

The Hugo episode of AMC's new unscripted competitions series, "Showville" will be airing on AMC Thursday, July 18 at 9 p. m.

The eight-episode series centers around a small-town talent show featuring local acts, who get the chance of a lifetime to be in the spotlight. The towns included Holland, Mich., Kingston, R. I., Walla Walla, Wash., Athens, Ohio, San Marcos, Texas, Fairfield, Iowa, Mount Airy, N. C. and Hugo, Okla.

According to Laurie Girion, executive producer, "Showville" is a celebration of performing, and a fond, funny look at the lives, workplaces and families of these acts and what happens to them when Hollywood comes to town.

Four contestants were chosen from the Hugo open-call, including Nick Davis, July Coronel, Cynthia Cayton and Trey Rosenthal.

Director of economic development and Chamber of Commerce president, David Hinkle, said so much talent showed up for the open call. "I don't know how they managed to whittle it down to only four. There is so much talent in our area —everyone is a story teller, joke teller, singer or entertainer."

After choosing the four contestants from open call, two bonafide Hollywood talent coaches, Alec Mapa and Lisette Bustamante, helped shape the raw, local talent into polished, fully realized acts for an upcoming talent show.

During the talent show, the winner was chosen by the local audience, as friends, neighbors and bosses cast their votes for their favorite performer who will receive a cash prize of \$10,000 and a world-class trophy.

"Showville" could have a huge impact on Hugo and the surrounding area, Hinkle said. "The crew arrived with a 40-person film crew. They stayed in our hotels, ate in our restaurants and

Hugo's 'Showville' episode will air Thursday, announce \$10,000 winner

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shopped in our stores for a week. Not only did we have the immediate economic impact of their visit and dollars spent here, but we also have a marketing piece on Hugo. The show will be featured world-wide, and could bring many tourists to our area.

"It's a risk to sign on for a reality show. But, this is a risk that payed off... a really positive experience," Hinkle said.