ERIK WAHL

Erik Wahl is an internationally recognized artist, TED speaker and No. 1 bestselling author. His breakthrough experience as an artist and entrepreneur has translated into making him into one of the most sought-after corporate speakers on the circuit today.

On stage, Erik's keynote experience creates a dynamic multidimensional metaphor for how to systematically embrace innovation and risk. His message: disruption is a new normal and businesses must embrace creativity in a wholesale fashion, or risk being left behind. Erik's presentation inspires organization to be increasingly agile and outlines how to use disruption as a competitive advantage. Some companies will be disrupted, others will choose to be the disruptor. Choose wisely.

His new book, The Spark and the Grind, activates the essential components of translating ideas into actions. His breakthrough thinking has earned praise from the likes of top influencers in both art and business. Erik's previous book, a bestseller called Unthink, was hailed by Forbes Magazine as, "THE blueprint to actionable creativity," and by Fast Company Magazine as "provocative with a purpose."

The Warhol of Wall Street, the Renoir of ROI, the Picasso of Productivity, the Jobs of...well, jobs. Erik discovered an alarming truth early in his career as a partner in a corporate firm: organizations that encourage the mental discipline of creativity did better than those that did not put innovation as a priority mission. So he set out to challenge companies to change their way of thinking.

In the meantime, inspired by street art, he became an acclaimed graffiti artist - though he has since stopped selling his works for personal gain, and instead uses his art to raise money for charities. His keynote is where his passion for business growth and art converge into a fascinating performance.

Erik's list of clients includes AT&T, Disney, London School of Business, Microsoft, FedEx, Exxon Mobil, Ernst & Young and XPrize.
Speech Topics

The Spark and the Grind: The Discipline of Creativity

It’s one thing to understand the importance of creativity to the success of your business, but what most people don’t understand is how to put a structure in place so that innovation can find its way. The paradox of creativity is that structure creates freedom. Even the wildest minds require extreme orderliness and attention to detail so that they have the space and discipline to create.

Consider:

- Beethoven sat down everyday at daybreak, regardless of the season, and composed until 3:00 pm
- Kafka started writing at 11:30 pm each night
- Mozart taught lessons by day and composed only in the evenings
- Picasso ate lunch every day with his family in silence and only allowed visitors one day per week
- Mark Twain awoke at 5:30 am, ate a hearty breakfast and wrote until 5:00 pm

This program will allow your organization to:

- Deconstruct the discipline of the creative process to ignite ideas to action
- Explore The Psychology of Success and the Science of Innovation to achieve superior levels of performance
- Harness the mental toughness required to navigate ambiguity and master complexity in a rapidly changing business environment
- Disruption is the new normal. Are you creating or reacting?

UNthink™

Somehow we’ve come to believe that creativity is reserved for the chosen few: the poets, the painters, the writers. The truth is bigger and better than that. Creativity is in all of us. We simply need to rediscover the keys that will unlock our potential. UNthink™ is the keynote experience that will push members of your organization beyond their traditional thought patterns and habitual levels of performance. UNthink™ will inspire audiences to realize they are capable of so much more than they have been led to believe.

The UNthink™ program helps reframe your organization’s thinking so that new creative actions become possible. Learning how to UNthink™ will inject your daily grind with new passion, allowing employees to see how the organization wants and needs all of their talents and energies, not just the ones they’ve been using so far. You’ll begin the process of rethinking your life as a blank canvas of limitless opportunity on which to create your masterpiece.

This program will allow your organization to:

- Step outside convention to discover new and unexpected solutions to business challenges
- Challenge pre-conceived notions about what’s possible
- UNthink™ your way to increased creativity, productivity and passion
The Art of Leadership

Today’s leaders face a pressure to innovate—or else perish—unlike any other time in history. Advances in social, mobil and cloud technology, coupled with fierce global competition has made the business landscape nearly unrecognizable from what it was a mere 10 years ago.

Erik Wahl’s entertaining and invigorating Art of Leadership presentation paints a compelling new portrait for what the successful leaders of tomorrow will look like. He inspires audiences to shed old ways of thinking and “business as usual” processes that are outdated, inefficient and detrimental to productivity. Audience members learn new ways to build an emotional connection to drive future employee engagement. Erik’s presentation stretches traditional assumptions on leadership.

The end results include:

- Innovative solutions to further your organization
- Attracting and engaging quality employees
- New efficiencies and the end of detrimental redundancies

Growth and comfort cannot co-exist. When leaders come from a place of authenticity, curiosity, exploration and purpose, this leads to more meaningful connections among team members and with clients and customers—and ultimately, a more profitable organization. An engaged employee equals an engaged customer.

The Art of Vision®

The best sustainable edge in business is the ability to differentiate yourself from your competition. Through this entertaining and highly practical program, we will uncover new ways to make your organization more creative, innovative and profitable, but more so, help your employees see the need to become better storytellers within and for your company and industry.

By embracing innovative strategies, professionals at all levels can achieve superior levels of performance by creatively and visibly differentiating themselves from the competition. No matter what kind of organization you have—from a small company to a large corporation—employees at all levels will better able to embrace the future by becoming more innovative, more productive and ultimately more profitable.

ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- Differentiation, differentiation, differentiation
- Telling a better story
- Outthinking the competition

EMBRACING CHANGE

- Working smarter, not harder
- Sustaining excellence in a changing economy
- Leveraging chaos to capitalize on opportunities