Steve Garrin Answers:

5 Questions That Get To The Heart Of The Matter

How do you stay focused on the things that matter most?

In my work, I produce many projects at once. In my personal life, I have been married to the most wonderful woman for over 29 years. I have a son who works at ABC-TV and a daughter about to go off to college. I stay focused on what matters because I love what I do, and if you really love what you are doing you give all of your attention to the various elements that make up your life and career in the priority of their importance.

What's the best advice you've ever gotten?

After I graduated college, I worked at the Loews Warwick Hotel as my first job in NYC. An elderly gentleman would come into the restaurant after walking his small dog, "Bruiser" late at night. I recognized him. He was the infamous Meyer Lansky. We spoke many times on his visits to NY from FL. One of the words of wisdom he imparted to me remains an important part of my credo. "Be true to yourself. Quality not Quantity, and Always be a leader. Only sheep follow."

Who inspires you?

I work with many celebrities and famous people every day, but my inspiration comes from my family. My son, by his drive and dedication in his work at ABC's *One Life To Live*, and his outlook on life in general. My daughter, for her love of life and the pursuit of her lifelong ambition of a career in the fashion industry, and last but certainly not least, my wife, who inspires me with her positive support in everything I do.

How do you "give back"?

A couple of the many ways I give back are by donating my talents and services to many worthy causes. I'm a former board member of Gilda's Club, NYC, where I produced many radio PSAs and videos about the organization for public awareness and fund raising. For the past five years I have been producing for the USO of Greater NYC, a holiday program satellite broadcast to the troops protecting our country around the world, featuring holiday greetings from celebrities such as Steve Van Zandt, Jackie Mason, Michael Feinstein, Al Pacino, Yoko Ono, Joe Franklin and Linda Hope to name a few.

Share a moment when your faith changed your life.

Fifteen years ago on July fourth, my wife and I found out that our daughter had Retinoblastoma, a rare childhood cancer. As a result of the illness, her right eye was enucleated. My faith changed my life and sustained my family and me through a year and a half of grueling cancer treatments. My daughter is now a healthy teenager. And I am more spiritual as a result.

Steve Garrin is the President and Executive Producer of VideoActive Productions and the founder of the VoiceWorks® voiceover workshop. Steve started in show business in 1986 as a performer, director, and producer of voiceovers. He moved on to producing, directing, recording, and editing radio programs and books on tape. His company expanded to become a full-service digital audio-video production and post-production house. In 1996, Steve won an EMMY Award for his work on HBO Family's How Do You Spell God?

Steve has just finished a screenplay along with co-writers, Rich Herschlag and the legendary comedian, Pat Cooper entitled, The Bodyguard's Bodyguard. He worked on The Aristocrats with Paul Provenza. He recorded, directed and edited Carol Channing reading her autobiography, Just Lucky, I Guess. He is in the process of producing a documentary on the life of broadcast legend Joe Franklin.