

## **Lessons on judging by appearance needs to be taught many times**

"Don't judge a book by its cover."

We've all heard that phrase many times and now, thanks to "Britain's Got Talent" and YouTube, we're learning the lesson all over again.

When judged by her appearance during a public audition for "Britain's Got Talent," Susan Boyle was laughed at and considered ordinary.

However, after her amazing performance, she was judged based on her vocal talents and became an online sensation.

Her story points out that judging people, specifically women, by their looks has become a sad but growing trend in society.

Pictures of celebrities without makeup sell for thousands and actresses are scrutinized constantly for how they look on the red carpet. It seems like these days, in order to be successful in the music or entertainment industry, you must be glamorous and fashion-forward.

Beauty is something society has labeled as a necessity. During last year's presidential election, outrage was briefly transferred from the crumbling economy to an un-retouched Newsweek cover of Sarah Palin.

The concern over perfection was brought up again when Michelle Obama was criticized for her wardrobe choices. Once again, as with Boyle, the focus was taken away from the true character of women and emphasis was placed on physical distractions.

This obsession with perfection doesn't only seem to apply to celebrities. CNN reported that attractive employees tend to earn more than other equally qualified, less attractive, individuals. This brings up the point that being beautiful might become an unspoken job requirement.

The success of Susan Boyle, however, hopefully means that society might be changing, and the industry might be more accepting. Boyle, who is rumored to be signing a record deal, sums it up best in a quote from The Washington Post, "Modern society is too quick to judge people on their appearances ... But maybe this could teach them a lesson, or set an example."

This story should act as a wake up call and teach us not to let appearances affect us so greatly. If we become more tolerant, maybe more talents like Susan Boyle will also get a chance at their dream.

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