

BEING A BETTER YOU!

- .GOT MY CHOREO
- .GOT MY MUSIC
- .GOT MY GROOMING
- .NOW WHAT????

SHOWMANSHIP

DEFINITION:

*THE ABILITY TO ATTRACT
ATTENTION AND ENTERTAIN
PEOPLE*

STAGE PRESENCE

- SHOW CONFIDENCE

- SMILE

- POSTURE

- GROOMING/DRESS

CALLER CATEGORIES

.LOCAL

.REGIONAL

.NATIONAL

.INTERNATIONAL

WHERE DO YOU FIT?

•LOCAL

- One of the most difficult to maintain.
- Sometimes became a caller because no one else was available.
- Usually not too experienced in calling skills besides showmanship
- Sometimes thinks they are already really good

WHERE DO I FIT?

• REGIONAL:

- Became “Regional” because you are a popular caller and have showmanship traits
- Tough job because you have “home” club(s) to prepare for as well
- Usually uses material and effects that work in their home clubs.
- Needs to have a number of “shows” ready

WHERE DO I FIT?

• NATIONAL

- Has the ability to “wow” dancers
- As good “off the mike” as on
- Has to have a number of shows ready
- Has to have a good work ethic and routine
- Needs to be business smart
- Marketing, money-management, communication

WHERE DO I FIT?

•INTERNATIONAL

- Needs to be very good in all aspects of the calling business.
- Usually needs a good support group (partner/spouse)
- Marketing means you have to be visible in the international marketspace (conventions and festivals, even the free ones that still cost us a lot of money.

WHAT DO YOU WORK ON?

- You need to assess yourself.
 - Seek input from others
 - Attend caller workshops with a respected caller who can help you develop your natural abilities.
 - Watch successful callers and try to analyze what they do and how they do it..
 - Use what you learn in your own way – be yourself.

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DANCES VERSUS CLASSES

- Classes should be “dances”
- Dances should be themed
 - Sight callers especially are guilty of just calling whatever comes into their heads. No matter your method, you should “program” your dances as well as your classes.
- Classes showmanship should use humor and musical showmanship rather than choreography and gimmicks.

CATEGORIES

•MUSIC

•HUMOR

•CHOREOGRAPHY

MUSIC

•Voice

- Spoken versus chanting/singing
- Soft – loud – falsetto - whisper
- With the music, syncopated, an octave higher or lower.

•Music

- Tempo
- Melodic – rhythmic
- Instrumentation

HUMOR

- **JOKES**

- **ANECDOTES**

- **WHILE CALLING**

- **REMARKS**

CHOREOGRAPHY

- **Different but doable**
- **Unpredictable**
- **Gimmicks**

TOO MUCH

- .When is your showmanship overdone?**
 - When the dancers are giggling “at” you rather than with you.**
 - When your actions are distracting from the dancing.**
 - You think you're Elvis. Look in the mirror, listen to yourself.**
 - When you try to “sound” like another singer and can't really replicate their sound and/or diction.**

How do you know?

- **Get input**

- From dancers

- From other callers

- Ask them to be really honest

- Be ready for bad news

- Go to callers' schools and get feedback – especially on how to improve.

- Listen to yourself

SET GOALS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- Regardless of the level/category of calling you fit into, set goals.
- Pick a skill set you want to improve on and go after it.
- What is your weakness? How can you improve on it? Get good help.
- What is your strength? Can you develop it more and use it to improve your showmanship?

BE YOURSELF

- You can fool all of the people some of the time, you can fool some of the people all of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time!
- Make eye contact. Smile with your eyes and your heart.