

Interview: Jordin Sparks on Simon Cowell's sendoff and this summer's tour

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Jordin Sparks' "The Battlefield Tour" is presented by Mike and Ike® Candies.
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In this day and age, it seems as though it's expected a diva will head down the path of a trainwreck soon after catching her first glimpse of real fame. However, **Jordin Sparks** stands out as a pop starlet who has managed to stay out of the daily **TMZ** headlines and enjoy the success she's achieved without having to compromise her values.

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Skipping the sleazy photo leaks and late night antics, Jordin has kept herself in the spotlight for positive reasons. She's won an American Music Award for Favorite Adult Contemporary Artist, two MTV VMA nominations for Best Female Video and Best New Artist, earned three Top 5 Hits on Billboard's Pop singles chart that have sold almost 9 million downloads/ringtones, and opened for huge acts such as Britney Spears on the Circus tour, the Jonas Brothers, Jesse McCartney, and Alicia Keys.

Of course it was [American Idol](#) that initially brought her to the public's attention, winning the coveted title at age 17, the youngest winner in the show's history. Jordin recently returned to the Idol stage in May to help pay tribute to Idol's infamous departing judge. When I spoke with Jordin via e-mail, I asked her how it felt to return for the Simon Cowell musical tribute that featured Idols of past and present. She told me that "It was last minute, but I had such a good time! Being with all the Idols who came before me, and those after, still is surreal to me. Plus Simon was and IS such a huge part of the show, I was glad we could do something to send him off right."

Now that she's helped say goodbye to Simon, Jordin's sights are set on criss-crossing the nation promoting her CD "The Battlefield" on this summer's The Battlefield Tour, which kicked off at the Starland Ballroom in Sayreville, NJ last week. Besides being able to partner with Mike and Ike Candies® and their charitable partner Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation for Childhood Cancer™ for the second time, the summer plans present an opportunity for Ms. Sparks to connect with the fans who have remained loyal since the [American Idol](#) victory. She's looking forward to "being able to see my fans up close and personal as well as being able to sing the songs from my records that weren't singles! It's MY show now! Eep!"

If her exclamation is any indication she's feeling any road nerves, advice that the one and only Alicia Keys gave her should help keep her grounded: "She just told me to be myself...I love Alicia. I learned so much from watching her every night on tour. I just wish her the best in everything!" Other than those motivational words, Jordin plans on trying to maintain road sanity "by keeping good people around me and having my pups out on the road with me." Playing games on her Nintendo DS and reading ("The Bride Collector" by author Ted Dekker was a recent favorite) also entertain Jordin in her downtime.

Though good books, furry companions, fun people and a catalog of video games is enough to keep anyone entertained, it's clear that the most fun Jordin will have is performing for her beloved Sparkplugs (as her fans are nicknamed): "I love being able to sing for my job. I am blessed beyond words and I hope my fans can feel that while I'm on stage!"

Catch Jordin Thursday, June 10th at the Nokia Theatre in Times Square. Tickets on sale now at Ticketmaster.com. Also be sure to visit [Mike and Ike's](#) site for exclusive Jordin Sparks content and other promotions.

Jordin Sparks' The Battlefield Tour dates:

Tue 06/08/10 Greensburg, PA Palace Theatre

Thu 06/10/10 New York, NY Nokia Theatre Times Square

Fri 06/11/10 Hampton Beach, NH Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom

Sat 06/12/10 Hartford, CT Webster Theater

Sun 06/13/10 Boston, MA House Of Blues Boston

Tue 06/15/10 Cincinnati, OH 20th Century Theatre

Wed 06/16/10 Royal Oak, MI Royal Oak Music Theatre

Thu 06/17/10 Cleveland, OH House Of Blues

Sat 06/19/10 Norfolk, VA NorVa

Sun 06/20/10 Charlotte, NC Fillmore Charlotte

Tue 06/22/10 Fort Lauderdale, FL Revolution

Wed 06/23/10 Lake Buena Vista, FL House Of Blues

Fri 06/25/10 Austell, GA Six Flags Over Georgia

Sat 06/26/10 Baton Rouge, LA Dixie Landing Theme Park

Sun 06/27/10 San Antonio, TX Six Flags Fiesta Texas

Mon 06/28/10 Houston, TX House Of Blues

Tue 06/29/10 Dallas, TX House Of Blues

Thu 07/01/10 Tempe, AZ The Marquee

Fri 07/02/10 Anaheim, CA Grove Of Anaheim

Sat 07/03/10 Reno, NV Knitting Factory Concert House

Mon 07/05/10 Seattle, WA Showbox At The Market

Tue 07/06/10 Portland, OR Roseland Theater

Thu 07/08/10 San Diego, CA House Of Blues

Fri 07/09/10 Los Angeles, CA Club Nokia

Sat 07/10/10 San Francisco, CA The Regency Ballroom

Mon 07/12/10 Denver, CO Ogden Theatre

Wed 07/14/10 Kansas City, MO Beaumont Club

Fri 07/16/10 Minneapolis, MN First Avenue

Sat 07/17/10 Chicago, IL House Of Blues

Sun 07/18/10 Philadelphia, PA Theatre Of The Living Arts

Appearing at "Wisconsin State Fair"

Sun 08/08/10 West Allis, WI Wisconsin State Fair Park



Lorraine Schwartz

NY concert Examiner

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