

CHAPTER 2

There are many different types of hosts and many different shows to host and a couple different ways to approach them. Let's address co-hosting and the dreaded co-host audition.

Co-hosting is tricky because you need to have chemistry, or to rephrase: you need to *create* chemistry. Don't get me wrong: bad chemistry can sometimes be better than great chemistry, but having no chemistry is death. Many people who audition know that these co-hosting auditions can be a very daunting and sometimes damaging task. I specialize in this kind of casting and you would be so surprised or maybe even amazed at the many people who let someone else ruin their chance at a job. Great co-host chemistry examples would be Regis and Kelly, Regis and Kathy Lee, Johnny Carson and Ed McMann, all the girls on The View, even if you hate them, Howard Stern and Robin Quivers, Annabelle Gurwhich and Paul Gilmartin from "Dinner and a Movie."

A prime example about co-hosting from my personal experience as a casting director would be from when I was casting "Dinner and a Movie" for TBS. We were doing the final call back for the network, and we brought back 2 guys and 3 girls to mix and match to see who had great on-camera chemistry together. We would bring in one guy and one girl and then we would have that one guy do their read with the two other girls. Annabelle Guhrwhich did the first test/read with Paul Gilmartin, and you could tell that Paul thought she was annoying. To be truthful, so did I, and so did the rest of the network suits, but as they worked together something clicked with their funny disdain for each other. And BAM! Just like Emeril says, there it was: instant chemistry.

The key here is to create chemistry that really is about you being in the moment, and to not live in your head. What that means is: you want to really react not "act-react" and to allow for that chemistry to form organically. That *organic* chemistry is the trick, because you don't have that much control over your co-host unless you live in the moment and you create it from that place of being truthful and expressing your point of view.

Here are some valuable tips to controlling your co-host audition:

- 1) Ask them their name as you walk into that audition room.
- 2) During your read, exchange names a lot so as to create a relationship right off the bat.
- 3) Go in with no copy in your hand and try to really just hit the bullet points in the copy because, nine times out of ten, when you start to feel no connection you will start to connect with your sides instead of your co-host. When this starts to happen we, as the casting director or producers, start to think that *clearly* this person can't co-host or coexist with someone

else on stage with them. It's called working in a vacuum. If this happens to you, if you see this person staring straight at their copy and not engaging with you, you can say "Hey <insert name>, put down the copy – let's work off of each other and hit the major bullet points." Remember: Get them to connect. After all, this is your audition too!

To sum up: if you're out of your head and really in the moment, you can "connect" – which is simply REACTING, not ACTING like you're REACTING.

Another great tip if your partner is still caught up in their copy is to ask them a question about what they are reading. That should get them out of their copy and connecting with you. Also, you are showing the casting director that you are totally connected and in control. That first audition all we casting people are really looking at is who you are, what your personality is about: are you funny? Wacky? Smart? Glib? Dry? Quick? So later when we do the chemistry test with the people we really like, we will know how to pair you up. So go for it!

I always say to talent that I would rather someone come in at a 150 mph and for me to slow them down to 100 mph because the reality in any kind of audition is that when talent comes in with something we will give them a note or an adjustment. Also with co-hosting try to be real or reveal something about yourself, make yourself a human being. This will also help us later pair you up with someone we actually think you will have chemistry with...so bring it. You are probably saying to yourself "Wow, this is really a place I can't hide in," like you could acting. So you need to start to figure out who you really are and why you want this. What is it about you that makes you different and unique? Dig deep, because everybody doesn't get to be on TV just because they have the desire or someone on their MySpace page told them they were cute. You get my point. There really is a lot more to be a great host in this town and on TV.

Recap on co-hosting bullet points:

- 1) Don't come in with the copy (really).
- 2) Engage your co-host within the first 35 seconds. DO IT! Even if your CO-HOST sucks, use it.
- 3) Show me who you are, you're not a team yet. I want to see both of you work great together. it would make my job easier, so work well together and help each other IMPROV but remember IMPROV is always agreeing, never going against.

Person A: Hey look I'm building a boat.

Person B: No your not, it's a plane.

NO! Listen, be in the moment. Listen and react.

Find your true authentic self.

AND REMEMBER YOU CAN CREATE CHEMISTRY EVEN IF THE PERSON IS ANNOYING. Believe it or not that can be genius chemistry.

