

FANS 粉丝

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work



Mention the word team building, and many will either cringe or frown as they think they have to attend a time consuming, boring and even strenuous activity which does not add value to their work or personal development. Yet, effective and creative team building programs will not only help the employees to better understand their company goals, they will also encourage them to learn from co-workers from different departments, generate positive energy and motivate them to be a higher performance team. The word ‘TEAM’ also stands for:

Together **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore

So what makes a teambuilding event effective?

Element #1: Educational

Many employees dread attending team building activities as they often find the activities a complete waste of their time, in fact, they feel that they have to spend more time to catch up on their work and are restless throughout the workshop. It’s important that you work with team building companies to design team building programs that are educational with clear objectives so that the employees gain insights about the company’s directions, learn new things that they can apply to or rekindle their passion for their work.

Element #2: Fun

Team building activities do not have to be tedious and boring. Creative team building programs can be held either outdoor or indoor. It is essential that it’s fun and not limited by the participants’ physique. When team building activities are fun, the participants are able to relax and enjoy themselves.

This is when they will be able to work well together and better remember what they learn as a team to achieve a common goal, long after they complete the workshop.

Element #3: Disbelief and “A Ha” moment

A creative team building activity will also deliver the element of “disbelief” and “A Ha” moment to the participants. Imagine a company with people of different culture and background coming together, within a specified time, complete a musical piece or an artwork. The powerful impact of accomplishing something that seems impossible together as a team in a creative atmosphere will deliver a strong “A Ha” moment. Such inspiring experience is more effective in motivating the participants to trust and respect each other than telling them to work as a team.

Teambuilding done right can bring employee loyalty that no money can buy!

Message from Editor

Acewood starts the new year with an exciting announcement of entering into an exclusive licensee agreement with [Catalyst Global](#) to deliver a wider choice of innovative and creative team building activities in Beijing, Chengdu and Chongqing. Even more exciting is a new addition to our Acewood family: Tan Hsu Wei, CTO or Creative Teambuilding Officer! Planning an away-day for your team? Just give us a holler!

[Beijing Xiaoli](#)



FAN'S CORNER



He expresses himself with gestures and accents ranging from Shanghainese to Shandong dialect; he can easily play a role similar to the Beijingers in *Teahouse* (a Chinese play by Lao She); in fact, he has become popular because of his interpretation of a middle-aged man who is feminine in both voice and behavior, and takes his English for granted. [David Hu](#), a professional psychiatrist, is a naughty student from our first improv knight class.

In the beginning he was surprised by the improvisers' quick reaction; after graduation he's surprised at what he has achieved at an improv show. As a native Beijinger, David knows almost all the famous actors in People's Art Theatre. To him, improv is not just about acting but it's also about the games... An improviser plays within certain rules, and his conscious behavior is drawn from his instinct and experience. "My feelings and experiences in life creates the 'David' on stage. I act out what I know and my feelings from the past", Said David.

David thinks the distinctive characteristic of improv is its interactivity. Audience is the master of the actors; the servant won't be boring if the master keeps offering different and unexpected suggestions. Audience of traditional theatre can never get the same experience. Of course in Chinese stand-up comedy they also tickle the audience based on things happening at the moment, but not as much. Another characteristic is

team work and the chemistry between team players creates a good scene..

Applying his knowledge in psychology, David provides a simple analysis on the reason why people love to attend improv "those with traumatic experiences can get emotional healing; those who feel repressed in life find an avenue to release their emotions." He has been to some drama therapy workshops where the director guides the participant to do some role-playing. And this type of emotional therapy workshops require the director to be highly qualified with a solid background of psychology, considerable experience as a psychiatrist and a strong capability to keep the situations under control..

As to using improv to do therapy, "I think we may try it in the future. I have a strong belief in the positive energy in improv. I used to be pessimistic and when I went abroad, I tend to think that both Chinese people and foreigners have many shortcomings. Gradually, I have adjusted myself and become more optimistic. I've learnt to just let it be, and Chinese people and foreigners have similar merits. It's important to live a positive life..."

ACEWOOD CALENDAR

- **Improv Knight Class**

[Improv Knight Class](#) begins on February 28th. Click to see the [feedback](#) from students of last class and the [sample video](#). Wanna join the class? Please call 64010258 ext. 103. or email monicazhang@acewood.cn

LAST MONTH...

- **Tia and Tha KnutZ**

Tia and Tha KnutZ was at the [Jazz Festival in Shanghai](#) in January. Dance to the rhythm! ([See the video](#))

NEWSBITES
The Rise of the New Groupthink


SOLITUDE is out of fashion. Our companies, our schools and our culture are in thrall to an idea I call the New Groupthink, which holds that creativity and achievement come from an oddly gregarious place. Most of us now work in teams, in offices without walls, for managers who prize people skills above all. Lone geniuses are out. Collaboration is in. But there's a problem with this view. Research strongly suggests that people are more creative when they enjoy privacy and freedom from interruption. ([read more...](#))

Giving is not as simple as it sounds


Giving a gift is such an enjoyable challenge - it combines all the great traits of good business, such as understanding, creativity, and added value, and is the perfect excuse to cross that fine and delicate boundary between professional and personal. Gift giving is also a form of communication. Therefore, taking a moment to consider how the receiver will interpret your gift and react to your message is important when you select it. ([read more...](#))

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.

- Henry Ford