



"The Emcee can Make or Break a Show. They are Specialists in making sure the audience feels welcome."

-- Bud Friedman

How to be a Great Host (Emcee)



How Important is the Emcee?

The emcee can make or break a show. If the emcee fails at connecting with the audience and establishing a sense of community. (Making them feel like they are a part of something)

What is an Emcee or M.C.?



Being an Emcee or M.C. MC is an acronym for Master of Ceremonies. You are in control of the destination of the show.

You are the host. Think of being an emcee like you are a teacher or a tour guide. You are guiding your audience through this experience while keeping their attention by keeping them entertained.

Think of it as these people are in your house. Your job is to make them feel comfortable.

You're the boss. You are the "go-to" person. A good emcee could be kind or brash.

One of the best emcees I've seen is a snarky, edgy, take-no-prisoners type of character who we will take a look at in a moment.

Fallacy vs. Reality

Use the new comedians to host shows = BAD

Being selected as a host in Vegas = \$\$\$\$

You're the ringmaster that's why they call it M.C. Master of Ceremonies.

- **Being a good Emcee is a blend of...**

- Confidence
- Being a good party host
 - This is your house
 - They are welcome



- Creating Community
 - Asking Questions of the Audience
 - Making the audience feel superior
 - Tell them about an audience from
 - Last night's show
 - An experience you had with an audience member from another show.
 - Pretend to know someone in the crowd.
 - Gamifying the Crowd (Here's where crowd work comes in)
 - Give out Prizes
 - Crowd Work
 - Effective, simple crowd work that's also inclusive, spontaneous and fun.
 - You can create tension, but your safest bet is to keep it on the lighter side until you've gained enough experience to make it edgy.
 - Developing Rapport with the Audience
 - *"Oh my god, I want to take you with me on the road"*
 - *"I hope my 'Ex' sees this!"*
-
- Game Show Host
 - Audience Warm Up
 - Corporate Host
 - Product/Brand Representative
 - Toyota Spokesperson
 - Weather Presenter
 - Think about the weatherperson, all they are doing is giving out information, but they are entertaining. Sometimes they quip in between bits of information.



I. Eliminating Nervousness by Admitting you are Nervous

- A. On the stage admitting vulnerability makes you appear in control. It inspires:
 - 1. Trust
 - 2. Confidence
 - 3. Reciprocity
 - 4. Desire to connect
- B. Nervousness is Natural. EVERYONE is Nervous. It should always be there.
- C. Body to Mind and Mind to Body
- D. Be absolutely mindful of how your audience is doing. Is everyone okay. Anyone need a beverage?

Opening Jokes:

Start out with a fact:

Ellen at the Oscars.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUmX6CiMoFk>

Welcome to the Oscars. To those of you watching around the World, it has been a tough couple of days for us here... It has been raining. We're fine. Thank you for your prayers.

Welcome to the Oscars. To those of you watching around the World, it has been a tough couple of days for us here... It has been raining. We're fine. Thank you for your prayers.

Don't chase the audience. Just talk to them. Let's watch **Jimmy Kimmel at the Oscars**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCnbAAgfxH8>



Chris Rock at the Oscars

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqhVNZgZGqQ>

Gazillionaire 1 Absynthe

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9PZ_msNThmw

Gazillionaire 2 Absynthe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WNewdT0smA>

Welcome to the Oscars. To those of you watching around the World, it has been a tough couple of days for us here... It has been raining. We're fine. Thank you for your prayers.

Good News Bad News. Information + Funny = Riveting Entertainment
Contain Irony.

I ate these potatoes with big fat pieces of garlic. Like 12 of them for breakfast.

Next day I woke up with a rager. My dick was harder than math.

Good News Because I had Six Cloves of Garlic I had a rager.

Bad News: Because I had six cloves of Garlic, nobody wants to get near me.

TALK to US!

Don't talk too fast.

Don't yell.

One of the worst things I think you can do is to yell into a microphone to replace your legitimate excitement.

Enunciation is Key. I've been listening to this podcast called The Last Podcast on the Left. It's a podcast on conspiracy theories and horror



movies. It's also very humorous. My son introduced me to it. He's the king of podcasts. What struck me about this podcast is the skill these broadcasters have at communication and enunciation. They don't lose their energy while still making sure every word is clearly understood.

Enunciation can be used to your advantage to emphasize phrases and inject excitement into what you are saying.

DO'S

Talk to us and BE YOU!

Up the enthusiasm just a bit, we will be able to read immediate enthusiasm or not.

Talk to the audience. Your main concern is that they are comfortable and entertained

- Practice being enthused during an intro without increasing the volume.
 - Write out an intro line.
 - Add a little something
 - IE: This next comedian has being doing some really interesting stuff...
-

Clip if Jimmy Kimmel at the Academy Awards

Clip if Seth Meyers at the Espys

Clip of Billy Crystal at the ACADEMY AWARDS

Clip of the Gazillionaire at Absynthe

DON'TS



- Don't use volume to replace genuine excitement
- Don't make all the jokes about yourself.
- It's not about you it's about the show and the comedians
- Blend your jokes with being present and available to the audience.
- Enhance your crowdwork
- Don't be fake, just be real and talk to us.
- Preframe the comedian well in a supportive way without setting the bar too high. IE: This next comedian is the funniest comedian I've ever seen...
-
- Don't preframe the comedian with negative information or information that puts the audience in a down mood.
 - Oh my god, Kobe just died! This next comedian is a big fan of Kobe, please welcome...

Bring 3x5 cards and a couple of pens. Have the comedians write down what they want you to say about them.

Number the cards and put them in your pocket. Now you have a system to keep track of who is next and what you're supposed to say about them. Memorize the intro for each comic before you bring them up. Don't put too much pressure on yourself if you don't memorize everything. You don't have a teleprompter and mistakes will be made. If anyone makes a huge deal about you messing up their intro, it's THEIR problem not YOURS. Apologize, correct your mistake with the audience and move on. NOBODY in this business can hurt you.

END with their name.



Is anyone celebrating a birthday.

Let's practice clapping

Let's practice laughing.

Insert a fact: Did you know that whether you laugh spontaneously or intentionally, your brain releases the same "feel good" hormones?

And if you force yourself to laugh. Just laugh, you can change your mood.

One of the things in charge of our mood is hormones. So if you're laughing and releasing the feel good hormones, you are replacing the bad feelings with good feelings!

ASK the Club if there are any Drink or Food specials to promote.

Do they have mailing list cards for the audience to fill out?

Are there prizes to give away?

If you are a good Emcee you'll be asked to do other work.

TYPES of WORK you can get as an Emcee/Host

When a comedian gets up on stage and reveals their flaws, their hangups, their insecurities it is perceived by the audience as confidence. It's the opposite of what we've been told our entire lives. It's certainly the opposite of what we expect from our rockstars or rap artists. It's definitely the opposite of what they expect from us in the corporate world.

Vulnerability is perceived as a weakness in those environments but on that stand-up stage, they are perceived as courageous.



So if we want to meet the goal of demonstrating confidence we can accomplish this in a few different ways.

1. Having a good opening joke that gets a laugh in less than 15 seconds, (that also has very high odds of getting a laugh every time).
2. Quickly develop community.
3. Give the audience a reason to root for you.

High Advantage Openings

Types of Openings to Use:

Announcement Openings:

If you have a cellphone turn it to vibrate.

I was moving up the chain as a comedian. I was featuring at the Improv in Las Vegas. I know they liked me, because they had me back like 4 times a year! For those of you in the know, they usually have you once or twice a year. But 4 times is unusual. But what was clear to me is that they liked what I was doing.

Then things changed. The guy running the club (also the head of Entertainment for the Riviera Hotel), broke off the franchise agreement with the Improv. He closed the Improv and opened it up months later as the Riviera Comedy Club.

He called me and asked me if I would Emcee. What?!

I felt like I was demoted! I was a little pissed off, humiliated, humbled.



Then the entertainment director said, (in a voice that sounded like a goomba in the movie Good Fellas), “I know you love dis stuff. That’s why I want you to emcee. Because the emcee represents my club. I’m gonna pay you the same you were gettin’ before and I’m gonna ‘tro you some extras.”

I decided to do the gig and boy did it pay off! I not only MC’d 3 shows a night, but the second night I was told that some people were there to see me. I did my thing and wound up getting booked for the week for a comedy break at Crazy Girls (the burlesque show) in the showroom next door. They paid me \$2500 for that. So for the comedy show at the Riviera and the burlesque show pay, for the week, I was making more than the headliner!

After that I wound up being asked to host what they call the Marquis Show or the Anchor Show at the Riviera. You know when you see the big hotel marquis? They always have the big marquis show featured on the marquis.

The show at the Riviera was Splash! So for a while that huge marquis said “Splash with Jerry Corley”

Ways to get good:

Do a podcast.

Host Your Own Show.

Any type of practice you can do where you are the host, the leader, the teacher, the presenter, is good practice.

During the podcast-type show you should be sure to blend information with punchlines. Could be facts about you or something outside of you. Could be housekeeping items:

- Where are the bathrooms



- Rules of the Room
 - No video recording
 - No flash photography
 - Drink Specials
 - Food Specials
 - Bathrooms
- Special Announcements
 - I like to come up with “Special Announcements” It’s where I pretend to be looking at a note on a piece of paper and I say, “I have a special announcement: There’s a silver Toyota parked in Louis CK’s parking spot. You don’t have to do anything. Just don’t be surprised if on the hood, you find a fresh coat of Turtle Wax... Just a heads up.”
Or... **“Special Announcement:** “There’s a Blue Nissan Armada parked in Carlos Mencia’s parking spot. You don’t have to do anything, but don’t be surprised if there’s damage to the upholstery after he stole some of your material.”

[Write some High-Advantage openers.](#)

[Write some Hip-Pocket Jokes](#)

Get personal 1 on 1 Coaching with Jerry just follow [this link](#) to learn more!

