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Context to the nugget

One might think that the world of stand-up comedy and the corporate milieu would be miles apart! Hear Papa CJ talk about his transition from being a consultant to an award winning stand-up comedian. His show 'Naked' talks about all our common vulnerabilities and the 'brick walls' we build around ourselves that may prevent us from growing. He tries to reach out to all of us who might be comfortably complacent in our comfort zones.

Transcription

Deepak Jayaraman (DJ): For the purpose of listeners, give us a sense of what the show ['Naked'] is about and how it came into being?

Papa CJ (CJ): The thing with 'Naked' is, I almost don't call it a stand-up comedy show because it has so many different elements. It's got theatre, it's got storytelling, it's got poetry, and it's got a little bit of music and dance. But the essence behind the show is, as human beings, we kind of have brick walls that we have built around ourselves, which hide our deepest hopes and fears and desires. Now, in the course of this show, one brick at a time, I remove these walls, exposing myself with all my vulnerabilities, all my pain. And it is terrifying and exhilarating at the same time, because by the end of it, while you are completely naked, you are also completely free. So, that is the essence that lies beneath that show. I think, what really works for that show is, I am using the vehicle of my life to talk about the trials and tribulations of the human experience. So, every single person in that audience, at some point, has felt similar to what I felt or has gone through similar experiences. So, when I'm performing, they don't feel like I'm telling the story of my life, but it's almost like I am telling the story of their lives, and that's where the connection in that show is so strong.

DJ: Is there any context on what's the genesis of this show? Why did you do this?

CJ: What happens is, as an artist, as a performer, you go through different levels of growth and when I say growth, I talk about personal internal growth. I mean, there are some comedians who can perform the same 20 mins for 20 years and have gone on to do that. Today, most corporate shows, whether it's in the country or abroad, I can do them in my sleep. But the second you start getting so comfortable, I think, you start to stagnate. So, for me, this was a show that helped me grow internally as a performer. I had to push myself beyond my comfort zone and, I think, that's kind of where it came from. You've got to consistently ask yourself, what's next? How do I grow further? I mean, the same works for organizations and creativity and innovation. I think, often, organizations are scared to innovate because they don't want to be seen to be failing at things. But the question

you have to ask yourself is, if I'm still doing exactly what I'm doing now, 10 years from now or 20 years from now, will I be competitive? Will I be well regarded? And if the answer is no, then you have to experiment. You have to create. And failure is a part of the creative process. You cannot succeed without failure; if you don't fail, you will never succeed.

Reflections from Deepak Jayaraman

DJ: I am reminded of the term "Vulnerability builds trust" - In Professional services or in any relationship context, I have noticed that the people that have built deep relationships are those that are willing to be vulnerable and open up a little bit about themselves which makes it easier for the other party to trust them and build that deep connect.

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End of nugget transcription

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Papa CJ - Nuggets

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- 04.01 Papa CJ - Why 'Naked'?
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- 04.03 Papa CJ - Plunging into stand-up
- 04.04 Papa CJ - Stand-up: Unknown unknowns
- 04.05 Papa CJ - Stand-Up: What it takes
- 04.06 Papa CJ - Lessons from a journey in stand-up
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- 04.09 Papa CJ - Three things they don't teach you in B-school

About Deepak Jayaraman

Deepak seeks to unlock human potential of senior executive's / leadership teams by working with them as an Executive Coach / Sounding Board / Transition Advisor. You can know more about his work [here](#).

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