

valley youth theatre

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Valley Youth Theatre Alum Jordin Sparks Advances **In National American Idol Contest**

(Phoenix, May 20, 2007) *Valley Youth Theatre* alumnus, Jordin Sparks won title of *American Idol* on the FOX Network. When she was just 12 years old, Valley native Jordin Sparks appeared in Valley Youth Theatre's Production of *Cinderella* and two times in *The Wiz*. Shortly after her stage debut, her singing career began to take off when she won the title of "Arizona's Rising Star" in a contest sponsored by Coca Cola.

"Valley Youth Theatre is very excited to see another of our young people achieving their dreams." Says Bobb Cooper, Producing Artistic Director of Valley Youth Theatre. "Jordin is an amazing talent and we wish her the very best."

Jordin's first appearance with Valley Youth Theatre was as a Poppy and an Emerald City dancer in *The Wiz* in March of 2002. She appeared in *Cinderella* at the Herberger Theater Center in June of 2002 and again when Valley Youth Theatre staged *The Wiz* at the Herberger in August.

Born to former NFL player Phillipi Sparks and mother Jodi Wieman-Sparks, Jordin is home-schooled with her younger brother, PJ, who also appeared in *The Wiz* at Valley Youth Theatre. Her music career has already taken her around the country in a whirlwind tour of award show after another, winning titles including Overall Spotlight Winner in the Gospel Music Association in Washington, D.C., Alice Cooper's Proof is in the Pudding Contest in Phoenix and has placed in numerous other national contests.

For more information on Jordin's early involvement with Valley Youth Theatre, contact Carolyn McBurney, 602-253-8188 x 301 or visit www.VYT.com.

Valley Youth Theatre is a non-profit organization, which targets kids aged 7-19 for attendance at and participation in quality live theatre productions. Its positive impact on youth provides them with lifelong lessons through a wide range of performing arts opportunities. For more information, visit VYT.com