

KMVT 15~Top Twelve Tips for Talent..

1. **Enjoy** yourself. It shows!
2. **The Magic Bubble** -- Stay in the Magic Bubble. What looks wonderful is if you, the host, and other guests are having a riveting conversation. Once the show begins, ignore *all* of the hubbub. Never glance out of the Magic Bubble. The slightest peek shows and makes a person look guilty of something or twitchy.
3. Myth1--Except for the host on occasion, it is a myth that you need to know which camera you are on. The people the **camera** loves are the people who **totally ignore it**.
4. Myth2 -- When you are asked to do a **mic check**, please just describe some subject to the host in an easy, **natural voice**. (For instance, tell about a favorite restaurant or movie or sports team—or even what route you took to get here.) Saying ‘Test 1 2 3’ does not use a normal part of your voice & will give a false audio level. Only one person may speak at a time during a mic check.
5. **Listen** -- Even if the host is talking to another guest, you may be included in a wide shot. Each person should listen as if what the other person is saying came off a mountain on a stone tablet; as if pearls and emeralds were falling from their lips. Avoid rooting through papers and looking at the ceiling--preparing for *your* next answer. It looks rude or dim-witted. The audience can only pay as much attention as you do.
6. **Fake Talk** -- Many shows will ask you to begin with Fake Talk. Before you & the host actually begin your real conversation, the TV audience will see a wide shot of the two of you apparently having a fascinating conversation behind the opening title & music. If your show uses ‘Fake talk,’ after you hear “Quiet on the Set,” you and the host will ‘fake talk’ until the host is cued. Do lots of nodding and use hand gestures freely. If you both sit stiffly silent, it looks like a scene from the land of the living dead.
7. **Two Words** -- When the host thanks you at the end, just nod and say two words: “Thank You.” If you say more, the host may be forced to cut you off and that makes the audience feel uncomfortable.
8. The **Yogi Berra Rule** – “It ain’t over ‘til it’s over.” After the host signs off, the show is not over. Stay in the Magic Bubble because you will still be seen in the wide shot for up to a minute & 1/2 while the credits roll. A quick glance out of the Magic Bubble to see what’s going on wrecks the illusion.
9. Interesting TV does not care about pretty-ness; it reveals inner beauty and admires authentic passion, however quietly expressed.

KMVT 15 Top Twelve Tips for Talent..continued

10. **Dare to Smile** – Grin like a fool, nod, and gesture. Being more expressive than feels quite comfortable will look about right.
11. **No Papers** – You know your subject intimately. Trust yourself. Trust the host. Just share what you know in a normal conversation. Rustling through papers actually makes you look badly prepared and it sounds awful. If you must, put three to five **points to cover** on an index card. Points to cover use phrases only, no complete sentences.
12. **Coffee Shop Technique** – If I met you at a coffee shop, you would have no trouble intensely explaining each iota of what your subject is. You are already prepared to talk about your subject.
13. The **Gesture Box** (An advanced tip) – The close-up includes a person from the top of the head to the solar plexus and about as wide as the shoulders. If this is a one-time appearance, don't think about it, but if you are on TV fairly regularly, or are the host, teach yourself to gesture *under* your chin and *above* your solar plexus (breastbone), and *no wider* than the shoulder joint. This will include your wonderfully hypnotic and expressive hands in any shot.
14. **Thank you for helping with this show at KMVT 15!**
We really appreciate your time and talent.

**copyright 2001 mountain view community
television**