

:: Dana's Weekly Insight ::

01.21.08 – Funny Business



Have you noticed that the words "genius" and "genuine" are closely related? They are derived from the Latin root word, gen which means to give birth. Perhaps then, it could be said that -

The path to genius lies in being genuine.

The definition of genuine is:

- Real - having the qualities or value claimed
- Sincerely felt - not pretended
- Candid - honest and open

Not pretending, being open and honest and having -- actually having -- the qualities of the value you claim.

Imagine.

Have you ever been caught pretending to be doing something, when in actuality you were really doing something else?

Maybe you've been caught recently looking way down the road, beyond what you were supposed to be doing, for the ultimate result that you want to produce, when what will produce the result is keeping your eye on the ball.

Sometimes we want the result so badly that we try to force the outcome, neglecting to be real; failing to be open and honest.

Consider that, when you are willing to authentically "play the game", keeping your eye on the ball and taking care to be genuinely doing what it is that you are doing, you might just ignite a spark that will light up the genius within.

In a recent episode of the television drama, *Studio 60*, which is about the behind the scene workings of a late night television comedy show, one of the main characters, Harriet Hayes, a celebrated comic genius on the fictional show, expresses concern about her performance at a dress rehearsal. Talking to one of the show's producers, Matt Albie, she asks why, when she delivered her line "pass the butter" in an earlier rehearsal, it got a big laugh, but when she delivered the exact same line during the dress rehearsal, nobody laughed. What had she done so

differently?

Matt responds by telling her that at the earlier rehearsal:

"You asked for the butter,"

Confused, she searches his face intently as if somehow she will find the secret there that will restore the magic she feels she has lost.

"Tonight" he said, "instead of asking for the butter,

you asked for the laugh".

Harriet got the laugh at the earlier rehearsal because she was genuinely "doing". Nobody laughed at the dress rehearsal because Harriet took her eye off the ball to look way down the road for the result that she wanted to produce. In failing to be genuine she compromised her comic genius.

And you?

If you want to produce the result, you absolutely have to forget about it and genuinely do what you're supposed to be doing. Keeping your eye on the ball, focus on the "wax-on and wax-off", for the opportunity to provoke the genius within.

What if the key to genius has everything to do with being genuine?
What if it really is that simple?

Today, don't try to be famous, just write the book. Don't try to be a hero, just follow your heart. Don't try to be funny. Stop pretending and just tell the joke.

Take your finger off the pulse and forget about polling the masses.
Don't worry about whether it's all going to turn out, rather --

Get lost in the power of being authentic and leave the world -
INSPIRED.

Imagine.

Have you ever been caught pretending to be doing something when in actuality you were really doing something else, even if the person who caught you - was you?

If you want the butter don't ask for the laugh. If you want the laugh -

just ask for the butter.

Dana

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