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100% Effective Natural Hormone Treatment
Menopause, Andropause And Other Hormone Imbalances
Impair Healthy Healing In People Over The Age Of 30!

Performance and Gigs

By Scott Thomas

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"For optimum amp tone onstage, plug your amp into your own AC outlet.." – Eric Johnson

DOING GIGS

In my opinion, there are two kinds of performers:

- 1 – Concert performers -- who do well in front of a sit-down audience
- 2 – Club performers -- who do well in a noisy atmosphere

Next you have to consider if you are going to be performing your own material or covers or both.

If you decide to do covers, here are some good tips:

- 1) The song should really move you.
- 2) Make the song your own, otherwise after awhile you'll just feel like "parrot" for someone else's material (and to me there's far less creativity in that – just my opinion mind you).
- 3) Cover Songs are great ice-breakers and shouldn't be overlooked as great tools for any songwriter to use. Do covers, from artists who lend to your style in one way or another. Opening with a recognizable cover song really helps an audience relate to you and get an idea of where you're coming from as an artist ... and also helps them relate more to your originals, too.

Selling yourself:

Get your Bio / Demo ready for the Concert Promoters & Club Owners.

Performance and Gigs

I've read a bunch of stuff about preparing demo submissions for venues, with bio's and clippings and stuff like that – but I'm sure there's more to it than that?

You don't need much. No club owner or mgr. is gonna want a 20 page book on you, nor will he/she be impressed with elaborate artwork and/or printing. Just a single sheet of paper that briefly and concisely states what type of artist you are, what kind of songs you play, how you interact with an audience and where you've played or are playing ... and a CD with either 3 or 4 whole songs, or 6–8 songs that each fade after a minute. That, along with a congenial introduction and followup calls will be enough.

Performance anxiety can be an issue. Fortunately, most musicians overcome this in a short period of time – I've found that going to open mics, just getting up there and doing it has helped immensely. Find a supportive group of people in your genres'scene.

Here are some tips to help you...

1 – Know your material and your performances upside down and backwards. You have to be able to play your songs and not mess up under any situation, and the way to do that is to KNOW them well ... memorization ... playing a song and working out each and every measure of it until you know it blind-folded. Then, if something bizarre happens while you're in the middle of a performance, muscle-memory and instinct will take over and you won't be thrown.

2 – Know your strengths ... know which songs are "yours" and which songs aren't. In effect, build a really strong set list. When someone like Bruce Springsteen cuts a new album, he'll record 50 songs ... 12 of those wind up on the album we hear and the other 38 go to other artists to do.

3 – LOOK unique. Dress yourself in a way that makes a statement. You know from my previous posts that I believe in dressing the way you always dress; to not be pretentious or something you're not ... but that doesn't mean that you want to look like the guy next door. You want to create an "image" ... just make it an honest one. So you usually wear jeans and a t-shirt? Fine. Just add some accents that make it all yours. A unique pair of glasses (if you wear them), a very special vest, a wardrobe of scarves, purple boots or hand painted sneakers ... whatever separates you from the average guy walking down the street and doesn't make you look like you're trying to be someone who lacks sincerity or who has lost all sense of reality.

With the above going on, you're going to FEEL confident, because you ARE ... and THAT sells.

Hello... my name is Scott Thomas and this is my Contact Page. I live in the Austin Texas area. The so-called Music Capital of the World. I love playing the guitar and everything that goes with it. I grew up in this cultural music town seeing some of the best guitar players ever. Need advice ... whatever, give me a shout! If you would like to contact me, please e-mail: riffmaster@guitarz-for-ever.com

To Certify or Not to Certify

By Ted Belfour

Performance and Gigs

To certify or not to certify? That's a good question.

If you are a mystery shopper, or hope to become one, you may have heard about mystery shopping certification. The Mystery Shopping Providers Association of North America provides such certification which the organization states simply lets potential clients know that you possess the basic skills needed to provide the shopping service. The basic skills test can be taken online and the fee is nominal. A more expensive certification is available and for that fee you get a certain amount of training and updated mystery shopping industry literature for the ever changing field.

Is certification necessary? No.

It might help you get a foot in the door if a company is hiring mystery shoppers and has had a bad experience with an unqualified shopper in the past. Other than that, certification won't get you any more shopping gigs than if you don't have it. On the other hand, being certified and part of an organization like the Mystery Shopping Providers Association might keep you posted on additional opportunities.

While it is always true that you should not have to pay to be a mystery shopper, certification is a little different. When you choose to get certified, you are not paying to get more mystery shopping gigs. Instead, you are paying to receive updated information about a job area that is changing as rapidly as the need for mystery shoppers is. In other words, you are paying for learning materials. And, since knowledge is power, that makes for a good case in favor of certification.

Please note, too, that not only does certification NOT guarantee you more jobs, it does not guarantee you more pay either. Maybe some day certification will raise the standard in the mystery shopping industry, but for right now, that's just not the case.

If you are trying to decide whether or not to get certified, it's basically your call. Weigh out the pros and cons of your particular situation. If you think you would benefit from the training that certification would offer but you don't want to put any money up front, wait until later.

Mystery shopping can be a fun and rewarding job. Many people are making additional income by being a mystery shopper part time. The job is one that is easily tailored to fit your work, school or family schedule. In most cases, you can take your family along as long as the assignment is family oriented.

Dave is the owner of

and

websites

that provide information on mystery shoppers.



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