

Got Humor? Milking Your Material for More Humor

Brad's Rules for Funnier Programs:

Rule: Impromptu humor doesn't have to be as funny as prepared humor. Therefore, make everything *look* impromptu and spontaneous.

Rule: All humorists and comedians have told TONS of jokes that bombed. Therefore, you will bomb too. (Eventually.) Get over it... it is just part of the process.

Rule: The audience doesn't know what you have planned. Therefore, they will not know if your joke bombed... or if you planned it that way. Act like you planned it that way.

Rule: Sharp things hurt when they enter your skin. Therefore, don't run with scissors.

Rule: Humor doesn't always mean punch lines and stand up comedy. Therefore, even non-funny people can use humor to lighten up the program and to connect with the audience.

Rule: You can predict many things that will happen to you on stage. Therefore, you should prepare jokes or lines that you can use to appear spontaneous. And brilliant.

Rule: Blue or dirty humor almost always offends at least one person in the audience. Therefore, don't do it (even if your meeting planner and CEO say it is okay.)

Rule: Audience assistants don't want to be with you on the platform. Therefore, you need to treat them with more respect and appreciation than you might guess.

Rule: Dentistry is expensive. Therefore, brush after every meal.

Rule: It is really hard to know if a written joke is funny. Therefore, the only way you can be certain that a joke is funny is to try it in front of an audience. Several times.

“Life is fun & funny. And filled with magic.”

Rule: Comedy ain't easy. Therefore, study it! Give yourself time.

Rule: Our audiences like to see us having fun and enjoying ourselves and our jobs. Therefore, occasionally crack yourself up.

Rule: Jokes are property. Just like stories. Therefore, don't swipe 'em!

Rule: You never know when you might be in an accident. Therefore, always wear clean underwear.

Resources:

For some great jokes and techniques for all speaker situations, see

What to Say When. . . You're Dying on the Platform: A Complete Resource for Speakers, Trainers, and Executives by Lily Walters

Wake 'em Up! Business Presentations by Tom Antion

For great (and funny) interview techniques, listen to Michael Feldman's What Do Ya Know Radio Show (NPR) www.notmuch.com

Five cool interview questions from Brad...

What's your name? (Don't worry... this one isn't included in the "five.")

Do you have any secret passions? Hobbies?

What would you be doing if you weren't here?

What is the best part of this group/company/association?

What is the WORST part of this group/company/association?

What do you do? What does that mean? (Probe deeper!)

Study comedy books. Here are two examples. (There are dozens out there):

Comedy Writing Secrets by Melvin Helitzer

Comedy Writing Step By Step by Gene Perrett

For tips on how to use your squeaker, go to www.bradmontgomery.com/fun_games/squeakers.html