



# IMTA ALUM DILLON JAMES COMPETES ON *AMERICAN IDOL*

**IMTA Press Release**  
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*“American Idol”* returns on Sunday, February 16 at 8/7c on ABC

*“I went totally out of my comfort zone to try something new! Remember, we can always push our limits and to not be held back by our fears, but to be different and be you.”*

— Dillon James

When *“American Idol”* returns for its 18th season on Sunday, among the singers vying to become the next star will be IMTA alum Dillon James. James, who won the inaugural Songwriting Competition at IMTA in 2012, also was the Most Sought Male Talent 2nd Runner Up.

Following IMTA, James signed with Unified Management and began auditioning in LA. His first acting role was as a young country singer in Dolly Parton’s TV movie, *A Christmas Country Story*. He also appeared in the historical short film *The Haircut*, about the first class of female cadets accepted into military service academies, and the Lifetime TV thriller, *A Teacher’s Obsession*.



But James has always considered himself first and foremost a singer/songwriter, releasing his first collection of original music in January 2019, a six-track EP called “Good Ole Boy” that featured songs such as “Alone,” “Burn” and “Open Roads.” He is currently working on a new collection and has posted videos of “Tierra Dulce (Sweet Earth)” and “Long Ride Home” on Facebook.



“I’m a singer songwriter from Bakersfield California,” James writes on his website. “I play the guitar and write songs about the trials and tribulations of my life. Each one of my songs are true to my heart and I try my best to describe what I’ve experienced so far in this journey called life.” James attended IMTA with Extraordinaire Models & Talent in Bakersfield.

James has also posted about his upcoming appearance on *“American Idol.”* “ITS ALMOST HERE. American idol FEB 16th!! Make sure you watch all the talented humans I met along the ride. I was extremely honored to also stand by their side and be able to get the chance to audition in front of @katyperry @lionelrichie @lukebryan watch our journey FEB16th Namaste humans, keep keepin on.”