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Susan Boyle's moment in the sun is inspiring

As one of the millions of people deeply moved by Susan Boyle's beautiful performance on *Britain's Got Talent*, I feel the change of emotion of the judges and audience from scorn to respect was as important as her singing ("Her story's like 'a Disney movie,'" *Life*, Monday).

Judge Amanda Holden captured it when she said: "I honestly think that we were all being very cynical, and I think that's the biggest wake-up call ever.... It was a complete privilege listening to that."

People are hungry for that wake-up call. I learned from Aesthetic Realism, the philosophy founded in 1941 by the great poet and critic Eli Siegel, that the purpose of art is the same as the deepest purpose of every person: to like the world honestly. As a singer and teacher of singing, this knowledge is invaluable to me. I learned, too, that we all have a desire to have contempt, to build ourselves up through making less of other people and things, and this is the biggest weakener of our lives.

Boyle's singing was powerful and sweet, bright and deep, and this is how people hope to be. "All beauty," as Siegel stated, "is a making one of opposites, and the making one of opposites is what we are going after in ourselves."

So hooray for Boyle, and may she have the chance for expression she has dreamed of. May she also be a means of people seeing that a human being is not to be summed up and seen with contempt, and that the world has more possibilities of beauty than we knew.

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