

THE FIRST BITE

THE HARSH TRUTH ABOUT FIRST IMPRESSIONS

- Unconscious snap judgment formed in first 7-17 seconds of new encounter
- Survival instinct: We filter out unnecessary information in order to act quickly
- Snap judgments consistently match opinions based on much longer exposure
- We reinforce our own perceptions by negating contradictory information
- We are reluctant to modify our opinion (takes 10-30 times as much opposing info)

WHAT INFLUENCES FIRST IMPRESSIONS?

Factors you CAN'T control –

- The other person: experiences, attitudes, beliefs, values, education, mood
- The environment: sound, lighting, ambience

Factors you CAN control –

- Your appearance, to a certain degree
- Your attire, body language, demeanor, actions

WHAT COMPRISES THE FIRST IMPRESSION OF A STAGE PERFORMANCE?

CREATIVITY – suitable, not random

HAIR – high and tidy

MAKEUP – dramatic

DETAILS – impeccable fit and grooming

COSTUME

- **FIT** – Loosely draped; Uniform across quartet; No apparent body parts
- **COLOR** – Black, White, Blue, Purple, Green, Teal, Red, Pink, Pastels, Gold/Silver
- **FABRIC** – Suitable to image/performers/design; Color under stage lights; Tidiness
- **DESIGN** – Dress, Gown, Suit, Ensemble, Neckline, “The Skin Factor”

BEHAVIORS THAT CREATE A 1ST IMPRESSION OF COMMAND

- Energy The #1 “product” the audience came to buy
- Confidence Creates ease so audience can trust you with their heart
- Timing The detail that separates amateurs from professionals
- Connection The reason behind it all

HOW TO START AT “A-LEVEL”

The Walk-on

- Enter before name is announced
- Walk - energized, composed, confident, proud, joyful
- Go directly to wide-spread and evenly-spaced spots
- Acknowledge applause with specific focus

Transitioning to the Microphone

- Cue from one singer and go directly to microphone spot
- Embrace moment with champion posture – energized, confident
- Connect with one another and the audience, not the floor
- Take pitch (if planned)

The Musical Start

- Set the attitude through timing between arriving at mic and singing
- Present a solid start to the song

CONCLUSIONS

- Solidify all musical aspects of performance
- Create an impeccable visual image
- Rehearse every part of stage entrance
- Prepare yourself mentally and physically