Star Academy

It is evident that appearance on television on any popular show can turn anyone into a celebrity who is well recognized over the country. To majority of people, appearing in any of the popular reality and talent Television shows can turn someone into a celebrity overnight. This has been viewed as the easiest means towards becoming a celebrity. It is vital to note that reality and talent shows are common and are viewed by numerous people across the countries they are aired in. One of such talent and reality shows is Star Academy. This is a show that commands millions of viewers across French speaking countries. The show comprises of singers who compete for the first position where they receive huge awards.

The show gives the audience a reason to stay glued to their television sets as they watch talented singers rise from barely known people into celebrities. For instance, Jenifer Bartoli, who won the show in 2001, has so far become the most popular female singer in France. In addition, it is critical to note that the show is free and fair. This can be argued by the fact that the winners are not chosen by the juries, but by the viewers through a voting process. Therefore, the winners have always been the people’s favorites. It is vital to note that all winners of the show since its inception have become either great renowned singers or songwriters. For instance, the winner of season four, Gregory Lemarchal, has since released his own singles and albums such as *Je Deviens Moi* album in 2005. He was the first male to win the Star Academy.
Star Academy is similar to other TV shows in numerous aspects. However, there are numerous equivalent shows, which are conducted in various countries across the world. Whereas the shows may be different in various ways, they share a common denominator. All the TV shows comprise of participants in a secluded place where they have little or no contact with the outside world. In this scenario, contestants are placed in seclusion in what has popularly come to be known as the academy. Lack of exposure to the contemporary world creates tension amongst the contestants. Additionally, the contestants are in front of the cameras throughout their time in the academy. Considering that a majority may not have been in front of the cameras earlier, it creates tension amongst the contestants. However, the contestants are not all alone since they are accompanied by their trainers and the directors of the show.

The show stands out from others due to the fact that it is entertaining, and also provides training for the contestants. Contestants are trained on various aspects of music such as dancing, voice control and pitch balancing. It is paramount to note that this provides the contestants with knowledge and skills, which they can apply later in life. The training offered to the contestants has underscored the fact that the primary purpose of the show is to look for an outright winner. The show seeks to create and develop talented singers. This generous gesture has made the TV show a favorite to many people across France. Contestants who do not end up winning have also become famous singers across France. For instance, Michal, who was second in season three, has become a renowned musician in France. He has released an album, *All Alone with My Gueule*, in 2007.

Another aspect of the show, which has made the show exceptional and famous, is the selection criterion of the contestants. A group of successful juries comprising of actors, song composers, producers and singers is entitled with the responsibility of selecting contestants. Contestants are selected from all over the country, where casting shows are organized.
Participants who impress the judges are selected to join the academy. An interesting aspect of the Star Academy show is the fact that contestants are prohibited from accessing any media information. This is aimed at preventing them from getting any views about them from the public.

On my part, I prefer watching the Arabian version of the Star Academy show. The variant allows representatives from different countries to participate. In other words, different cultures are represented in the show. In order to come up with the right winner, the contest is guided by strict rules, which the contestants must obey. For instance, the contestants are supposed to perform a song every week on a live show. The performance is before the audience and a special celebrity guest. At the end of every contestant’s performance, the special guest is invited to give his or her impartial opinion regarding the performance. The invitation of special guests has raised the ratings of the Star Academy show. Appropriate arrangements have been made to have the show aired on a 24/7 basis for its fans. However, it is critical to note that such viewing deprives the contestants of their privacy.

The show tickles my fancy, and I find it extremely interesting to watch due to the tension implicated on both the contestants and viewers. This is because every week a contestant has to be eliminated from the show. However, two contestants are saved from leaving the show by fellow contestants, as well as the audience. Every viewer is given an opportunity to participate in the show through voting for their favorite contestants. Majority of the viewers have been interested in the provocation, which accompanies the process through which participants are saved by their fellow competitors. It is also critical to note that the prize is a huge sum of money and a contract to record with some of the most successful recording companies.

The key element of the show is the pressure, tension and stress that the contestants are subjected to. It is worth to mention that the contestants are allowed to have a five minute
phone conversation per week with their dear relatives. This is meant to prepare them for a future career of a celebrity. It is evident that celebrities are extremely busy with shows, performances and interviews that they hardly get time with their friends and relatives. The contestants are also under pressure of cruelty while deciding which contestant will leave the academy. This is also meant to prepare them for the cruel life that celebrities live. As the name suggests, Star Academy is a place to learn. Just as a normal school, the contestants are taught various aspects in music such as dancing, pitch and voice control. They are also taught how to behave in front of the cameras and in public. The designers and stylists in the academy teach the contestants how to improve their images as celebrities.

It can, therefore, be concluded that reality and talent TV shows are at their peak. They are common across the world in many countries. The contestants are prepared to venture into the world of fame through the training they receive in the academy. It is evident that the TV show is a favorite for many. Numerous people watch the show as much as they would want to be contestants. It is vital to note that a majority of contestants go there for the prize money, as well as for training in the academy.