

Daniel Hall Presents



Episode 113

Overcoming Your Fears and Succeeding Anyway

with William Hung

Welcome to this episode of the Real Fast Results podcast! This episode was broadcasted from Orlando, Florida, and today's special guest is [William Hung](#). For those of you that don't know, William is famous. He's infamous and famous. William was on *American Idol*, and one of the reasons why he's on this podcast is because he has actually followed his passions and followed his dreams.

William Hung's Story

What happened was that during school, I wasn't doing well. I felt miserable. One day I saw a poster for a school talent show at the Clark Kerr Dormitory. I figured, "Why not? There's nothing to lose." So, I sang one of my favorite songs, "She Bangs," by Ricky Martin. I had no expectations, but somehow, I won! The grand prize was a DVD player. That gave me the confidence to audition for *American Idol*.

What Happened Next?

It was a process that people may not know about. I ran through three American Idol staff members with 3,000 other people, and I thought that I had no chance, but somehow, they let me through. Then, the producer let me through again, and then I got to Randy, Paula, and Simon. There were only about 100 people left. I thought, "Oh my God! Maybe I have a chance." So, I just went for it. That's it.

Then, you probably know what happened. Simon was not happy. He said, “You can’t sing. You can’t dance. So, what have you got to say?” I said, “I already gave it my best, so I have no regrets at all.” I thought that was it and that my life would go back to normal.

Did It Go Back to Normal?

About four months after the audition, they broadcasted it, and somehow, it went crazy. Like, on the same night I saw on *Fox News* that I was called out to be the worst singer ever. It was so strange. I got hundreds of emails for performance and interview opportunities. What was I supposed to do? It was so weird.

I actually got into it. I still remember that my very first one was *Entertainment Tonight*, and then I was on the Ryan Seacrest show a couple of times. But, the really crazy one was, one day I was invited to perform at a UC Berkley’s men’s volleyball game. Right afterwards, I got a check for \$25,000 for a record contract.

Did You Make a Record?

Yes. I decided to move forward to record three albums. The first album, *Inspiration*, was somehow the #1 independent album on the Billboard charts. Obviously, the song that was the biggest hit was “She Bangs,” by Ricky Martin.

What Would You Tell Someone that Was Afraid to Follow Their Dreams?

That’s a complicated question because it depends on where your fear comes from. **There are three kinds of problems we always have to deal with: people problems, process problems, and profit problems.** If it’s a “people problem,” you’ve got to figure out how you are going to deal with that relationship. Are you going to let it go, are you going to try and repair it, or what do you want to do? If it’s a “process problem,” you think about how you would fix a process. Maybe you’ll hire someone. I don’t know. If it’s a “profit problem,” one thing that I’ve learned from a lot of people is that you’ve got to value yourself. So, charge more and work less.

What About the Fear of Failure?

Well, I would say that you are never going to know what’s going to happen. I just went for it. I can tell you by my example. My example is that I’m launching a new podcast this month. It’s very similar. I have a lot of fear of failure. I don’t know if I’m going to get the downloads. I don’t know if anyone is going to listen to it, but if what you do feels right, you just need to take action and then learn from the failure. **If you are going to fail, fail forward.**

How About “Fail Fast” As Well?

That one, I think could be a misconception. I think “fail fast” has some logical reasoning behind it, but I also think that you have to find the right balance. For me, the reason that I took forever to launch a podcast was because I was building my website and updating it. I tried to get my sales and everything lined up. At some point, I just had to say, “Okay, you know what? Sometimes good enough is good enough. It doesn’t have to be perfect. I just need to improve as I go along.” That’s why I finally went for it.

What’s the Name of Your New Podcast? Where Can I Find It?

From Fear to Courage. You can go to iTunes, and there you will find Episode #1. I have one episode so far and many more coming real soon.

How Do You Go from Fear to Courage?

Whatever you want to do, you do it with excellence based on the knowledge you have. When I say “excellence,” I mean that you give it your honest best effort. Yes, it may still come out ugly, and it may still come out wrong. I know I’m going through that. I’m going through that throughout my life, besides American Idol. Throughout my speaking, throughout my coaching... That’s part of it. But, again, it’s much better to take action than not to take action at all. Otherwise, you never move forward. So, never give up your dreams.

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