



***MEDIA ALERT - VOTE NOW FOR THE BEST VOCAL TALENT IN  
THE MOUTH CANCER VOICE AWARDS***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE:** Founder of the Mouth Cancer Foundation Dr Vinod Joshi  
Julie Atherton - West End Actress  
Kirsty Nichol - Mouth Cancer Voice Awards Winner 2007

*To set up an interview please call Media Ambitions on 020 8940 2222*

**Can you sing? Are you funny? Do you have a special vocal talent?  
If so then it is your last chance to enter the Mouth Cancer Voice  
Awards.**

If you think you've got what it takes to be the next Girls Aloud, Duffy, MC Hammer, Peter Kay or Catherine Tate then we need you for a unique online talent show to raise awareness for Mouth Cancer. The country's leading Mouth Cancer Charity, **the Mouth Cancer Foundation** is looking for amazing vocal talent and voting is underway to find the brightest young stars the UK has to offer in the second **Mouth Cancer Voice Awards**.

The public are voting along with a panel of celebrity judges including Pop star and former Atomic Kitten band member Natasha Hamilton, leading West End theatre star Julie Atherton headlining in "Avenue Q", the Founder of the **Mouth Cancer Foundation**, Dr Vinod Joshi and Kirsty Nichol, who won the performance for the Best Singer at the first annual **Mouth Cancer Voice Awards** which took place in front of a star studded audience in London in 2007.

Ten finalists will be announced on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009 when those shortlisted will be in with the chance of winning a recording session at Wise Buddha recording studios in London or vouchers to spend at HMV. The winner will be announced on 16<sup>th</sup> November during Mouth Cancer Awareness Week.

Natasha is a keen supporter of the Mouth Cancer Voice Awards: *"Mouth Cancer is a disease that has affected my family as it is how my Nan died. The Mouth Cancer Voice Awards raise awareness to Mouth Cancer especially in the student world, and have launched a*

*competition for the UK's best student singer or comedian, which is a great way to have fun and draw attention to this little known, but deadly disease".*

The **Mouth Cancer Foundation** is targeting young people through the **Mouth Cancer Voice Awards** and encouraging them not to take their voices for granted. **Cancer can occur in any part of the mouth, tongue, lips, throat, salivary glands, pharynx, larynx, sinus, and other sites located in the head and neck area.** Every 3 hours someone in the UK will die from Mouth Cancer.

In its very early stages, Mouth Cancer can be almost invisible making it easy to ignore. An increasing number of cases are being seen **in young people. Drinking and smoking increases the risk of mouth cancers** and students are being warned against binge drinking and smoking. Individuals indulging in both face a 30 times greater risk than abstainers.

The Founder of the **Mouth Cancer Foundation**, Dr Vinod Joshi, says *"We want all students to know that mouth cancer exists and what symptoms to look out for in order to help with early detection. If in doubt, get it checked out. Don't take your voice for granted! The Voice Awards is a fun way to get our message across".*

-ENDS-

For information on the **MOUTH CANCER VOICE AWARDS** visit [www.mouthcancervoice.org](http://www.mouthcancervoice.org)

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#### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

**The Mouth Cancer Foundation - [www.mouthcancerfoundation.org](http://www.mouthcancerfoundation.org)**

The Mouth Cancer Foundation is a registered charity no. 1109298.

Symptoms include:

1. An ulcer or white or red patch anywhere in the mouth that does not heal within 3 weeks
2. A lump or swelling anywhere in the mouth, jaw or neck that persists for more than 3 weeks
3. A difficulty in swallowing, chewing or moving the jaw or tongue
5. A numbness of the tongue or other area of the mouth
6. A feeling that something is caught in the throat
7. A chronic sore throat or hoarseness that persists more than 6 weeks
8. An unexplained loosening of teeth with no dental cause
9. Persistent nasal (especially unilateral) nasal obstruction, particularly associated with

mucus (clear, purulent or bloody) discharge causing difficulty breathing through nose  
10. Unexplained persistent earache

More information about Mouth Cancer is available at the Mouth Cancer Foundation web site [www.mouthcancerfoundation.org](http://www.mouthcancerfoundation.org) or by emailing [info@mouthcancerfoundation.org](mailto:info@mouthcancerfoundation.org)