



***It's Your Choice...  
...It's Your Life!***

**by Cris Johnson, CH, CT.NLP**

**Introduction:** Thank you for your investment in the “How to Make a Ton of Money Performing in High Schools,” and I hope you enjoy using the programs included. In this booklet, I’ll be covering “It’s Your Choice, It’s Your Life,” which is the program I present most often to a high school audience.

Most high school clients want an assembly to focus on respect, responsibility, and other positive character traits. This program fits the bill perfectly.

As I mentioned elsewhere in the course, while many teen audiences are quite boisterous, the fact is they’re thankful to be out of classes, so at the start of your program, in a daytime assembly program, you’ve got built-in goodwill when you start the show...the key is keeping it going!

Before we dive in, I also want to mention that there is a small chunk of the script in which I share my own experiences with the audience. I covered the benefits of this in the main course manual, but briefly, by sharing something of yourself, your connection to your audience will be strengthened.

I’ll cover the script first and then mention where I got the specific effects and, in many cases, I’ll also mention cheaper alternates. For now, let’s get into the specific script of...

## **“It’s Your Choice, It’s Your Life!”**

### **BOWL-A-RAMA**

#### *Intro*

**(Music starts. Cris walks out on stage carrying a drawing pad. Audience watches Cris create a bowling ball out of the drawing pad. He drops it to the ground with a loud, solid thud. It’s solid. He picks up the bowling ball and approaches a teen girl in the front row.)**

CRIS

Would you hold this for a second?

GIRL

Uh...yeah.

**(The girl holds the bowling ball briefly.)**

CRIS

Is it real?

GIRL

Yeah.

CRIS (*taking back the ball*)

Thank you! Now that I have your attention, I have to tell you something...

## **RUBIX CUBE**

### *Differences*

CRIS

As I look out in the audience, I see so many different people...it reminds me of this.

**(Cris shows a Rubik's cube.)**

CRIS

See how it's all messed up? When I was a little kid, these stupid things were all the rage. In case any of you haven't seen these before, the way it works is like this – you're supposed to solve it by twisting and turning the sides, so that there's all red on one side, all blue on the other, all green and so on...Anyway, the reason why I brought it here today is because it reminds me of every one of you and every person in the world. See, each one of us is totally different and totally unique...don't worry, I'm not about to ask everyone here to hold hands and chant, "YOU'RE SPECIAL!" I'm likely to get jumped in the parking lot! But it's true because every person is unique. Every person has to find his or her own path. What does it have to do with this cube? The makers of this thing claim you can have like 8 billion different ways of mixing it up...all different, like us.

See, while everyone here may look different on the outside, you all have the same stuff going on inside. You all have hopes, dreams, wants, desires, fears...

**(Cris tosses the cube in the air. It instantly solves itself! The audience bursts into applause.)**

CRIS

This program is called 'It's Your Choice, It's Your Life,' and it's all about making the right decisions in life. About realizing that what you decide today can impact your life in the future. What I'm going to do today is give you a solution – a simple

path to follow that many, many people before you have followed to success. I guarantee that it will work just like...magic.

You may wonder, who are YOU to tell me how to live my life? You have no idea how tough my life has been. You're right, I don't. All I can do is tell you about my life...I was homeless for a while. I know what you're thinking. I can tell, as I look at each one of you, your eyes wide, the concern on your face, you're all thinking...What a LOSER!

See, when we hear the word "homeless" it makes us think of drunks, hobos, and drug users. Well, I was none of those things. See, I didn't get along very well with my parents. My folks divorced when I was very young. For a long time, I let influence me in a bad way. I thought, "Oh, poor me! I'm from a broken home!"

So I basically went through life for many years feeling sorry for myself. I didn't take personal responsibility for my own life, for the things that I could change. I wasn't a leader, I was definitely a follower and boy did I follow BLINDLY! I'll give you an example of what I mean...

This happened when I was in junior high...I don't know what I was thinking, but here it goes...I used to walk home with a friend of mine, also named Chris. Anyway, one winter, on our way home, we discovered a really cool hill with a sidewalk that had frozen completely over with ice. We found out pretty quick that you could get a nice running start and do a killer belly smacker on this thing and slide all the way down. It was a blast. We did it every day for a week.

Well...one day, as we're walking home, the snow had started to melt. A lot. So had the ice. But for some reason, I didn't notice. Anyway, we get to the hill, and Chris starts to run and take a typical belly smacker...when he stops...looks at the hill...looks at me and says, "You go first!"

Well, I started running...I leap into the air and SPLAT! I landed face-down on iceless cement...as I lay there twitching, my supposed best friend comes up to me and says, "Dude...I can't BELIEVE you didn't see the ice was gone!"

After a few minutes of silence, I finally mustered up the strength to say..." As soon as I can move...I'm going to kill you."

Was that smart? Clearly not! I just blindly followed. I literally leapt before I looked! That's okay because I got him back. He's dead now. JUST KIDDING! But back to the homeless thing. After high school, I started going to college. While I was in college, I was working my way, paying for college with a part time job delivering pizzas. There I met a guy named Jim.

Jim was about 19...a year out of high school. The three of us – Jim, his girlfriend and me – all went to a stereo shop one night after work. We get there, and Jim

looks around and eventually finds a car stereo that he likes...loud woofers, whatever...I don't know anything about that stuff. Anyway, he brings the stereo to the counter, the guy scans it, and it comes up \$218, or whatever...So Jim takes a wad of cash out of pocket. He looks at it for a few seconds...and then he hands it to his girlfriend and says, "Can you count out \$218 for me? I can't."

The guy was 19...graduated from high school some how...but couldn't count. As it turns out, couldn't read. I couldn't believe it.

Was it Jim's fault that he couldn't read, couldn't even count his money? I say...yes...partly. It's Jim's life. It's his responsibility to care whether or not he's ready to face the world. Yes, you can make an argument that in a lot of ways his teachers didn't do their jobs, that they failed him...but the fact is, to succeed in life, playing the "blame game" isn't going to get you anywhere!

You'd think that Jim's story would push me to be more responsible, to scare me into caring what happened in life. It didn't. yeah, I was going to college, but I really didn't want to be there. I only did it because my parents wanted me to. I was content to let life take me wherever...I left it up to chance. That reminds me, I planned on something today. I knew not everyone here would be completely into what I'm doing, so I decided to bribe a few of you!

## **Manila Miracle** *Leaving Life to Chance*

**(Cris takes out 5 small envelopes, each labeled with a number, 1-5. At this point, Cris picks four volunteers to stand up near the front of the group.)**

CRIS

What I want you four to do may seem kind of strange. Inside these envelopes are four prizes. Inside one envelope is something I really don't want you to have. It's simple – pick one of the four, you may be a big winner! Who knows, it will be fun!

**(Cris allows each person to select an envelope.)**

CRIS

OK, four of you have selected envelopes. You've made all the choices. Open them up and take out what's inside...

**(All four people open up their envelopes, as does Cris. Inside all the envelopes is a lottery ticket.)**

CRIS

Yes, it's a lottery ticket. Will you win? Maybe you will, maybe you won't. The point is, with a lottery ticket, you're leaving it up to chance. I talk to so many people who are just waiting for that big break, for the clouds to open up and just dump money on them.

Take my friend...we'll call him "Bill." He's a magician, has watched me build my business from scratch, and he wants to follow in my footsteps, but he's not willing to work for success. He quit his job, doesn't pay his bills, and is generally miserable in life. I don't know what he's waiting for. He definitely doesn't take responsibility for his life!

Personally, I've learned it's better to take responsibility and KNOW what I can and can't do at any given time. Then I know what I'm up against and I can figure out what my next step is. Oh, by the way, I did tell you that one of the envelopes had something in it that I really didn't want you to have...so it did.

**(Cris opens his envelope again and reveals a \$100 bill, also inside.)**

CRIS

Please give my four friends a big round of applause – I hope you're all winners.

**(The four volunteers return to their seats.)**

CRIS

Back to my college story. I was always pretty smart, so without trying I usually got decent grades, but not like I could have.

I eventually finished college, got a full-time job I hated and eventually moved with one particular friend to Pittsburgh, PA.

I'm not going to say my roommate was a psycho...let's just say we didn't get along all that well. I quickly decided it would be better for me to move out. Moving back in with my parents was not an option. So I decided to move into my workplace. At the time, I was working for a corporation called Ziebart. They were the rust proofing and car alarm guys. So, after deciding to move out, I threw all of my belongings into my car and slept at the shop for the night.

The next day, obviously, my boss was less than thrilled. I stayed there for about two weeks. The owner of the company eventually loaned me some money to get my own apartment. It made for some great jokes while I lived there, though. One day, I told my boss I couldn't make it into work the next day, so I was going to call in sick. Another day, my coworkers were eating lunch in the shop break room...where all of my belongings were piled in a corner. I walked in and told everyone to get out of my house.

You know, I sometimes tell some of these jokes for me!

It would have been really easy for me to give up. I could have just let the tide take me wherever I wound up. I didn't, though. By this time in my life, my mid-20's, I had a strong belief in my self. I used this potentially negative experience of being homeless to empower me. Part of me actually enjoyed it. You see, I knew what I wanted to do with my life.

The only thing I had going for me was the fact that somehow, when I found myself homeless, I enjoyed it. To this day, when I look back on that experience, I look back as THAT'S when I decided to take responsibility for my life.

Am I saying you need to become homeless to figure out what you want from life? Definitely not! I think if I came in with that kind of a message, the school faculty would take me outside, roll me in a carpet and toss me off a bridge!

So, now I'm slowly building my magic business. I began to walk differently, talk differently. My confidence was rising. People began to see me in a new light. It's like when someone you know walks into a room, and you can tell right away if he's in a bad mood. You can influence yourself just by your thoughts. I'll show you what I mean.

## **Hypnosis Pre-Tests**

### *Confidence*

CRIS

I'd like everyone to hold their arms out like this:

**(Cris holds his arms out and clasps his hands together, fingers interlaced, thumbs crossed over one another. The audience follows suit.)**

CRIS

Now I'd like you to extend your first fingers and spread those fingers apart as far as they'll go.

**(The audience complies.)**

CRIS

Great, now close your eyes and listen to the sound of my voice...

**(Everyone in the audience closes their eyes.)**

CRIS

I want you to imagine on your two fingertips are two powerful magnets. Those magnets are drawing your fingertips closer and closer together...with every second that goes by, those magnets are drawing your fingertips in closer and closer together. The closer those fingers go, the more relaxed you feel...

**(Amazingly, most of the audience's fingers are moving closer or even touching!)**

CRIS

Open your eyes and give yourselves a round of applause!

**(The audience applauds.)**

CRIS

Let's try one more! Everyone hold your arms straight out in front of you, about a foot apart with your right hand palm up, left hand palm down.

**(The audience copies Cris' actions.)**

CRIS

Great! Close your eyes...

**(The audience closes their eyes.)**

CRIS

And listen to the sound of my voice...I want you to imagine you have a heavy rock in your right hand. You can feel the weight of that rock getting heavier and heavier. The heavier the rock gets, the further down your right hand goes...the further down your hand goes the more comfortable you feel. Meanwhile, your other hand, your left hand, has a helium balloon tied to it and you can feel that balloon pulling your left hand up higher and higher...the higher your left hand goes, the more comfortable you feel...

**(Amazingly, everyone's hands in the audience are now separated!)**

CRIS

Open your eyes and give yourselves a round of applause!

**(The audience applauds, still stunned from what just happened.)**

## CRIS

So you can influence yourself physically! That was just an imagination test here in the audience. Think how you can influence yourself with things that REALLY matter.

Well, as far as my success, I was halfway there. A few pieces were missing. I eventually moved to Niagara Falls. A girl I knew from high school wanted to see me and after a couple of visits we became engaged and the following year we got married.

When I say I was halfway there, I mean that I knew what I wanted but the people in my life didn't support me. It's sort of like, if you're in a good mood and you go see a friend and they're in a rotten mood...well, it brings you down.

A lot of this has to do with self-esteem. I believe in myself, but if everybody around me is down on what I'm trying to do, saying 'hey you can't make a living doing magic,' I run the risk of allowing myself to have doubts.

Can you do it all by yourself, with no support? Yeah, but it's easier if the people in your life support you. Suppose you have friends who dog out your decision to study and go on to college? You run the risk of people bringing your mood, your beliefs down. It's funny, one thing I hear is talk of the streets. You hear about a certain person. Let's call him person A. Person A lives in the projects, lives in the hood, whatever it's called. A decides that life isn't for him. He starts working hard, studying, getting a job, and gets to the point where he's on the road to doing great things. Maybe he's bought himself a nice new house. Maybe he's giving a ton of money back to the community, to help those less fortunate. But you know what A hears? All he hears is how he abandoned the neighborhood and moved out. It's crazy!

If you hear that kind of talk from supposed friends...I don't know, they don't sound like friends to me. You have to decide for yourself whether or not you're going to let negative people drag you down.

On the other hand, good moods can influence you too.

The point of all this is if you feel the people in your life bringing you down, you have choices: you can make them understand, cut them loose if they don't or hang with people who do understand. Let me show you how people can influence one another.

**PK Touches**  
*Influence*

CRIS

First, we need to recognize that people Influence each other in different ways, and it impacts our social development as people. What I'd like to do now is invite two people up here so we can do an experiment showing influence.

**(Cris selects a couple of teens to join him on stage. The guy stands on Cris' left, the girl on Cris' right.)**

CRIS

Thanks for helping! What's your name?

HELEN

Helen.

CRIS

Thanks for helping me. And sir, your name?

KEITH

Keith.

CRIS

I am going to take this a bit further to show the power of influence we have over one another...I am going to open up between the two of you, a Mental Corridor. I'll need both of you to face the audience, with your arms at your sides. Please close your eyes. Please do not react to anything...remain absolutely still. Also, I'll need it absolutely quiet as I open...the Mental Corridor.

**(Cris moves to Keith, waving his hands around his head. He does the same to Helen. He then taps Keith on his right shoulder twice.)**

CRIS

"Open your eyes! Helen, did you feel something? You felt something touch you, didn't you? Was it one of your shoulders? Which one?"

**(Helen motions her left shoulder)**

CRIS

“The right one? How many times?”

**(She holds up two fingers.)**

CRIS

“Twice...I did NOT touch you, Helen...I did however, touch Keith on his shoulder. He must have sent it over to you...give them both a BIG round of applause!”

**(Helen and Keith return to their seats as everyone applauds.)**

CRIS

Why did I do that...other than it was cool? I wanted to show you how the people in your life can influence you. If people are bringing you down, ask them to stop and if they don't stop, well, you've got to choose whether or not you're going to let someone pull you down.

With me, it wasn't until I had the support of just one person that I had the extra push, that extra something to really become successful. After my wife came into my life, my career just took off.

Six months after I moved to Niagara Falls, I was able to quit my job, buy a new house, two brand new cars and essentially our lives have been a fairy tale ever since.

I had finally taken responsibility for everything that happened in my life. Now, I had some help. I had the support of my wife, the support of most of my friends. I had mentors in my field helping me every step of the way.

## **Osterlind Magazine Test** *Power of Knowledge*

CRIS

Here's the thing...my story doesn't stop there, and neither should yours. There are other things I have done and continue to do to keep achieving new levels of success. One thing is knowledge. In virtually any career, you're going to need to continually educate yourself to stay current. Technology changes. Techniques change. You might as well get used to the idea that you'll keep learning for the rest of your life.

Knowledge is power! I've been out of college for years...and years...and years...it's depressing! But I keep learning. There are classes you can take, online tutorials, mentorships, books, magazines...there is no limit to what you

can learn. Let's try an experiment with knowledge right now. I need someone's help...

**(Cris asks a teen girl to join him on stage.)**

CRIS

Thanks for helping! What's your name?

TASHA

Tasha.

CRIS

Tasha, we're going to do something cool but –

**(Cris' voice trails off as he stares at Tasha. He keeps staring for a few seconds. People in the audience start to chuckle.)**

CRIS

Yeah, you're the one...just a sec.

**(Cris pulls out his chalkboard and a piece of chalk. Holding the board carelessly at his side, everyone can see it's blank.)**

CRIS

Tasha, just let me write down something briefly...

**(Cris begins writing on the chalkboard. When he finishes, he sets the board writing side down on the floor of the stage.)**

CRIS

We'll get back to that a little later. If it works, this will be cool. In the meantime, I mentioned a moment ago the fact that knowledge was power and that it was easy to find. Heck, even Newsweek will keep you up to date in current events.

**(Cris pulls out a copy of the magazine Newsweek.)**

CRIS

In any issue of Newsweek, you've got a ton of articles on sports, foreign affairs, movies, medicine, whatever...

**(Cris flips through the magazine as he talks.)**

CRIS

The one thing I don't get is the fact that these magazines can get shipped from the printing factory to shopping centers and stores all across the country yet this stupid card –

**(Cris holds up a Newsweek subscription card.)**

CRIS

- doesn't fall out until I buy it.

**(The audience laughs.)**

CRIS

Tasha, what we're going to do is very simple. I'm going to have you slide this card into this magazine anywhere you want...more toward the middle because that's where most of the articles are. Hopefully, you'll hit a page with a lot of text because that's what we want. Just slide the card in and leave it sticking out about halfway.

**(Cris hands the card to Tasha. She slides the card in. Cris then opens the magazine to her page.)**

CRIS

Good...a lot of text. Tasha, do me a favor – jot down your name on your page right here in the corner so everyone will know we used the page that you selected.

**(Cris hands Tasha a pen, which she uses as she writes her name in the upper corner of the page.)**

CRIS

Now we need a focal point. Tasha, see that exit sign in front of us? That's going to be our focal point. You're going to stare at that focal point, take the pen, and hold it down as though you were going to write behind your back.

**(Tasha takes the pen.)**

CRIS

Now you're going to take the magazine on the page that you signed and hold that behind your back.

**(Tasha takes the magazine behind her back.)**

CRIS

Finally, Tasha, when I ask you to, I want you to put the point of the pen on the page somewhere toward the middle of the page and draw a circle roughly the size of a dime...all while staring at that exit sign...sounds fun! Do it...now!

**(Tasha fiddles with the magazine for a moment.)**

CRIS

And bring the pen back out...and now bring the magazine so we can see what you've done.

**(Tasha brings the magazine and pen back out from behind her back. Cris takes the magazine and begins to laugh.)**

CRIS

You call that a circle?

**(The audience laughs.)**

TASHA

Well...uh...I...

CRIS

I'm kidding – it's fine...just with a tail. Looks like an iddy-biddy comet.

**(The audience laughs.)**

CRIS

We'll just cross off the tail...

**(Cris uses a pen to cross off the "tail" of the comet.)**

CRIS

Tasha, if you'll take the magazine now...I want you to count up how many words you nicked, touched, circled, or otherwise came in contact with the circle you drew.

**(Tasha counts the words.)**

TASHA

Eight words.

CRIS

Okay, Tasha, you've touched eight words on that page. If you were to imagine the circle as an archery target, which word is most dead center?

TASHA

Fingernails.

CRIS

Fingernails?

TASHA

Yes...Fingernails.

CRIS

Tasha, take a close look at that page. There are thousands of words on that page. You could have circled any group of words...look through the rest of the magazine: you could've chosen any page...in fact, when you go back to your seat, you can even keep the magazine...but you chose that page...of the words you circled, you chose "fingernails."

**(Cris looks over at the chalkboard laying on the floor. He looks back at Tasha and smiles. The audience, sensing what is about to happen, begins to stir. He slowly lifts the chalkboard so only Tasha can read it. Her eyes widen and her jaw drops. Cris slowly spins the chalkboard around to show the audience that he had, in fact, written "Fingernails" on the chalkboard before Tasha even touched the magazine.)**

CRIS

Please give Tasha a round of applause!

**(There is thunderous applause as Tasha walks back to her seat.)**

**Smash & Stab**  
*Staying Away from Danger*

CRIS

Now, there's another key to my success and the success of others that I want to share with you, but first, I need to share something with you. The truth is, for years, entertainers have been risking their lives for the amusement of their audiences. Stuntmen would drive motorcycles over tanks of sharks, magicians would lock themselves in chains and get tossed into a lake and have to hold their breath until they...IF they...get out.

I always thought, even as a kid growing up, "Are these guys stupid?" Well, I'm proud to say that I am just as stupid as they rest! I am going to put my well-being at risk...just for your entertainment.

**(Cheers break out!)**

CRIS

You're sick! I'll need one person to assist me...

**(Cris brings a girl up on stage.)**

CRIS

What's your name?

STACY

Stacy.

CRIS

Thanks for helping! Stacy, I have four Styrofoam cups. Will you take these and check them out? Can you see through them?

**(Stacy says 'no' and examines the cups.)**

CRIS

Perfect! I also have four wooden coasters, like you'd set your drinks on. Three of them are just dandy, while the fourth one has the very dangerous and eccentric addition of a large steel spike mounted in the center.

**(Cris displays all four coasters.)**

CRIS

Stacy, don't touch the point – it's sharp – but just touch it below...it's solid, yes?

STACY

Yes.

CRIS

What we're going to do is try something weird between us. I'm going to turn my back. While my back is turned, I want you to mix up those coasters in any order. Then I want you to cover them each with a cup, again in any order.

**(Cris turns his back as Stacy completes her task.)**

CRIS

When you're finished, let me know. When the coasters are covered, it will be my job to avoid the cup with the spike in it.

STACY

Done.

CRIS

Great!

**(Cris turns around and faces Stacy. The four cups are lined up in a row.)**

CRIS

Stacy, think of each cup as a number: 1,2,3,4. I'm going to say each number. As I say each number, think NO or when I say the number that the spike is under, think YES, got it?

STACY (nervous)

Yes.

CRIS

18

1,2,3,4...

**(Cris repeats the numbers a few times and finally smashes one cup with his hand.)**

CRIS

Stacy, are you nervous?

STACY

Yes!

CRIS

Why? I'M the one that may get hurt! Are you just worried about getting blood all over yourself?

STACY

NO!

CRIS

There are three left. This time, hold up your hand.

**(Cris takes Stacy's wrist and repeats '1,2,3' a few times and smashes another cup.)**

CRIS

Wonderful! Stacy, I'm going to turn my back again. Mix up the last two coasters. Folks, I've used different methods of detection each time. To be honest, I could have gotten lucky. Now, I only have a 50-50 shot of getting lucky and.... I don't like those odds! This time, I must be absolutely sure! Therefore, I will use...

**(Cris turns back to Stacy, one hand outstretched.)**

CRIS

...a method that exists only in science fiction: The Vulcan Mind Meld!

**(The audience laughs as Cris rests his hand, claw-like, on Stacy's forehead. He stares blankly in space for a few moments.)**

CRIS

WILL YOU MAKE UP YOUR FREAKIN' MIND??

**(Stacy laughs nervously. Cris, after a few agonizing seconds, smashes one of the two remaining cups. He lifts the final cup to reveal the spike.)**

CRIS

Stacy, thank you for having such nerve!

**(Stacy is escorted back to her seat by Cris.)**

CRIS

So obviously with that piece, the idea is that I had to avoid the danger and that's the idea that I want to leave with you – stay out of danger! Now what can danger mean to high school students like you?

It can mean a lot of things – it can mean staying away from drugs. I know you guys have alllllll heard about drugs so I'm not going to spend a lot of time on it. But for those of you who think you're immune, let me just mention that I have a brother-in-law who got hooked on drugs in his 20's and now he's in his 40's and he struggles to stay clean every day now. It's tough.

Danger can also mean staying away from negative people like I alluded to earlier. Negativity can really drag you down and it's something that you can control – you can control who you spend your time with. It doesn't matter what I say...it doesn't matter what your parents say...or what your teachers say. It only matters what you decide to do.

And I know you have a lot of questions...questions about life...questions about business, or knowledge, or anything. I can offer this bit of advice – in any career path worth taking there will be people ahead of you who have already been there who can help you on your path. Of course I'm talking about mentors. I found a mentor because I had no idea at all how to get into speaking to groups such as this. I found myself a speaking mentor and began to learn. I didn't know how to market myself – how to let people know what I had to offer, so I went out and found a marketing mentor.

In your lives now, your mentors can be your parents, teachers, counselors...the reason why I'm bringing this up is because mentors can save you so much time. They can save you so much trial and error.

**WATCH ROUTINE**  
*Seeking Out Mentors*

CRIS

Time...so much time can be saved. I'd like to show you something involving time right now. I'll need a student to help out...as well as a teacher to serve as a mentor.

**(Cris brings two people up on stage.)**

CRIS (*to the teacher*)

What's your name?

KEITH

Keith.

CRIS

Thanks for helping!

**(Cris turns to the student.)**

CRIS

And your name is?

HELEN

Helen.

CRIS

Helen, I'd like you to think of a time on a clock. It can be 12:00, 6:54, any time you want. The more precise, the better. Got it?

HELEN

Yes.

CRIS

Now I'd like you to write it down on this card. Nobody's going to believe this, so we'll have it written down so nobody can say you were just playing along. After you write it down, turn the card face down so nobody can see it.

**(Helen does so.)**

CRIS

Keith, is that watch OK?

KEITH

Yeah.

CRIS

OK, as you can see, you can spin the stem and the hands spin, allowing you to set it to any time at all, OK? Now turn the watch face down...lock eyes with your beautiful wife...and spin the watch until you feel COMPELLED to stop...

**(Keith eventually stops.)**

CRIS

Keith, push the stem in. Feel it click? That locks in the time you randomly selected.

**(Keith nods. Cris looks at the watch and writes down the time in large letters on a second pad.)**

CRIS

Keith, I'm only writing it down so everyone can see. Is that the correct time that YOU arrived at on the watch?

KEITH

Yes.

CRIS

OK...Helen just THOUGHT of any time at all. She tried sending it telepathically to Keith. Keith spun the hands of a watch until he felt like stopping. I had NO control over ANY of this....Helen, what random time did you picture in your mind?

HELEN

4:45

**(Cris then turns the pad around. It says 4:45.)**

CRIS

Nice job!

## **FATE?**

*Are Our Choices Ours?*

CRIS

So as people go through life, they have different beliefs. Some people believe that it doesn't matter what you do because everything in life is completely predetermined. Your life is already decided – if you're born poor, you're destined to be poor for the rest of your life.

Other people believe that your life's path is not written – that you can change your future to anything you want. What I believe should be pretty obvious based on everything I've talked about to this point.

Which path will you choose? Your life is not written – you can decide for yourself what you will or will not accomplish. Let's try something. This experiment will show you, if it works, that you can make the right decisions...as long as you take an interest in what you are doing! I'm going to need five people.

**(Cris brings five people up on stage – four guys and one girl.)**

CRIS

You'll notice that in four corners of the stage, I have four white "targets" on the stage floor. I'd like the four guys to stand on each of the four targets. I don't care who stands where – it's your choice. The fifth person...your name is?

KIM

Kim.

CRIS

Kim, I'd like you to stand in the center, next to the table.

**(The four guys each choose one of the targets to stand on. Kim stands next to the table, center stage, where there is a stack of 8 x 11 cards on the table, face down. Also on the table are six foil-wrapped packets.)**

CRIS

You'll notice that on the table are six foil packets. In three of the packets are red poker chips. In the other three are blue chips. I've got an idea of how this will play out, but I want each of you to choose a packet. We'll start...

**(Cris points to one guy. He invites him to choose a foil packet, which he does. Cris unwraps it and reveals a blue chip. The second guy also selects a packet with a blue chip. The third guy picks a packet with a red chip. The final guy selects a packet with a blue chip.)**

CRIS

Well, the math tells us that the last two packets should be red.

**(Cris unwraps the last two packets to reveal that they are indeed red.)**

CRIS

Here's where it gets interesting. They have made all of the choices. While they were busy choosing, Kim was here guarding the table the entire time. Kim, have I tried to swap out those cards or anything?

KIM

No.

CRIS

Kim, please lift the first card and show everyone what it says.

**(Kim lifts the first card. In large bold letters, it says, "THERE WILL BE TWO RED CHIPS LEFT ON THE TABLE.")**

CRIS

Interesting! Lift the second card if you would...

**(Kim lifts the second card and displays it to the audience. It says, "THE FIRST PERSON WILL SELECT A BLUE CHIP.")**

CRIS

And the third...

**(Kim shows the third card: “THE SECOND PERSON WILL ALSO SELECT A BLUE CHIP.”)**

CRIS

Next...

**(Kim lifts the third card: “THE THIRD PERSON WILL SELECT A RED CHIP.”)**

CRIS

That’s just weird! The final card...

**(Kim lifts the last card: “THE LAST PERSON WILL SELECT A BLUE CHIP.”  
The audience applauds wildly.)**

CRIS

So you can see, even though the people here have had no idea how this was going to turn out, they have taken it upon themselves to make the right choices. I do have to say that many people feel as though I have influenced everyone somehow. As a final way to convince you that it was free choices by everyone, I’d like the three of you holding blue chips to pick up your targets and show the bottoms to the audience.

**(The three guys holding blue chips show their targets to the audience. The undersides each say “BLUE CHIP” in large letters.)**

CRIS

And the final person over there, you chose a red chip. If you would show the underside of your target card?

**(The final person does so...it says, “RED CHIP.” There is thunderous applause as everyone heads back to their seats.)**

Like I said, belief is the final piece of the puzzle. Without that belief in your self, you’ll never be complete. Once you have that belief, that undying determination NOT to give up, you’ll never fail...as long as you don’t give up. Let me tell you a story of a guy who didn’t give up....

There’s a guy by the name of W. Mitchell. This is over 20 years ago. He was riding down an LA freeway on his motorcycle, going 65 miles an hour. Something caught his attention off to the side. You know how you’re driving, and something

will catch your attention? You might only look for maybe 2 or 3 seconds. This caught his attention for 8 to 10 seconds.

“He’s on his motorcycle, 65 miles an hour, looking, turns his attention back to the highway. Stopped dead in front of him was a Mac truck. In an effort to save his life, he slid his motorcycle down on its side and slid under the truck. Sparks were flying everywhere because of the metal hitting the asphalt.

“That wasn’t the end of the story. The gas cap on his motorcycle popped off. Fuel spilled out all over the road. It ignited. Boom! His face melted. His fingers burned completely off both hands. He was burned over 75% of his body. He woke up in the hospital two weeks later, in searing pain, fearing even to breath because it was so painful.

But you know what? He came out of that experience totally joyous. He said, ‘I cheated death. I shouldn’t be here.’

“Now, bear in mind, he’s not looking too pretty. His face was melted, completely disfigured. He has no fingers on either hand. He’s burned over 75% of his body. His mother was worried about him; in the hospital, she told the doctor, ‘There’s something wrong. He’s too happy.’ And he was! He was totally joyous. And he turned it around because he realized it’s not what happens, it’s what you do about it.

“So you know what he did? How many of us would have given up after that? I don’t know, maybe I would have. 75% burned beyond recognition, maybe I would have given up. He took the leftover insurance money from the accident, and he started his own company. You know what that company was? A wood-burning stove company. Talk about facing your fears! He became a multi-millionaire and one of the most successful wood-burning stove companies in the country, selling out of Vermont.

That’s not the end of the story, though. He kept on living. He lived life fully. If you know this guy, he has a zest for life. He developed an interest in flying and got his pilot’s license. One day he goes up with four friends. Goes up in the plane, plane goes down...four of them walked away. Not W. Mitchell. Now he was paralyzed from the waist down. You thought YOU had a bad day, right?

“Paralyzed from the waist down. His wife left him. She said, ‘I don’t want to be married to somebody who’s crippled AND fried.’ He was paralyzed from the waist down, he had no fingers, he was burned, he was horribly disfigured. The doctors cut his toes off and they sewed them onto his hands, so that he would have something to manipulate with. He said, ‘I cheated it again.’ He said, ‘I should be dead a second time. I got another shot.’

“So he said, ‘Wait, I can sit here and feel sorry for myself, or I can turn it outward.’ He did turn it outward. He saw a lot of issues in his community that weren’t being taken care of. So you know what he did? He decided to run for Lieutenant Governor of his state. And he went door to door in his wheelchair, soliciting votes. Door to door. He had this campaign button that said, ‘Put me in the governor’s mansion, I won’t be just another pretty face.’ And he came very close to winning. In a field of six, he came in third.

“Shortly after that, he got his own radio show on a Denver radio station. He became a motivational speaker, speaking about that topic alone. It’s not what happens to you, it’s what you do about it!

“This man has a zest for life. He’s cheated death twice and he’s going out and telling people about this. When you think you’ve had a bad day, think about W. Mitchell. Persistence.

Here’s another story of someone who never gave up.

. I’ll tell you about a guy that you would know. Anybody ever heard of Harland Sanders? Anybody ever heard of Colonel Sanders, Colonel Harland Sanders? He used this formula.

“I traced back and found his story. He was at the age of 65 and he was bankrupt. At 65 years old, he was bankrupt. He had a restaurant that had failed. And he was just basically broke at the end. He got his first Social Security check. He looked at it and it was for \$105. He said, ‘I am NOT living like this.’

“He had an idea. He had a goal, he knew his outcome. He said, ‘I have this wonderful chicken recipe. Now if I give this away, or if I sell this to a restaurant, I’ll make a couple bucks and I’ll be broke again.’

“So this was his idea. He knew his outcome, like I said. He said, ‘I’ll give this chicken recipe to a restaurant. Give it away. All they have to do is give me a percentage of the profits based on what they sell with my chicken recipe. I’ll get this residual income coming in.’

“So he knew his outcome. He committed to it, **believed it was going to happen.** He said, ‘I’m going to do this. I’m not going to live broke, on a \$105 Social Security check every month.’

“He took off around his area, telling people about his plan, going to restaurant after restaurant, rejected time and time again. No, no, no. He didn’t stop there. He was taking action. He was changing his approach the whole time, seeing what was working, changing his approach. He didn’t give up. He took out across the country, sleeping in the back of his car because he had no money for expenses. He kept changing his approach.

“How many no’s do you think he got? How many rejections? 100? 200? 300? No. Colonel Sanders got 1009 no’s before somebody said yes. 1009.

“Now, how many, after 500 no’s, would have said, ‘I better check my recipe. This can’t be that good.’ But he knew his outcome. 1009!

“Now, what do you think he would have done if he would have gotten to 1010? He would have gone to 1010, 1011. He would have done whatever it took. Shortly thereafter, within a few years, every town in America that had a population of 30,000 people or more had a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant in their town.

“At the end of his life, he died I think around ’90 or ’91, he was giving away money as fast as he was making it. He sold out to a major conglomerate. It was the Taco Bell Corporation or some corporation that owned it, for like \$200 million. That’s the power of that success formula. He used it. You can use it, too. Teach it to your kids. Teach them never to give up. Teach them to have goals. It’s so important.

See, the one thing people say after I tell them about never giving up is that they have all these obstacles, all these reasons why they can’t do something. Look at Col. Sanders – he was 65 years old, living in the back of his car trying to start a new life for himself with this chicken recipe. If these guys can do it, ANYONE can do it. You just have to believe.

## **Blindfold Routine** *Trusting Your Instincts*

CRIS

So often in life, we are faced with situations that we do not feel prepared for. It feels as though we are flying blind. Well, if you’ve prepared yourself as much as possible and learned from past experience or mistakes, in many cases your instincts, your guts will lead you down the right path. It may feel like you’re totally blind, but if you keep your wits, you can still succeed. I’m going to demonstrate that now as I take away my sight. No, I’m not going to poke my eyes out – that would be sick! I’m going to have three of you will draw some pictures and I’m going to have myself blindfolded and then I’ll see if I’m able to use my ‘psychic powers’ to describe them. First, the drawings. I’m going to give three of you some paper and pens. Don’t draw anything yet. Wait til I’m blindfolded, when it will be slightly more impressive!

**(Cris passes out three large sheets of paper and markers to three audience members.)**

CRIS

Now, I need two of you to help me get blindfolded.

**(Cris selects two students to help him.)**

CRIS

Thanks for helping! What's your name?

BOB

Bob.

CRIS

Thanks for helping! And yours is...?

JOY

Joy.

CRIS

Thank you both of you. Here's how I'm going to be blindfolded. It will be in several stages. First thing I will do is close my eyes. Bob, close your eyes.

**(Bob closes his eyes.)**

CRIS

Can you see?

BOB

No.

CRIS

Pretty effective, huh? Second thing will be these two quarters – one over each eye. Joy, check 'em out. Can you see through them?

JOY

No.

CRIS

Next, several pieces of duct tape.

**(Cris tears off three strips of tape.)**

CRIS

You each get one. Place the quarter in the middle. One of you will also get a second strip of tape...

**(Cris looks at Bob.)**

CRIS

And the other person will be my lovely assistant and hold onto this stylish sleeping mask.

**(Cris looks pointedly at Joy.)**

CRIS

Joy, here's the tape for you. Bob, would you take the mask?

**(The audience laughs.)**

CRIS

Bob, take note of that sleeping mask...you'll quickly notice that it is not a sleeping mask at all but rather a piece of sheet metal that has been bent and custom-fitted to completely block my view of anything. Bob, hold it up to your face – can you see anything?

BOB

No.

CRIS

Wanna try it on? Might be fun...

**(Audience laughs. Bob quickly shakes his head.)**

CRIS

Joy, do me a favor...hold this up to your eyes and check it over carefully. Are there any openings or secret gizmos that would allow me to cheat in any way?

JOY

No.

CRIS

Okay, then we're ready to begin! Joy, place that tape over my eye at a 45-degree angle, making sure the quarter is over my eye.

**(Joy presses the tape on Cris' face.)**

CRIS

Press it down so there's no gaps. If you feel any jelly-like substance squirt onto your hand, that means you pressed my eye too hard. Bob, your turn. Put your quarter and tape over my other eye, at a 45-degree angle. Make sure there's no gaps. Don't hurt me – I bruise easily.

**(Bob presses the quarter and tape over Cris' other eye.)**

CRIS

Joy, you have one more piece of tape. You can put it anywhere you like, however...

**(The audience laughs.)**

CRIS

The mouth is very funny, but I do need to speak and breath. Just put the tape straight across where my eyes used to be.

**(Joy presses the third strip of tape onto Cris' face.)**

CRIS

All right. To blindfold myself, I have my eyes closed. I have two solid metal quarters stuck over my eyes, with several strips of duct tape. Some people THINK I could still see. I call them hecklers. Joy, take the tape, and pull just a bit of the end off for me please...

**(Joy hands Cris the tape. Cris immediately wraps the tape around his head over his eyes several times!)**

CRIS

Bob, hand me that smashing sleeping mask.

**(Bob hands Cris the mask. Cris puts the mask on.)**

CRIS

Bob, Joy, you've both been wonderful. Please take your seats. Everyone, please give them a HUGE round of applause!

**(Bob and Joy return to their seats.)**

CRIS

Now I'm blindfolded. The three of you who have paper and pens, please draw something on your paper, but listen carefully – please make it unique. Don't draw the obvious. If you're drawing an animal, give it a fifth leg or take a leg away. If you're drawing a person, give the person a third eye. Make it something I could not guess. Finally, make the drawing as large as possible to fill up the page. When you have finished, please join me up here on stage. I will not embarrass you. I'll ask you to do this as quickly as possible. The last time I did this, the audience had left.

**(The volunteers start drawing.)**

CRIS

While they're doing that, I'm going to try something.

**(Cris begins wobbling slowly toward the first row of people.)**

CRIS

Whoever is directly in front of me, do me a favor: please hold up your forefinger.

**(A girl in front of Cris holds up her forefinger.)**

CRIS

If your finger is up, hold it steady...

**(Cris holds up one of his fingers and slowly starts moving his finger toward the girl's.)**

CRIS

Don't move...you're going to have to mentally guide me in...

**(Cris is able to eventually touch her finger! The audience gasps.)**

CRIS

I'm glad that worked! Let's try something else. Please hold your hand over your head.

**(The girl raises her hand.)**

CRIS

Now raise one, two, three, four or five fingers – the choice is yours.

**(The girl holds up two fingers. Cris waves his hand slowly near the girl's hand, without touching it.)**

CRIS

I'm getting the sense of...two.

**(The audience gasps again.)**

CRIS

Hey, this stuff works!

**(One by one, the three volunteers join Cris onstage.)**

CRIS

I hear footsteps...are you all here? Please stand to my left in a line. The person closest to me please place your drawing face down in my hand so I can hold it up for the audience...OK, should this be horizontal or vertical?

GUY 1

Vertical.

CRIS

OK...I'm getting an impression of a sword, is that correct?

GUY 1

Yes!

CRIS

And number 2...

**(The second person hands Cris his drawing.)**

CRIS

Is this right side up?

GUY 2

Yes.

CRIS

I'm getting the impression of a pirate ship. Is that right?

**(The audience applauds wildly.)**

CRIS

Last one...

**(The third volunteer hands Cris her drawing.)**

CRIS

I'm sensing a ladybug. Is that right?

GIRL 3

Yes!

**(Audience applauds.)**

CRIS

Thank you! The three of you can take your seats and now, the most entertaining part of this routine for all of you...the removal of the tape.

**(Bit by bit, Cris slowly removes the tape, yelping the entire time. He finally gets it off and faces the audience once more and opens his eyes. He bows to thunderous applause.)**

## **Alive**

### *Words to Live By*

CRIS

Let's get someone up here for the coolest thing you're going to see all day.

**(Someone is chosen...she makes her way onstage. By the time she makes it to the stage, Cris has placed a small box onstage, on top of a thin tabletop. There's obviously nothing below it.)**

CRIS

Hi! What's your name?

STACY

Stacy.

CRIS

Stacy, thanks for helping. I have a folded piece of paper here – a prediction. It's a guess about the future. Here's something to think about, though...if you take charge and plan your life, you won't need to guess about your future – you'll KNOW your future because you've chosen to. Do me a favor – drop this paper into the box.

**(Stacy does so.)**

CRIS

Anything else inside the box? It's empty, right?

STACY

It's empty.

CRIS

Great – close and latch the box.

**(Stacy does so.)**

CRIS

So, you have dropped a folded paper into the box. There's nothing else inside. I'm not going to go anywhere near the box.

**(Cris takes out a deck of cards as he motions for Stacy to have a seat on a chair. He spreads the cards toward her.)**

CRIS

These cards have all kinds of words on them. Magic words – like Respect – treating each other how you want to be treated...Responsibility – realizing your life is up to you...just like Choice – we always have options...and Education – true success means we never stop learning. Stacy, take these cards and cut the deck in half – one half in each hand.

STACY

Ok...

CRIS

When I count to three, toss ONE half over your head! One...two...three!

**(Stacy throws the cards in her left hand over her head. The cards hit the floor and go everywhere. Everyone laughs.)**

CRIS

Great! We've eliminated HALF the deck. Now take the cards and split them up again, so you'll have roughly a quarter of the deck in each hand...

**(Stacy does so.)**

CRIS

When I count to three, please toss either half of the cards over your shoulder...One...two...three!

**(Stacy throws one half of the deck over her shoulder again, cards spilling over the floor again.)**

CRIS

Great, so now we've eliminated most of the cards in the fairest way possible: with YOU holding the cards. No way I could cheat! Now, point to one of the last few cards...

**(Cris takes the last few cards from Stacy and motions for her to touch one. She does so and looks at it. It says R.A.T.)**

CRIS

It says RAT. Most of us hear that word and think of the fuzzy critter, but in this case, it's an acronym – Respect All Types. In life, you're going to meet people like you and people not like you. I encourage you to respect everyone, even if they are different from you.

**(Cris pauses a moment to allow that to sink in.)**

CRIS

Stacy, you picked that RAT card in the fairest manner possible. If my piece of paper says RAT on it, that would be pretty cool, wouldn't it? However, if I go anywhere near that box, everyone's going to think I'm sneaking in a second paper. So I need you to open the box and see what my paper says.

**(Stacy opens the box and screams! Cris walks over to the box as the audience watches in confusion – until Cris removes a very real rat from the box! Everyone erupts into cheers as Stacy heads back to her seat! Cris puts the rat on his shoulder as he delivers his final lines.)**

## Closing Remarks

CRIS

During this program I have tried to relay some important tips about how I achieved success with the idea that it truly is YOUR choices that affect your future. Be respectful. Be mindful of the future. Be prepared. Keep those few simple things in mind because it truly is Your Choice, because it's Your Life. Thanks very much.

*End*

**Post-Show Comments:** I really enjoy performing this show quite a bit and the magic is really fun, too. What follows are my comments about each affect and in some cases, some alternate suggestions.

## **Bowl-A-Rama**

### *Opening*

**Comments:** This Kevin James effect, Bowl-A-Rama, is available for \$795 from most dealers. A cheaper alternative is Andrew Mayne's Freefall off of his Freefall DVD, about \$25 from most dealers. It's not quite as effective as Bowl-A-Rama, but it does play well.

The only real purpose of the effect is to grab the audience's attention. I play some upbeat music, walk out and just do the effect. Afterwards, I also like interacting with someone from the audience mostly to convince everyone that the bowling ball is in fact real.

## **Rubik's Cube**

### *Opening Remarks*

**Comments:** The version of the effect that I use is The Enchanted Cube by Daryl. The working is simple, the effect is quick and startling. I think the price is still about \$35 from many dealers. I'm proud of the tie-in I created for this effect. The best part? Once you buy the trick, if anything goes wrong with your prop, you can easily create a new one with a couple of legit cubes from your local Target.

## **Manila Miracle**

### *Leaving Life to Chance*

**Comments:** This is obviously a version of Banknite or Just Chance and there are million versions out there. This version, Manila Miracle, I picked up from the great Lee Earle's book, M.I.N.D. (Mentalism In New Directions). The handling is simple, gimmick free, and effective. There are a zillion versions of Banknite out there. John Archer's version, Blank Nite, is probably the best-looking version of the effect out there. Richard Osterlind also uses a nice version utilizing lottery tickets, too.

The key point of this is the fact that we're using lottery tickets as a metaphor for taking chances with your life. A great message!

## **Hypnosis Pre-Tests**

### *Your Thoughts DO Influence You*

**Comments:** No gimmicks of any kind, here. The script, if followed, WILL produce the desired result. It's a couple of hypnosis "suggestibility tests," and using demonstrations like this with high school audiences is unbelievably effective...first, because they work so well on teens and from the client standpoint, you're involving the entire audience in a dramatic way.

I recommend getting some books on hypnosis but trust me – this is one part of the show that you want to keep word-for-word!

## **Psychokinetic Touches**

*You Can Influence Others*

**Comments:** Often duplicated, never surpassed – Banachek’s wonderful PK Touches is in my opinion one of the greatest mentalism effects ever. It plays large, involves (with my framing of the effect) the idea of one person sending thoughts to another and has no gimmicks. Perfect...and cheap! \$10 from most dealers.

## **Osterlind Magazine Test**

*Continued Learning*

**Comments:** Almost any book test will work here. I’m partial to the Shakespeare Experiment (which I use in Lead to Succeed) although there’s a ton out there. I like using this test, Richard Osterlind’s Magazine Test, off of his Mind Mysteries Volume 1 DVD, because it involves a news magazine and plays well with the whole “knowledge is power” theme of the routine. That being said, as powerfully as this piece plays, I find the handling to be a little clunky and occasionally the oddness of the procedure makes some teen volunteers question what’s going on.

One other magazine test that comes to mind is Max Maven’s test on his “Nothing” DVDs. The set retails for \$100 from most dealers. Osterlind’s single DVD retails for about \$35 from most dealers.

Doc Hilford also has a magazine test I like quite a bit on Volume 4 of his “Monster Mentalism” DVD set. The DVD also retails for \$35.

## **Smash & Stab**

*Stay Away from Danger*

**Comments:** Here’s where we get into tricky territory...I use Wayne Dobson’s Smash & Stab, which is NOT 100% safe, but I’ve found it plays great for me. It retails for \$200 last I checked. Other “danger Monty” type effects include The Pain Game from Jon Allen (\$500 retail), A Dangerous Monte from Luke Jermy, from his book Coral Fang, which retails for \$50. There’s also Spike for \$200 from most dealers.

Out of those options (and many others), the Pain Game is one of the safest, so if I had to recommend any, it would be that one.

Nearly any 'danger' trick would work here for the purposes of the concept I'm taking about.

## **Osterlind Watch Routine**

*Mentors*

**Comments:** The Osterlind Watch Routine is from the aforementioned Mind Mysteries Volume 1 DVD and is one of the most powerful routines out there. I've been using it in a variety of shows over the years and it kills.

That being said, there are many routines you could put in this place, as long as you can do an effect involving two volunteers onstage. In the past, I've also used the classic Jumbo Split Deck, a \$35 dealer item that works on the rough-n-smooth principle. I've also used Bill Abbott's Smart Ass, \$60 from many dealers. (I also use Smart Ass in my Lead to Succeed show).

## **Fate?**

*Is Life Predetermined?*

**Comments:** Fate? Is a nice effect by Rick Maue that is very clean. It retails from many dealers for about \$40. The working is extremely easy, the plot is clear, and the multiple steps in the prediction gets a nice response. The effect plays great with a bigger audience, and while it's reasonably priced, you can of course substitute any prediction-type effect as the idea of the concept I'm presenting on simply requires anything that looks into the future.

## **Blindfold Routine**

*Relying on Your Instincts*

**Comments:** I LOVE this routine! This is simply John Archer's Blindfold Tips – retails for \$49 last time I checked, from most dealers, but any blindfold technique you are comfortable with will work here. John's is reasonably priced, but obviously if you have Corinda's 13 Steps or any of the other classics of mentalism, you know there are many options.

## **Alive**

*Respect All Types*

**Comments:** This effect, by Bobby Motta, retails for about \$600 from Hocus Pocus or other dealers. Most of the effects I've mentioned are very reasonable, but obviously Alive is a bit pricey. I still haven't found anything more effective to close a teen show than this. With that being said, if you want a cheaper alternative, you can use ANY method to produce a live rat, such as a dove pan coupled with any card force you're comfortable with. Get a blank-faced deck and write one word or phrase on each card. Words like respect, responsibility,

leadership, education, mentors, and others. By mentioning many of the words of the deck, you're subtly recapping the show which is very effective indeed.

The appearance of a live animal is always a huge applause generator. The reason why I like Bobby's Alive so much is that it's so clean. It looks impossible because the box does all the work for you. You set it down and the volunteer does it all. It's perfect!

## **WRAP UP**

Study this script, make any changes you want to the exact wording in order to fit your character better, but keep the essence of the concepts intact as this is the kind of lessons clients are looking for in a program.

Always remember, too, that I'm available via email: [crisjohnsoninfo@verizon.net](mailto:crisjohnsoninfo@verizon.net).