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Idolizing Siobhan: Friends, family watch "Idol" together

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Friends and family gathered at Embargo in Hyannis on Tuesday to watch Siobhan Magnus perform on American Idol.

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By Jen Ouellette
THE REGISTER
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CAPE COD — Seeing Siobhan Magnus' face on national television each week is still a bit surreal for the native Cape Codder's dad, Alan Magnus.

"It's frightening because she's not afraid and I am. I just worry about her," he said Tuesday night while at a private viewing party with family and friends at Embargo in Hyannis.

Yet at the same time, Alan Magnus can't help be proud of his 20-year-old daughter.

"It's a rush. I can't believe it sometimes. You look at her and you know it's her, but yet it doesn't seem real."

The Arts Foundation of Cape Cod helped close to 200 people wedge their way into Embargo Restaurant about a half-hour before the popular reality TV show "American Idol" hit the airwaves.

"The Arts Foundation was looking for a way to support the Magnus family. This is a very new and exciting experience for them," said Maggie Van Sciver, the foundation's president.

Magnus is one of just seven remaining contestants on the show out of thousands who auditioned late last summer.

The contestants were required to sing an inspirational song for this week's theme and the Barnstable High School graduate selected Mariah Carey's, "When You Believe."

The excited audience was still cheering through the beginning of Siobhan's performance but quiet settled over the crowd just as Siobhan reached the chorus of the song, with the words "there can be miracles, if you believe."

Siobhan's mom had tears welling up in her eyes after her daughter finished singing the song while her dad just gazed at the TV with an enormous smile on his face.

Both would obviously love anything their little girl sang, but for Alan Magnus the song he'd want her to sing has already been conquered by Siobhan the week he traveled to Hollywood to see her in action. In week three of the competition, Magnus sang "House of the Rising Sun" for her father.

"My brother Dave taught me that song when I was 7. I thought he wrote it," recalled Alan Magnus, adding Siobhan has been singing that song with him for years.

He talks to his daughter several times a week.

"She usually calls when it's pretty late here, like 3 a.m., but its midnight for her. She usually calls me when she's a little bit down or when she needs advice. She calls her mom it seems most of the time when she's happy, which is fine by me. I'm glad I can be there for her."

Siobhan has been around singers all of her life. Bill Caron, bandmate and friend of Alan Magnus, recalls Siobhan before she was even using her legs, never mind her voice.

"I remember her learning how to walk. She walked around on the PA system and was jumping all over this guy," said Caron pointing to her dad.

"She used to dance around and try and sing like me," Alan Magnus said, adding now she is more than capable of standing on her own two feet.

"I tell her to do what you do; that's all [the advice] I ever give her. I couldn't touch her shoes right now," said the father of six.

Siobhan ventured into her own local Cape Cod band in 2006 when she joined Lunar Valve.

Matt Kohler was a member of the band and had been friends with Siobhan for a few years when she was invited to be the group's lead singer. Kohler said it was obvious that Siobhan had something special.

"She's a much better singer than anyone I've ever met, and also [she has] stage presence."

"Zombie" by the Cranberries was a popular song played by Lunar Valve.

On the week Kohler went to Hollywood to see Siobhan perform live, the judges were not so enamored by her rendition of "Across the Universe."

"I thought she did wonderful," said Kohler, even though the judges were rough on her calling it "sleepy" and "restrained."

"I understand that they have to add drama. I understand they are qualified. A lot of people think they are mean, but I think they mean well," said Alan Magnus.

The "American Idol" judges were tough on Siobhan again this week, but that didn't deter her biggest supporters from cheering her on and talking back when Kara DioGuardi said, "I feel like I'd want to hang out with you rather than buy your record."

"WHAT!" yelled the large group of family members at the front of the restaurant.

Despite what the judges said, Alan Magnus is in awe of the support the former BHS student garners.

"She makes so many people happy. It's like she's Gandhi or something."

"We want to thank the Magnuses for sharing Siobhan with not only Cape Cod, but it looks like the whole world," said Van Sciver.

But her dad is counting the minutes until he can call her his own again.

"I just want to see her. I miss her."

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