



NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION  
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National FFA Organization  
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## FFA Talent Revue Rocks the House

By Carla Saunders

FFA members from across the nation literally rocked the Indiana Pacers' Consecro Fieldhouse on Thursday, Oct. 23, 2008, at the National FFA Talent Revue. This annual show gives a solid hour of intense entertainment *to* the students *by* the students.

Gary Maricle, director of the National FFA Talent Revue for 22 years, explained the selection process for the students picked to perform in the exhibition. "Students send in applications along with CDs, cassettes, and DVDs. The top 65 to 70 percent are selected." Even if students are not selected to perform during the Talent Revue, there are FFA talent performances during the entire National FFA Convention in venues such as the Indianapolis Arts Garden, Indiana Convention Center, banquets, the food court and other special events."

All the performers backstage at the Talent Revue waited patiently for their turn and showed no signs of being nervous. Mollie McIntyre from Nebraska shared how she felt when she was notified about being selected to perform. "Well, around 10 o'clock this morning I found out that I would be singing "Independence Day" by Regina McBride. I was extremely overwhelmed, but very thankful. Hundreds of kids try out each year, so I am very lucky to be one of the eighteen selected to perform tonight."

National FFA officers Becky Sullivan and Kari Boettcher hosted the Talent Revue. The crowd anxiously awaited each of the 18 acts by standing on their feet and quietly waiting for the performances to be announced to the stage. The Enterprise Quartet from Enterprise, Ala. received a notable reaction to the selection “Elvira” especially when member Jonathan Quisenberry sang “Giddy Up A Oom Poppa Oom Poppa Mow Mow” in a remarkably low bass voice. The spectators also held their breath as Karen Whitman from Dewitt, IO twirled her batons of fire to the selection “Holding Out For A Hero”. Other diverse acts that kept the crowd involved the entire hour were bands, singers, dancers, an acoustic guitarist, a pianist and a trick roper.

FFA Members from Oklahoma summed up this year’s National FFA Talent Revue best, “Everybody rocked!”

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The National FFA Organization, formerly known as the Future Farmers of America, is a national youth organization of 507,763 student members – all preparing for leadership and careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture – as part of 7,439 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The National FFA Organization changed to its present name in 1988, in recognition of the growth and diversity of agriculture and agricultural education. The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. Visit [www.ffa.org](http://www.ffa.org) for more information.

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