

Additional Topics

Judgement!

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What is Judgement – Really!

My wife and I have been blessed with four sons!

As we raised our sons we impressed upon them the power of good judgement.

We told them whenever they had a decision to make about doing anything, they had to ask themselves three questions:

- 1: Will I or anyone else get in trouble if I do this?
- 2: Will I or anyone else be hurt (not just physically)
- 3: Will I be able live with any possible ramifications.

So why do I tell you this. Well, 1 probably doesn't affect us too much in our business but 2 & 3 sure do.

On Stage

When you are on stage there is an expectation from your customers. Your judgement will determine whether or not you meet that expectation.

And “on stage” means from the time you leave home until the time get back home again.

Did you dress appropriately for the event?

Were you prepared?

Did you arrive on time?

These are all judgements you make.

Off Stage

Really has two sides.

The first is when you are actually just off the stage between breaks. Are you talking with dancers or are you hiding off in the corner on your cell phone. Are you greeting people as they expect or are you sitting on a chair talking with the same person each night? These are some of the types of judgement calls you have to make.

The other side is:

When you are at club parties such as picnics or outings. Are you still the professional they all know and love 😊 When you are out at a dance that you are not calling, are you the same professional they all expect you to be? Or, are you up on stage during each break talking with the caller and ignoring the dancers?

Working with Others

When you are with others, be it another caller or a round dance cuer, are you easy to work with or must you have it all your way and force others to conform? le: Your stage setup, your equipment, your choice of music, etc. These are all judgement calls you make each and every time.

Knowing “Who” your customers are

Who are your customers? Are they kids? Are they young adults? Are they retirees? How do you speak to them?

You make a conscious decision every time you open your mouth to speak and Your judgement determines what comes out.

In my opinion, it is never appropriate to use foul language or profanity over the mic but I have heard callers do it. Often by accident but it is hard to take back once out.

Professionalism

It has been stated for years if you are paid for what you do, you are considered a professional. So how do you behave as a professional? Your judgement determines your behavior. Do you tell off colour jokes? Are you bias in any fashion? Do you push your political views over the microphone? Do you always offer a smile and a warm handshake?

These all come under judgement. As a professional, you need to be aware that what comes out of your mouth or the actions you perform stay with you. A reputation takes many years to build but can be destroyed overnight.

Private Life

You need to be aware that, even in your private life you are seen by people who know you in your “professional” life. Your Judgement will determine if they see a different person and that is something that only you can decide.

Choreography

In past when we talked about Judgement this was usually the only topic that was discussed and although it is important, as you can see, it is not the only judgement issue to be considered by callers.

Caller judgement is sometimes very challenging.

If you are calling for an unknown group of people, how do you start the dance? Do you start out easy and work your way to more challenging? Or do you come out of the gate with your best stuff and show them how good you are - and then call what they can dance?

How do you teach at your clubs as far as degree of difficulty goes? Do you teach full position or work up to it slowly? Do you teach multiple calls in one evening or teach your calls at an even pace? These are all judgement decisions.

At my first callers school in the early 70's one of my coaches said, “The dancers don't care how much you know, they want to be entertained with how much they know.” I have never forgotten that!

Music:

Really has two sides.

Side One ...

How do you program for the customer?

Are you doing a church group? It's probably not a good idea to call "The Devil When Down To Georgia". What if you're calling a father daughter dance? You probably shouldn't program "Who's In the Strawberry Patch with Sally" or worse, "I'll Love You Tonight in My Dreams". The tempo of what you call also is part of your judgement and will determine the success of the event.

Side Two...

The big topic of Judgement today with the advent of digital music, is piracy. This has become a huge issue for our music producers. You need to set a standard for yourself in your judgement as a caller about how you are going to deal with this issue.

It is very easy to say to another caller, "I really like that tune can you give me a copy. They put it on a thumb drive, hand it you, you load it on your laptop and you're good to go – or are you?

Legally, they can't give you that tune! Legally, you can't use it even if they give it to you without you asking for it. Sometimes Judgement is a tough **road!**

Maybe the three questions I raised my kids with might be of help in some of these judgement issues. It truly is up to you – only you can be the judge of you!