



Empire Isis

To learn more about the *Wrecking Crew*, visit [www.wreckingcrew.tv](http://www.wreckingcrew.tv). For more information on Musician's Institute, contact Luck Media, 818-760-8077.

→ Canadian urban songstress **Empire Isis** is riding a wave of TV placements. Her single "Get Up on It," taken from her **Monumental Records** debut, *Sound the Trumpets*, most recently was picked up by CTV's comedy *Robson Arms* for placement in an upcoming episode of the Canadian comedy. The same single also can be heard on the CBS reality show *I'm Your Captain* as well as ABC's *Notes From the Under Belly*. For more information, contact Monumental Records, 450-688-4450 or visit [www.empireisis.com](http://www.empireisis.com).

This year's **MUSEXPO**, Apr. 27-30 in Los Angeles, will bestow its "International Music Person of the Year" award to **Chop Shop Music** founder **Alex Patsavas**, the influential music supervisor for such hit TV shows as *Grey's Anatomy*, *Ugly Betty* and *The O.C.* The award recognizes extraordinary contribution and achievement toward the evolution of music throughout the world, as determined



Hannah Montana

by **A&R Worldwide**, **MUSEXPO 2008** and the international music and media community. Dubbed the "United Nations of Music & Media," this year's conference will be the inaugural event staged at the legendary Hyatt West Hollywood. The full list of participants, events and registration information is available at [www.musexpo.net](http://www.musexpo.net).

**MVD Entertainment Group (MVD)** and **Big Daddy Music Distribution** have entered into an agreement to merge their DVD and CD distribution businesses, operating under the name **MVD Entertainment Group**. MVD will continue and build upon Big Daddy's decade-and-a-half commitment to marketing and distributing music for independent artists and labels. The **Big Daddy Music Distribution** facility in Kenilworth, NJ, will be closed approximately 30 days after the transaction closes and operations will be turned over to the MVD facility in Oaks, PA. **Burt Goldstein**, founder of Big Daddy, will serve as VP Product Management of MVD Entertainment Group, and will continue to actively make deals for the company with both established artists as well as up-and-coming labels. For further details, contact Clint Weiler at [clint@mvd2b.com](mailto:clint@mvd2b.com).


## OPPS

→ Inspired by **Hannah Montana's** success in the U.K., **Disney Store's** "Make Me a Pop Star" campaign invites kids to send in their best pop star pose for a chance at winning a recording session, a private shopping spree at the U.K. Disney Store and a chauffeur-driven limosine. **Joanne Webb**, Marketing Director for Disney Store Europe, said: "To celebrate Hannah's success and to encourage British talent, we're looking for someone with real star quality." Kids up to 16 can upload their pop star poses to [www.makemeapopstar.co.uk](http://www.makemeapopstar.co.uk) until Apr. 30th.

Film & TV licensing company **Indie911** wants you to know that size does matter. There's a lot of competition, points out company CEO Justin Goldberg. That makes strategic alliances important. "Being part of a larger label system that has ties to film the TV production has its advantage," he says. The company's current deal makes them the independent library source for **APM**, which is itself a joint venture between industry giants **EMI** and **Universal**. "It's difficult to shine through unless you're part of a larger effort," says Goldberg. "Unless you have that, it is difficult to get on the radar of some of the film and TV music supervisors." The company is always on the lookout for new music. To be considered, visit [www.indie911.com](http://www.indie911.com).

**Conway Twitty United** is casting national touring, casino, and regional productions of *It's Only Make Believe*, a musical in two acts about the life of **Conway Twitty**. **Randy Johnson** is writer and director of the production, which is expected to run through 2010. Auditions are Mar. 29 in Los Angeles; Apr. 4-5 in Las Vegas; and Apr. 8-10 in Nashville. Resumes are also being accepted for most support positions including Assistant to the Director, Stage Manager and Wardrobe. For further submission information, log on to [www.randyjohnson1.com](http://www.randyjohnson1.com) and [www.conwaytwittymusical.com](http://www.conwaytwittymusical.com). Send resume, headshot and MP3 to [symonmartinjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:symonmartinjohnson@gmail.com).

**Musync**, a San Francisco music licensing company, is helping indie artists pre-clear their music to prepare for licensing for film, TV and video games. Says **Seb Jarakian**, Music Director, "Unfortunately, we can't take every band because the quality has to be there. We're dealing with TV shows like *Ugly Betty* and *The Riches*, games from **Microsoft** and **Konami** and hip ad agencies like **DDB** and **FCB** so the music has to be of the highest quality — and fresh." To submit music, visit [www.musync.com](http://www.musync.com) and click on "Got Music." If tracks are accepted, a non-exclusive agreement is sent.

**Brand Newz**, an upbeat broadcast and internet infotainment outlet, has launched "The What's Good With You?" video contest for students to share positive happenings in their communities. The show is hosted by hip-hop icon **Christopher "Play" Martin** of the rap duo **Kid 'n Play**, and the contest is open to all currently enrolled high school, college or university students. Video entries will be accepted through Apr. 15th. Cash prizes are offered and there is no cost to enter. More details are available online at [www.BrandNewz.com](http://www.BrandNewz.com). 

## side bar



Paul Majors

President

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Breakthrough: Miramax Films  
Upcoming: *Kyle XY*, others

"Film and TV placements are a whole other avenue for bands to make money with their music," notes Paul Majors, head of Majors Film & TV Placement. Originally from Los Angeles, where he worked as a Special Projects/Music Coordinator at Miramax Films, Majors relocated to Nashville in 2006. His background gives Majors an understanding of the challenges producers face in trying to track down the clearances for songs they want to use.

To sidestep that problem for clients including *Kyle XY* and *Desperate Housewives*, Majors works with mostly independent artists. These are artists he likes and considers on the verge of breaking. "Why not just contact the band directly, get all the money to them and put the control into the hands of the artists who create the music?" he asks rhetorically.

A label might have only \$2,000-\$3,000 for a song, he points out, a figure that won't be able to secure a big name. Majors offers indie artists, those whose music helps maintain his reputation for quality among the TV and film producers. "I also offer bands that sound like the bigger acts that cost a whole lot more money," he says. "They own their own publishing and recordings. When I get them a placement, most of the money goes to them and they can clear everything."

Since he keeps no residual payments, Majors charges a minimal upfront fee. (\$500 to cover a six-month period at press time.) This covers about half of his operating costs per act.

This also gives the artists motivation. "I played in bands and nobody worked for me for free," he says. "It feels better. You are paying yourself back for something you take responsibility for."