



## Local talent shines on the Mic.

**Laima Krigere (Shade)** from **Reading** has been given the big thumbs up by judges at the Open Mic UK auditions. Along with other impressive acts, **Shade** has made it through to the Regional Finals and will now be performing at the live stages of Open Mic UK 2012.

Open Mic UK 2012 is the exciting national talent competition which searches for the UK's best singers, singer/songwriters, rappers and vocalists of all genres who perform either covers or original material.

One contestant who has evidently caught the judge's eye is local talent **Shade**, now in the running to compete for a place in the National Final within The O2 in London. Thousands of hopefuls entered nationwide and hundreds of auditionees queued patiently on the day for their turn to impress the judges. Those who made it through the audition stage will now take part in a live Regional head to head battle alongside the best talent in their area. They'll be performing in front of hundreds of audience members and a professional judging panel to win a place at the National Grand Final.

Chris Grayston, Events Coordinator for Open Mic UK comments "We are looking to find an act that has something unique to offer, another Birdy that can go all the way, with both the ability to deliver a strong live performance but also potential to become a professional recording artist. There is so much talent out there I'm sure we can find that star again!

The competition is divided into age categories; 16 and under, 17-22 and 23 and over; all types of singers, vocal performers, groups and acoustic singer/songwriters are invited to enter Open Mic UK. The acts are all aiming to make it to that prestigious Final at The O2 where the spotlight will be on all the acts with a chance to be signed.

The latter stages of the competition will also provide acts with the opportunity to impress many guests from record labels, agencies and the entertainment industry as well as judges from BBC Introducing, national radio and regional press with judges being more prestigious in the later rounds. Past judges include Radio 1 DJs Ras Kwame and Annie Nightingale MBE with Ivor Novello award winner Mark Hill and KISS FM's Charlie Hedges already confirmed to join this year's Grand Final panel for 2012.

Former winner [Hatty Keane](#) has been signed to BGM Music. Hatty has been featured in a variety of local, regional and national press, performed live sets alongside **Ed Sheeran**, **Tinchy Stryder** and **Roll Deep** and is currently working on new material. Previous winners also include [Birdy](#) who is signed to Warner has in the last 12 months has hits all over Europe and is set to conquer the US with a collaboration with Mumford & sons.

For more information go to the website [www.openmicuk.co.uk](http://www.openmicuk.co.uk) or better still come down and support your local talent performing! You can purchase tickets from the website [www.openmicuk.co.uk](http://www.openmicuk.co.uk) or on the door subject to availability or from **Shade**.

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