



EPISODE TWENTY-FOUR Disruptive Harmony WITH GREGG BREINBERG

Before grade-school choral director Gregg Breinberg won the TriBeCa Disruptive Innovation Award, before his fifth-grade chorus at Staten Island’s PS22 performed for Lady Gaga and President Obama, before the appearances on *The Today Show* and *Sesame Street*, he was just another young public-school teacher trying to follow his instincts. In this week’s episode, Gregg dives deep into his story of finding success through a clear mission and being willing to break tradition, bend the rules, and act now and apologize later.

THEMES & INSIGHTS

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1. Work with what you've got and just get started. Don't obsess over your skillset. Find where you can make a difference and work to make it the perfect spot for yourself.
2. Know yourself and follow your instincts. It will guide you to where you need to be.
3. The time for action is in the present. Do what you think is right now and apologize later if necessary.

COMBUSTION QUOTES

-  "I think the most important thing is knowing yourself, knowing what you have to offer. I think sometimes people go into a profession because they just really need to make money, and especially now with everything that's going on, unfortunately, it's going to be a lot more of that. I don't know how easy it's going to be to find their niche."
-  "Work with your circumstances, work with your skillset, know the population that you're working with, and try to find your own way of doing it. I think that's when things really started happening for me, is when I broke away from the mold that I was taught, keeping the lessons that I learned that were important to me."
-  "Sometimes you've got to take a chance, sometimes you've got to bend the rules a little bit—as long as you're working on what you really truly feel are the kids' best interests. I felt like I'm going to do what I felt was right and apologize later. And, fortunately, I didn't even have to apologize, so it worked out."

RESOURCES

- [PS22 CHORUS YOUTUBE CHANNEL](#)
- [THE PS22 CHORUS GOES TO THE OSCARS](#)
- [PS22 CHORUS: WHAT'S THE SECRET TO THEIR SUCCESS?](#)