

# DEPT. 20A-TALENT SHOW

“Columbia County’s Got Talent”

Marilyn Barry-Superintendent  
150 Albany Turnpike  
Old Chatham, New York 12136  
392-1401  
Or to  
Columbia County Fair  
Talent Contest  
P.O. Box 257 Chatham, NY 12037  
392-2121

Entries must be postmarked By August 20, 2011  
May be delivered in person by August 23, 2011  
to The Fair office or  
The Chatham Book Store, 27 Main Street, Chatham

## Sponsored by The Lofgren Agency

### No Entry Fee

#### Classes

Senior Division - 13 years old and over  
Junior Division - 12 years old and under

#### Judging

Senior Division-Wednesday, August 31, 2011 at 4:00 PM North Gate Stage  
Junior Division, Thursday, September 1, 2011 at 2:00 PM North Gate Stage

FINALS Thursday, September 1, 2011 at 7:00 PM North Gate Stage

#### AWARDS

##### Finalists

There will be ten finalists in each age division  
Class 1- Senior Division  
Class 2- Junior Division

##### Grand Prize Award:

There will be a 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3rd place in each class  
Class 1 Senior Division  
Class 2 Junior Division

Finalists in each age division will be eligible to perform at the  
New York State Fair Talent Contest in Syracuse, NY

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

### **Classes**

Senior Division (ages 13 and older as of August 31, 2011)

Junior Division (ages 12 and under as of August 31, 2011)

**Senior Division-Wednesday, August 31, beginning at 4:00 PM at the North Gate Stage**

**Junior Division-Thursday, September 1, beginning at 2:00 PM at the North Gate Stage**

**FINALS –Thursday, September 1, beginning at 7:00 PM on the North Gate Stage.**

There are no contest entry fees, but regular Fair admission fees apply.

### **Eligibility**

1. Individual contestants must be Columbia County residents. At least one-half of the members of an ensemble must be Columbia County residents.
2. If an ensemble entry includes some contestants who are 12 or younger and some who are 13 and older, the ensemble will compete in the division into which most of its members belong. If the ensemble members' ages are exactly half Junior and half Senior division, they will compete in the Senior Division.
3. Contestants must be prepared to produce proof of age at any time during the contest.
4. Contestants must be amateurs. **They must not have been under contract for reimbursement for performance at the Fair, nor are union card holders eligible compete.**

### **Criteria for Judging**

1. Audience appeal (15 points)-based on suitability of performance selection, stage presence, professional appearance and suitability costume or mode of dress.
2. Artist merit (30 points)-based on "correctness" of execution (considering level of difficulty of piece and performer's age) and level of professionalism (e.g. qualities beyond mere "correctness")

### **Application Procedure**

1. Fill out and return application form. Performances may not exceed 5 minutes. Application materials can be dropped off at the Chatham Book Store, 27 Main St. or the Columbia County Fair Administration Building at that the Fairgrounds, or mailed to either Columbia County Agricultural Society, P O Box 257 Chatham, NY 12037 or to (Attention: Talent Contest) Mrs. Marilyn Barry, 150 Albany Turnpike, Old Chatham, NY 12136.
2. While auditions are not required, we are offering to our contestants an opportunity to participate in an optional "live audition" on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at the North Gate Stage, on the Fairgrounds. Some of our judges will be present to offer some friendly feedback and tips which might help you improve your performance in the contest. The application form includes space to indicate your interest in participating in the optional audition.

## **Awards**

1. Ten finalists in each age division will receive trophies. All finalists will be eligible to compete at the New York State Fair in Syracuse. Columbia County winners will be scheduled immediately by the State Contest Coordinator in order to compete as early as Friday, September 4<sup>th</sup> (Junior Division) or Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> (Senior Division). State contestants will be responsible for their own transportation and expenses. Contest details for the State Fair competition can be viewed online at [www.nysfair.org](http://www.nysfair.org). Performers who think they might like to compete at the State Fair should study the State Fair competition guidelines ahead of time to make sure that their acts conform to all State requirements. In a few instances an act which qualified at the local level might not meet State requirements.
2. **FINALS.** Trophies will be awarded for First, Second, and Third place in both Senior and Junior Division.

## **Addition Information**

1. Performances which require large spaces or more than 3 or 4 minutes of setup time cannot be accommodated. Our available performance space is approximately 24'X24'. The stage is about 30" high and reached by a small set of steps. The floor surface is pressure treated hardwood. We will provide a sound system with microphones and stands, and we can accommodate one electronic device in addition to a CD. For example, a performer could bring a CD and also plug in a keyboard...and sing! Accompaniments prerecorded on iPods or Mp3 players can be connected to the sound system.
2. Performers using pre-recorded music must bring their music CD or electronic device to the contest. The CD or Mp3 player must contain only the performer's contest selection, or must be ready for immediate playback of the contest piece. No time to "hunt" for your piece. You will be notified ahead of time of your performance schedule.