



700 Monroe Street, SW; Suite 2 • Huntsville, AL 35801-5579
(256) 519-2787, ext. 208 • Fax: (256) 533-3811 • www.artshuntsville.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT: Jim Zieliński, Communications Director

“HOMEGROWN TALENT CONTEST” Returns!

HUNTSVILLE, AL – It’s **YOUR** turn to be a **STAR!** **THE ARTS COUNCIL (TAC)** is searching for participants ages 10 and up to compete in the popular **GEICO “HOMEGROWN TALENT CONTEST”** at the **PANOPLY ARTS FESTIVAL, PRESENTED BY BOEING.** The search is open to anyone in the Northern Alabama/Valley area, and participation is limited to a first-come, first-served basis. The purpose of the contest is to provide participants with a forum to show off their skills in drama/comedy, dance, music/singing, and more. This year, *for the first time*, the contest will feature three categories: **ADULT, YOUTH, and GROUP** (*all ages*).

A select group of finalists from each Preliminary Round will be chosen to compete at the **“OFFICIAL HOMEGROWN TALENT CONTEST” FINAL ROUND** at **PANOPLY** on **Sunday, April 27, 2008** at the **DRS TEST AND ENERGY MANAGEMENT, INC. SHOWCASE STAGE** in the **Big Spring International Park** in downtown Huntsville. *The three preliminary rounds are scheduled for the following dates:*

● Saturday, **MARCH 29**—11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

PARKWAY PLACE MALL
2801 Memorial Pkwy, SW
Huntsville, AL

● Sunday, **APRIL 6**—2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
CENTRE

BRIDGE STREET TOWNE

6782 Old Madison Pike, NW
Huntsville, AL

● Saturday, **APRIL 12**—11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

MADISON SQUARE MALL
5901 University Drive, NW
Huntsville, AL

Judging criteria includes (but is not limited to) stage presence, crowd response, time allotment, creativity, and quality of performance. Participants must come prepared to perform for *at least 90 SECONDS*. *All material must be considered G-rated and family friendly!* Winners who reach the **Final Round** will compete for the following prizes:

JUNIOR CATEGORY (10-18 YEARS OF AGE)

1 ST PLACE	\$250 and a \$100 gift card from PARKWAY PLACE MALL!
2 ND PLACE	\$150 and a \$100 gift card from PARKWAY PLACE MALL!
3 RD PLACE	\$75 and a \$100 gift card from PARKWAY PLACE MALL!

ADULT CATEGORY (19+)

1 ST PLACE	\$250 and a \$100 gift card from PARKWAY PLACE MALL!
2 ND PLACE	\$150 and a \$100 gift card from PARKWAY PLACE MALL!
3 RD PLACE	\$75 and a \$100 gift card from PARKWAY PLACE MALL!

GROUP CATEGORY (ALL AGES!)

1 ST PLACE	\$250
2 ND PLACE	\$150
3 RD PLACE	\$75

All persons wishing to participate in the contest are required to fill out an **ENTRY FORM** and submit it along with a **\$5.00 Application Fee**. To register, please visit the **“COMPETITION – HOMEGROWN TALENT CONTEST”** page on the **PANOPLY ARTS FESTIVAL’S** website (www.panoply.org) or call **TAC** directly at **(256) 519-2787 (ARTS), extension 205**.



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