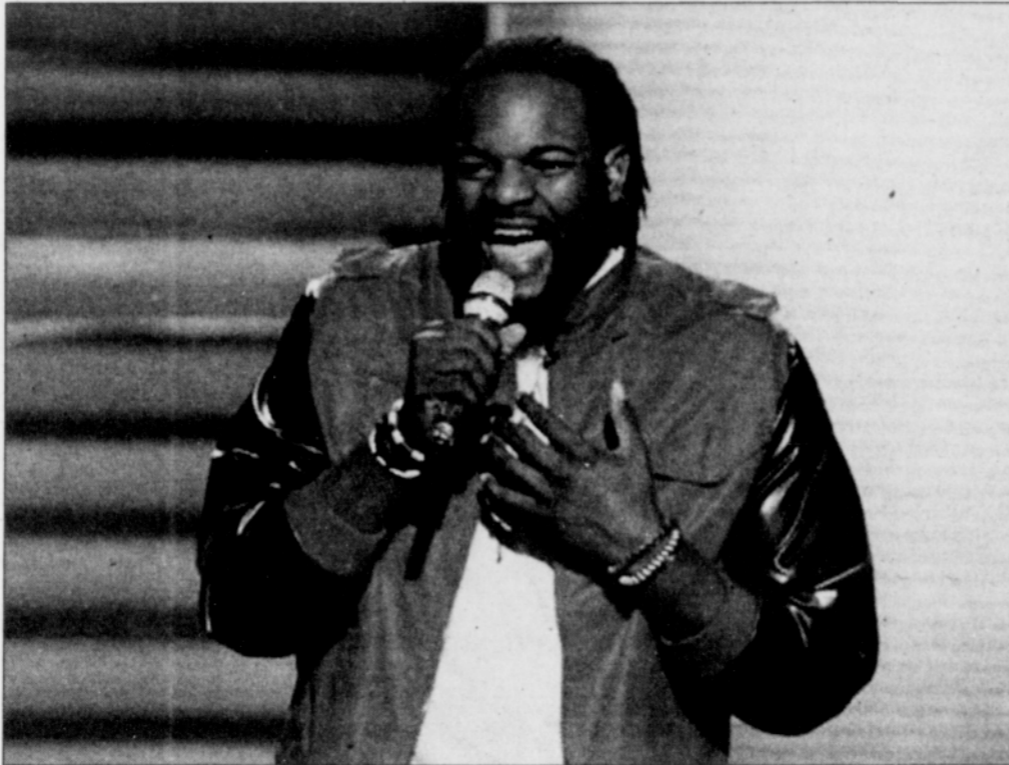
(AP) — Jermaine Jones was dismissed from "American Idol" — and not because of viewer votes.

It was revealed during the March 14 installment of the Fox singing contest that the 25-year-old vocal instructor from Pine Hill, N.J., was disqualified for not revealing that he had outstanding arrest warrants back home in New Jersey.

"Idol" executive producers Ken Warwick and Nigel Lythgoe confronted Jones about the issue in a taped segment.

"You were incumbent to tell us the truth about all of this, and it appears that you just haven't on any level," Warwick told Jones.

The so-called "gentle giant," as he was dubbed by host Ryan Seacrest, was one of the viewer-selected top 13 finalists after the judges gave him a last-minute spot in the 11th season's group of male semifinalists. He was among the



Contestant Jermaine Jones performs on the singing competition series "American Idol."

bottom three vote-getters after performing Stevie Wonder's "Knocks Me Off My Feet" but advanced to the top 12 singers.

"I didn't want to get judged," said Jones. "I didn't want to get penalized for anything that happened in the past."

Actress Makes Splash on Broadway

Raven-Symone in lead role for 'Sister Act'

(AP) — Raven-Symone is all grown up — and going to a convent.

The former cutie from "The Cosby Show" will take over the lead part in Broadway's hit musical "Sister Act" later this month, playing a night-club-singer-turned-nun.

The 26-year-old actress and singer says she's in rehearsal almost every day of the week from "sun-up to sun-down" to "make sure I have everything down" when she takes over at the Broadway Theatre on March 27.

Raven-Symone says she fell in love with the musical the moment she saw it. "I was definitely one of the audience members dancing in the aisles," she says. "I think it's a wonderfully scored and directed and written musical. I'm very excited to be part of this."

She takes over the role from Patina Miller, who earned a Tony Award nomination in the part and whose final performance is March 18. Whoopi Goldberg, who was the original Deloris Van Cartier in the hit 1992 film, is producing the musical.

While Raven-Symone did a guest spot with "The Boys Choir of Harlem" on Broadway when she was 5, she prefers to think of this as



Raven-Symone (AP photo)

her Broadway debut.

"I want to do stuff I haven't done before. I did it at 5 but I don't remember that, obviously. So I want to do it for real — a big, crowd-pleasing show as well as working with these great people."

"Sister Act" opened on Broadway in April 2011 after a stint in London and was nominated for a best musical Tony last year. It has original tunes by songwriter Alan Menken and lyricist Glenn Slater.

The musical's plot is faithful to the movie: A nightclub singer accidentally witnesses a murder by her crime boss lover and flees to a convent to hide. The nuns come alive as she teaches them razzle-dazzle and rhythm while she, in turn, learns the value of sisterhood and self-sacrifice.

Raven-Symone became famous playing the apple-cheeked Olivia

for the last few seasons of "The Cosby Show," was in "Hangin' With Mr. Cooper" for several seasons, and played Charisse in the two "Doctor Dolittle" movies opposite Eddie Murphy.

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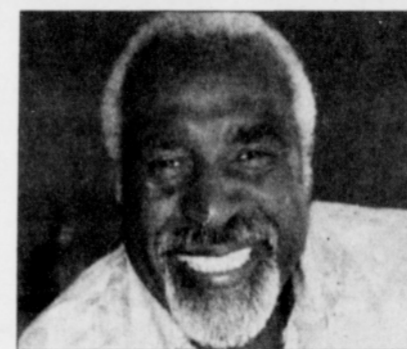
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