

## tv watch

# Finalists stay on their toes

With dancing in his blood, Dave Campbell's slick moves help transform the Canadian Idol finalists into dancing machines for their musical group numbers each week.

Campbell, a graduate of Ryerson University's theatre school program, said he was thrilled to come back as choreographer for the second season of the CTV series.

"It's exciting when you're working with TV and you quickly realize that you're not only working on TV, which is fun anyway, but this is the biggest show in

Canadian history, and that makes it 100 times more exhilarating," he said.

Campbell started his career as a classical music dancer, but later moved into musical theatre. He also danced in the play *Beauty And The Beast* for a couple of years.

"I do mostly musical theatre, so getting into live TV was cool because I just love the live aspect of TV and theatre. The last couple of years, I've also choreographed both Gemini Awards. So, I kind of flip back and forth between

the two," said Campbell, who has directed a production of *Cats* in Toronto.

On Canadian Idol, when things are going a little rough or the hopefuls are not concentrating hard enough, it's difficult getting them back on track because they're exhausted.

"The pressure on them gets pretty high pretty fast and I think that's the part people kind of miss because they see them all happy all

the time," he said. "They always have to be on,

they always have to be nice, and they can't risk having a bad day because press can kill

them. So, I spend a lot of time reassuring them that everything's going to be fine."

Campbell explains that the highlight of being part of the Canadian Idol phenomenon is realizing it's much more than just a TV show or a job — it's a real-life drama.

"None of us know what's going to happen next, I guess that's just it.

"If it were a game show, people would know how it would turn out.

"But in this case, all of us, right down to the producers, sit there (every) Wednesday night wondering what will happen. It's as much of a journey for me as it is for the (contestants)," Campbell added.

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