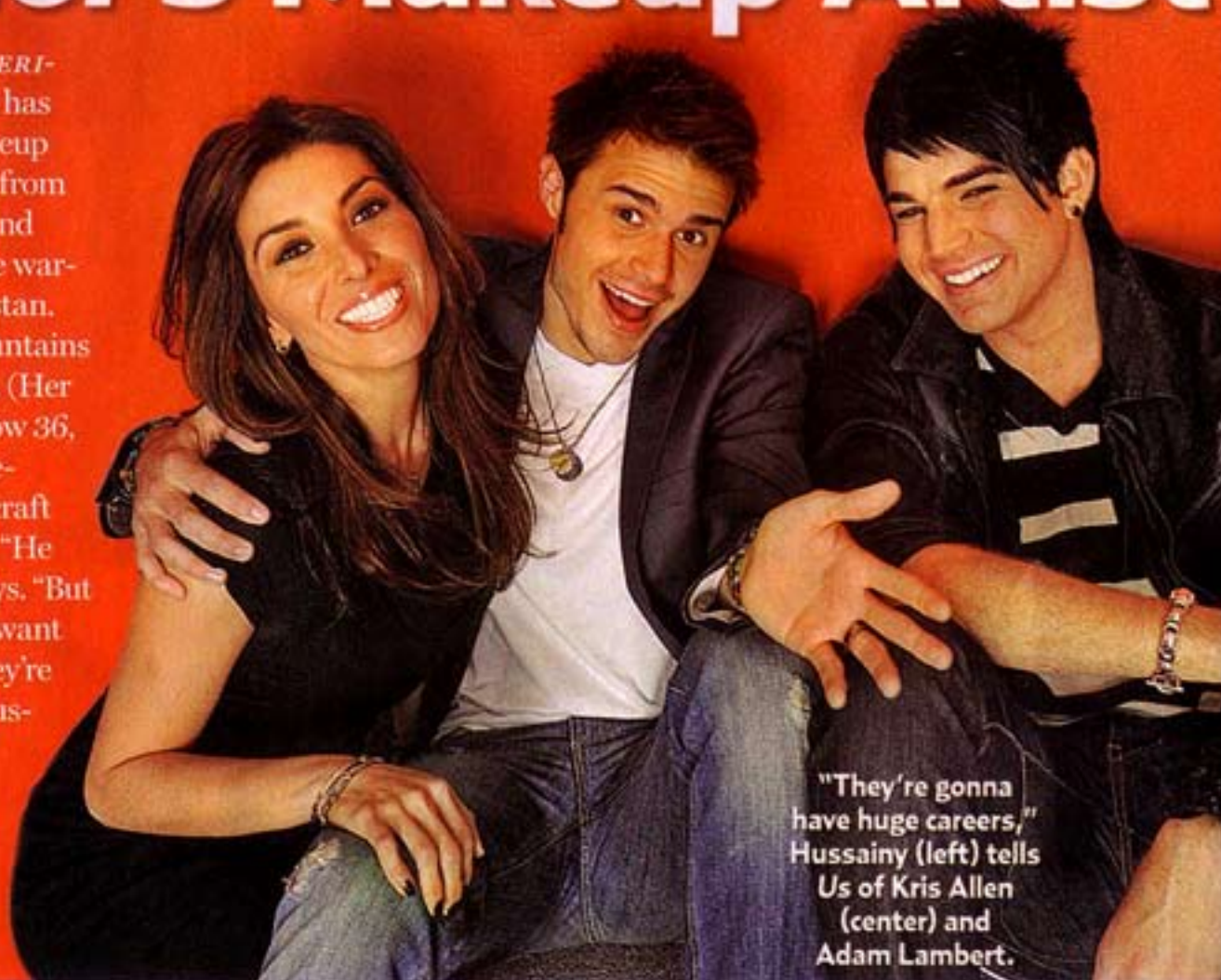




HOT HOLLYWOOD

Meet Idol's Makeup Artist

HERE'S ONE INSPIRATIONAL AMERICAN *Idol* backstory **Ryan Seacrest** has yet to tell: The show's longtime makeup artist, **Mezhgan Hussainy**, is a refugee from Afghanistan. In 1981, at age 8, she and her family walked 10 days across the war-torn country into neighboring Pakistan. "I remember going through the mountains being exhausted," Hussainy tells *Us*. (Her family eventually settled in L.A.) Now 36, the ex-model relishes her job — especially this season, when she helped craft **Adam Lambert's** signature glam look. "He obviously loves the guyliner!" she says. "But I talk to all of them about how they want to see themselves and make sure they're comfortable." More impressively, Hussainy — who just launched her line, Me by [Me]zhgan (mebymezhgan.com) — also has a seal of approval from **Simon Cowell**. "She is the best at what she does," he tells *Us*. "She makes me look very handsome."



"They're gonna have huge careers," Hussainy (left) tells *Us* of Kris Allen (center) and Adam Lambert.