**The Chosen**

Over the past weekend I attended and annual festival in Seattle, WA called "Bumpershoot". It host all different types of entertainment from demo video games, to mainstream music artists and up and coming comedians. While I would consider my $70 well spent, I was surprised at the lack of preparation (and in some cases talent) of the showcased entertainment, which made me question the chosen ones we decide to put on a pedestal and what they have achieved to deserve this attention and accolade.

The first event I attended was "Why twerking, why beards, why now". Going into this, and judging by the description on the itinerary, I was thinking this would be and intellectual debate/forum on recent pop fads with maybe some history  and potential implications of cultural shifts as these continue from some credible sources. Unfortunately, nothing could be further than the truth. The panaelist's, for the beards forum, only credentials were that.....wait for it.....he was able to grow a beard. No article, blogs, popular FB posts written, just that his DNA allowed him to grow a beard. His thoughts and opinions were minimal at best and uninspiring. His opposite, speaking on the trend of twerking, had some credibility as he was a native of New Orleans, where the dances originated, and was currently a dancer in the "Big Freedia" spectacle (which I'll get into later). Unfortunately, no real revelations or conversations were had, only a display of his "So you think you can dance" audition video and promo vignettes of the upcoming season of his reality show. All in all, my personal opinion was that the whole thing was a disaster and a whole waste of time, but, they made it to the stage.

Later in the day, I went to a comedy variety showed labelled "Piggy Back". The format goes, a stand up comedian would do their shtick for approximately five minutes, then a team of improv artists would then elaborte on certain punchlines, turning them into a comedic scenerio. It sounds more complicated then it actually is. I understand all comedy isn't for everyone, but aside from a chuckle here and there, I don't recall laughing that much, or any memorable jokes, from either the stand ups or the improv team, but again, they made it to the stage.

Lastly, was the Big Freedia performance. I'll make this one short, it was literally one song, played for 45 minutes, with a variety of dance commands and a plethora of ass twerking on stage. Nothing more, nothing less, for 45mins. I can state my personal feelings on the performance, but the point is, they made to the stage. They all made it to the stage.

As I reflect on my experience, I still can't identify any common denominator to the age old question, "how did they get to the stage, at this level of exposure?". No level of skill, performance, attire, Facebook likes, or Twitter followers was on par with the other. Michael Gladwell, in his highly review book "Outliers" break down success into 4 main categories: talent, opportunity, preparation (10,000 hours), and privilege.  Although I agree all 4 are crucial to long term success, life, and plenty of public examples, would show that all four don't hold equal weight to getting on the stage. If I had to add a fifth category to success, it would be the called being "chosen". Some would state that this would fall into "opportunity" but it's more than being given an opportunity, it's what allows others to be picked for these opportunities over others; to be chosen. The truth is, you could have the talent, seek the opportunities, prepare for those opportunities which could have privileged outcomes, but unfortunately, there is no rhyme, reason, or pattern to being chosen, it's really the intangible of luck. Yes, anyone could be chosen, but not everyone will be chosen.

To use a metaphor, you can have a talent for math, and a background in finance (preparation). You then go to the local store and purchase a lottery ticket (opportunity), to win $10,000 at a store that has produced 10 winners (privilege). Although all of those factors work in your favor, all of them have very little to do you winning based off that one lottery ticket purchase. If you are a fan of probablity, you fully understand the difference between causation and correlation, if not, please look it up.

I say all of that to say this, by all means, embellish on your talents, create and pursue opportunities and with those opportunities, prepare for the privilege that may become of those and always try to reach your goals, because one day, there is no guarantee, but one day, you might be chosen. Don't f\*ck it up