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— LANDAU EUGENE MURPHY JR., winner of NBC’s “America’s Got Talent”

# ‘That’s Life’

Landau Eugene Murphy Jr. to release debut album

By ANGELA HENDERSON-BENTLEY  
For The Herald-Dispatch

It’s only been a little more than two months since Logan, W.Va.’s own Landau Eugene Murphy Jr. won the NBC reality competition, “America’s Got Talent.” And now Murphy’s roller coaster ride continues with the release of his debut album today.

“That’s Life” features Murphy’s take on a collection of standards made famous by Frank Sinatra.

“If you loved me on the show, you’re going to love my album. It’s amazing,” Murphy said. “I’ve got everything I did on the show and I added like six more that no one ever heard me do on the show.”

Among the new songs are “Baby It’s Cold Outside,” “Something Stupid” and the title track. “It’s a whole lot of good songs on there,” Murphy said. “And it’s right out of the American songbook.”

In conjunction with the album, a video for “Ain’t That a Kick in the Head” was released on the Internet last week.

“That kind of shocked me when I saw that music video,” Murphy said. “That was kind of weird to watch that video. It was like, ‘What?’ I can’t believe it. I’ve got a video and a CD cover now. Like, November the 21st it’ll be debuting. I’m just blown away by it. It’s amazing.”

Murphy has had a lot of amazing experiences in a very short time. Last month, he headlined three shows in Las Vegas as part of his “Talent” prize.

“Vegas was wonderful,” he said. “Performing at the Colosseum, it’s a lot of people’s dream. I went out there and got my three shows and basically sold all of them out so the fans are really loving what I bring and they’re enjoying themselves as much as I am. So I’m very happy and thankful for that,” he said.

Selling out shows is becoming something of a pattern for Murphy these days. In December, he will be performing three sold out shows at the Clay Center in Charleston, as well as a sold out show at the Paramount Performing Arts Center in Ashland. A few tickets still remain for his Dec.



Landau Eugene Murphy Jr. performs “My Way” on the Sept. 13 episode of “America’s Got Talent.”

Courtesy of Trae Patton/NBC

28 show at the Paramount.

“That feels overwhelming,” Murphy said. “The way that people are responding is so amazing. And I just want to give the best performance and the best show, just really not just get up there and sing songs. I like to tell stories. I like to mingle with the audience. I like to let them be involved in the show that I bring. We’re just going to have a blast.”

Murphy hopes to do a gospel CD next and eventually a Christmas CD.

But right now, he’s concentrating on all of the events he’s got coming up while trying to remind himself that it is all real.

“I’m slapping myself right now,” Murphy said. “It’s crazy. I’m telling you, it’s crazy. But I love it. It’s something I’ve always wanted. It’s something I’ve always reached for. And I’m just so happy and thankful and giving all praise to God for just blessing me and letting me do what I love to do,” he said.