

Robin And The Giant

Florida's Favorite Acoustic Children's Duo

A Child's Smile is Everything!

(Or, Seven Steps To Being A Children's Entertainer)

By Larry Whitler ("The Giant" from Robin And The Giant)

If you feel a tugging at your heart to become a children's entertainer then I hope these tips will help you.

I work as a children's entertainer for one simple reason: Because I love it!

I also do plenty of "non-children's" entertainment, which I also enjoy greatly, but my reason for pointing out my love for entertaining children is because I've met a few "children's artists" whom I believe got into it by default (for example, they tried to be a "rock star" and failed).

So, tip number one: Check your heart. Be sure you love entertaining children. For me there is nothing more rewarding than seeing a child smiling. I performed for some beautiful handicapped children many years ago and wished I could just touch them and correct whatever was wrong. Well, I can't do that. BUT, I CAN sing songs, be a little goofy, and, at least for a little while I can bring some joy into their lives!



Tip number two: Be yourself. I'm a bit goofy by nature so that works well for me. My partner, Robin, is sweet by nature and that works for her.

Tip number three: Don't get into this for the money. While there is money to be made in the children's entertainment market, do it for the kids and for yourself! The money should be secondary.

Tip number four: Make product!!! CDs, coloring books, web sites, etc. will be your calling card. Just as in any area of entertainment, the more well known you are the more gigs you'll have. For me, I'm just as happy playing to twenty children at the YMCA as I am to an auditorium full of children. We have a memorable name and parents will always ask if we have CDs or music on the internet. It's good to be able to say "yes"!

Tip number five: Be visual! The first step in this department is FREE! It is your SMILE!!!! A few stage props work out well for us. Cardboard stand-ups of trees, for example, or animals, or anything big, bold, and enchanting! Robin uses a puppet in one song and actually goes out into the audience with the puppet while I sing a solo number and the kids love it!

Tip number six: Speak to the audience and try to look at everyone! Forget that notion of "looking at the back wall"!!! Be intimate with your audience. Cute little stories before a song are great (keep them short, though.)

Tip number seven: Have fun!

By the way, we have enjoyed quite a bit of airplay on children's radio stations. This is a wonderful "fringe benefit" because it enables children to be entertained in parts of the world we'll probably never get to. So my "bonus tip" is to make your music available by mailing out your CDs and making your music available as internet downloads!

That's it! Hope to share a stage with you sometime!

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Quill And Keyboard Productions

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