

Val Vigoda

Keynote Speaker, Indie Rocker, Electric Violinist and Singer/Songwriter for Disney & Off-Broadway

Pivot with Courage: Finding Resilience through Creativity and Connection We are all born creative, full of imagination and unafraid to make mistakes. And these qualities are often dulled by time—but they don't have to be. It's by reconnecting with our innate confidence (as well as with each other) that we can face crisis, change, and fear with agility and grace. Val provides powerful insights on how to do this through her own unique stories of overcoming adversity, punctuated by songs which elevate and clarify her message. This moving, resonant presentation is ideal for any organization wishing to help their people be more creative, connected and fearless.

Lead with Confidence into the Unknown: Creativity as a Tool for Optimism Confidence, leadership, playfulness, creativity—these are all skills that improve with practice (not simply traits that you either have or you don't). Val takes audiences on a music-filled journey toward more creative leadership, illustrated by bold stories from her own life as well as astounding lessons from one of the greatest leaders in history, Ernest Shackleton. This empowering presentation, with its emphasis on mindset, story and expression to uplift and connect people, is perfect for organizations looking to ignite innovation and teamwork and cultivate truly creative, optimistic leaders.

Overcome Fear with Optimism, Resilience and Courage It's been said that the human brain is like Velcro for negative experiences and Teflon for positive ones; and so our natural state is easily skewed toward pessimism, fearfulness and an abundance of caution. But great achievements are fueled by bravery, optimism and—sometimes counterintuitively—playfulness. Now more than ever we need to cultivate these qualities; and in this compelling presentation Val takes to the stage with her six-string electric violin and shows us how. An effervescent collection of adventures from her own life (as an awkward student, rebellious daughter, struggling Army cadet, nervous backup musician to rock stars, self-critical theater artist...), in which crisis forced her to face repeatedly into her greatest fears while also learning to let go of perfectionism and be more playful, inspires people to rise to their own challenges and do the same.