

# What Are Your Dreams?

Julie Hryniewicz-Hache -- Thursday, January 25, 2007, 10:45AM



I always love being among people who are passionate about what they are doing and I certainly felt that energy at The Tragically Hip concert on Tuesday night. The one thing about musicians, that seems to be common across the board, is that when they are playing or singing music, they immerse themselves fully in the experience. Their dynamic energy and enthusiasm was so electrifying that most of us left with a natural high - of course there were those who also had some chemical help with that!

My favorite part of the night was hearing the story of Kathleen Edwards, who played a remarkable opening act. This young woman was telling us that the last time she was

in Sault Ste. Marie, she was traveling through, to do a gig in Thunder Bay, and didn't have any money for a hotel room. She ended up sleeping in her van in a Tim Horton's parking lot for the night. Now she was the front band for The Tragically Hip! When she signed her new CD for me, she wrote, "From a van to here again".

What does it take for someone to "make it"? How does a person overcome extreme obstacles to get where they want to be? What one quality separates those who endure, from those who give up? The only quality that consistently keeps coming up, among all people who have gained fame, fortune, or success in any area, is that they are persistent.

Famous people are just everyday people who had a burning desire to do what they love and they never gave up until they got there. I suppose that many would be discouraged about travelling across the province to play music, knowing that they didn't have any money for a hotel along the way, whereas another is willing to do whatever it takes, as long as it takes. One person may have been disappointed so many times that they

eventually began to believe that it wasn't meant to be, and yet the other knows that eventually their time will come.

We have remarkable, phenomenal musical talent, right here in our community, who could be world famous performers. I saw many of them perform at Lop Lops Lounge over the holidays and have seen others share their gift at other venues. I am absolutely blown away with the talent that lives here and performs for small crowds throughout the area. Many of them already have their own CD's. I also have two sisters who were blessed with amazing voices, who could wow a crowd or two!

For some people, they are content and simply enjoy sharing their gift at the occasional function, and for others, their life dream is to make it big. The only thing standing between what they want, and not having it yet, is time. They have what it takes, they are amazing and dynamic, they come to life on the stage, and they bring joy to everyone who listens to them. They can have it as long as they believe in themselves and never give up... Are you one of those people with big dreams?

As I watched the concert the other night, I was feeling so much gratitude for the new arena and how great these concerts are for the economy. What come to mind was that we could also fill that arena, sell tickets to raise money for various local causes, feature local musicians and singers, who could easily entertain at the same quality or higher than the professional bands that are brought in. We have talent that is equal or superior to any professional band right here in our own neighborhoods, who could provide "Concerts for a Cause" between the big names.

When I mentioned this afterwards, my sister told me that the Bon Soo Battle of the Bands would be held at the Steelback Centre and that is certainly a great start. Anything is possible if someone wants something bad enough. I'm just the idea girl - maybe someone in the industry will make it happen one day and I will be there to support it.

I suppose that what drives me to encourage other people to pursue their passions, go for that promotion, or press on in the face of adversity, is my belief that people on a mission are capable of anything. When you know what you want, the universe will find a way to make it happen. The only requirement is that you keep moving forward, look for the opportunities, knock on the doors, put the word out, grow your confidence, better yourself, and believe, with every cell of your being, that you will eventually get what you desire.

Ironically, as I was thinking about all of this at the concert, I ran into a

woman who had been in one of my seminars. She has been applying for other positions within her organization and seemed a bit discouraged that it hadn't happened yet. Instead of giving up and internalizing the feeling of not being good enough, I encouraged her to keep pressing on, with the confidence that the right opening will come along - as long as she didn't allow the obstacles to discourage her from continuing to apply.

Often we just need a little boost to our confidence. Sometimes we just need assurance that there is something remarkable up ahead. If you were travelling on a road to a particular place and you knew it was up ahead, would you give up along the way because the ride was grueling and difficult? If you did, you may not get to enjoy what is waiting for you there. Your dreams may seem small, compared to fame and fortune, but they are important to you and you deserve to fulfill them, whatever they may be.

Adversity, struggles, and obstacles are silent tests of our determination to see how bad we want something - what do you want, that you may have given up on? What do you know, in your heart, is something that you really want to do, that could improve the quality of your life? Life is too short to miss out on the adventures up ahead. May you have the strength to press on until you get there - wherever "there" is for you! Have an awesome day...

***"Whether you believe you can do a thing or believe you can't, you are right."* Henry Ford**