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Give Presence Not Presents

By Rachel Webb

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by: **Rachel Webb**

Throughout the year we have many gift-giving opportunities to show love to those around us. From Christmas to Birthdays, Valentines Day and more, our thoughts turn to finding the perfect gift. Before you shop and wrap remember that our loved ones need more of our presence than our presents! This type of gift giving uses more creativity, less of our money and more of our heart. Need some ideas on how you can give of your presence and not just store bought presents?

DINNER FOR 2

Instead of purchasing restaurant gift certificates for someone, invite them to dinner with you! Make sure they understand that you are picking up the tab as your gift to them, but the real gift will be the time you get to spend together.

SHOPPING SPREE GIFTS

My mother simply hates shopping for me. She also hates shopping with me. Ok, she hates shopping period. But she knows how much I love it! That's why it is such a wonderful gift to me when she takes me on a shopping spree for my birthday every year. If you had planned to buy a loved one something at the store, you can still give of your presence too. Invite your special someone to come pick it out with you. I still remember when I was younger, and a boyfriend took me shopping. He had me model the knit sweater for him before he bought it for me. The sweater is long gone and moth eaten but the memory is still knit tightly in my mind.

COUPONS

Clipping coupons is an excellent way to save money when shopping but they are also a great way to save money when gift giving. The home computer has made coupon books easy and professional looking. Trying to think creatively about what your loved one needs is the hardest part of making

meaningful coupons. Would your husband love his own indoor tailgate party with a coupon for a night of uninterrupted football coverage complete with his favorite snacks and drinks? Or maybe your young teenage daughter needs a coupon book offering taxi rides anywhere her and her friends want to be chauffeured for the night? You get the idea. Be creative.

INCENTIVES & BRIBES

Whatever politically correct word you use, incentives for children to get good grades or allowance given to complete weekly chores or reach behavioral goals are generally money or present oriented. I would like to suggest that you substitute presence for presents in this situation too once in a while. My parents used to take me to a good movie when I got good grades at the end of each quarter, even if I would have preferred the cash like my friends got, it strengthened our relationship more than the money ever would have.

When I was potty training my oldest daughter, instead of giving her candy to reinforce her efforts, I would let her draw an activity from a jar. She knew that I would drop everything and give her my undivided attention and presence to read her a story, color with her, eat a Popsicle with her, etc. Now that this same daughter is 8 and she would much rather have me cater and entertain at her sleep over party, than to be given an allowance as appreciation for doing her chores!

If you truly believe that Time = Money, than give a gift worth it's wealth in gold.

Author Rachel Webb has been married 9 years and enjoys 4 children. She designs 100% Magnetic Fridge Calendars in order to Schedule Family First. 5 affordable designs made entirely out of heavy duty magnet

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The Tricky Connections Of Magic And Stage Presence

By Preston Houer

When a performer learns his skills, he knows that part of those skills is his ability to control his audience's interest. This can be done through perfect incorporations of confidence, focus, projections, facial expressions, attention, etc.

Along with any performer, magicians know how important it is to have stage presence. In fact, it is the single most elusive factor that they need whenever they perform on stage or in any shows.

However, as simple as it may sound, acquiring or learning the art of stage presence is no easy job.

Acquiring stage presence involves a continuous learning process, where every magician should gain knowledge on combining all the needed skills in order to hook the audience's attention.

So for those who want to learn how to obtain stage presence, here are three easy steps that will definitely catch the audience's interest and keep them glued to their seats:

1. A good performer knows the role

When it comes to performance, those who know how to portray their roles best are those that are greatly applauded.

Why? Because they perform as if it is their true personality. In this way, the audience will be able to feel the reality that exudes from every move and every word that the performer delivers.

For magicians, owning the role is defined on how he defines his character. A good magician should know where he gets his "power," convictions, thoughts, the things he has learned, etc.

2. Get real!

Stage presence is all about projecting reality. Even if 100% originality can't be achieved, the important thing in order for a magician to gain stage presence is to appear as real as possible.

Even if it has been a well-known fact that magic is just an illusion, to create a realistic view on stage is one area that will put the audience in astonishment and admiration.

Moreover, even if all the tricks of a magician are copied from the works of others, it is still important to create an original work that will distinguish him from the others.

3. Love the craft

Stage presence is all about learning to love one's craft. Therefore, magicians should learn how to love their craft by being knowledgeable on what they do. If the audience can see how expert the magician is, chances are, their attention will be more focused on the show.

Indeed, magic and stage presence is such an important combination in order to keep the audience completely glued to their seats.

Preston Hauer has been involved with the art of illusion and sleight of hand for over 30 years. Let Preston show you how to Have Fun With Magic. Visit His Site Today!

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