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News

Country (2006-01-10)

Music Industry Veterans to Judge 24th Annual Colgate Country Showdown



NASHVILLE, TN. (ColgateCountryShowdown.com) - [Five](#) Nashville [music](#) industry veterans have been invited to judge the 24th Annual Colgate Country Showdown. [Craig](#) Campbell (Sony Records), Keith Follese (Midas Records) Producer, Garth Fundis, Mike Martinovich (The Consortium Group) and Tinti Moffat (William Morris Agency) will be seated as professional critics at the National Finals as the five regional winners compete for \$100,000 and the title of Best New Act in Country Music. The National Finals, to be held Thursday, January 26, 2006 at the Ryman Auditorium, will be taped for television where country music duo [Montgomery Gentry](#) will star in America's Largest Talent Search, hosted by Kassie DePaiva of ABC's [One Life To Live](#).



The 2006 Finals event judges are:

Craig Campbell

A 21-year music industry veteran, Campbell is the Vice President of Press and Publicity for Sony [Music](#) Nashville and has spent the last twelve years heading media efforts for the company's Epic and Columbia labels. He has been instrumental in the success of the Dixie Chicks, [Miranda](#) Lambert, Patty Loveless, Montgomery Gentry, [Gretchen Wilson](#) and others. Campbell is a past judge for the Showdown.

Keith Follese

Named both ASCAP and BILLBOARD magazine's Songwriter of the Year, he has held the No 1 Single chart position for a record 15 weeks. Keith Follese had No 1 singles with Randy Travis, Little Texas, Faith Hill, Tim McGraw, [Martina McBride](#) and Lonestar. He continues to write with top producers and artist all over the world including Rhett Lawrence, Jorgen Elofsson, [Jessica](#) Simpson, Marc Anthony, Lance Bass, Brian Latrell, Wynonna, Jo Dee Messina, Kenny Chesney, [Darius](#) Rucker, Nick Lachey, Jamie O'Neal, Gary Burr and Cliff Magness.

Garth Fundis

An independent record producer and recording engineer with over 30 years of experience in Nashville's music industry, Garth Fundis' credits read like a who's who of country music with artists such as Trisha Yearwood, Keith Whitley, Don Williams, Waylon Jennings, Emmylou Harris, Alabama, [Buddy](#) Jewell, and most recently, 2005's breakout success story, Sugarland. A past Showdown judge, Fundis' collaborations with his artists have earned numerous awards from the Country [Music](#) Association, Academy of Country Music, Billboard and American [Music](#) Awards as well as a host of GRAMMY nominations. He is also the owner of Nashville's legendary Sound Emporium Recording Studios and a past Showdown judge.

Mike Martinovich

Spending his entire corporate career with CBS Records/Sony [Music](#) Martinovich played an integral role in the successes of Billy Joel, Barbra Streisand, Placido Domingo, Michael Jackson, Willie Nelson, Bruce Springsteen, Journey, [James](#) Taylor and [Pink](#) Floyd. In Nashville, he led the marketing team that launched Ricky Van Shelton, designed a marketing campaign, which gave [Dolly Parton](#) and [Patty Loveless](#) their first platinum albums in years and spearheaded the marketing thrust behind [Joe](#) Diffie, Collin Raye and Mary Chapin Carpenter. Martinovich is a past Showdown judge.

Tinti Moffat

Moffat joined the William Morris Agency in April 2001 and is responsible for signing Katrina

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Elam, Sugarland, [Jon Randall](#) and others. Previously, she formed and operated a successful independent booking agency then held a 12-year tenure at Balmur Entertainment, an artist management and music publishing house. Currently, she is a member of the CMA, NARAS, an alumna of Leadership [Music](#) and sits on the board of the W.O. Smith Community [Music](#) School. She is the founder and Chair of 'The Birdhouse Thing,' an annual fundraising event benefiting the W.O. Smith Community [Music](#) School and she is project coordinator for the annual William Morris build day for Habitat for Humanity.

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Each spring, the nationwide Colgate Country Showdown search begins with more than 400 country music radio stations producing over 500 shows to find the best new country musical talent in their market. [Radio](#) station winners compete at state and five regional competitions throughout the summer and fall. The Colgate Country Showdown culminates with a national television final that has been hosted in the past by country music superstars such as Barbara Mandrell, [Reba](#) McEntire, Willie Nelson, [Sara](#) Evans and Billy Ray Cyrus.

For more information go to, [ColgateCountryShowdown.com](#).

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