

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Jabbawockeez

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pression, often communicating with hesitant volunteers from the audience for some delightful comedy sketches. In fact, the performers don't take themselves too seriously at all and the show is almost a comedy routine mixed with some impressive flares, locking, popping and dime stopping.

Without a word from the dancers, they were able to weave a faint story throughout the show of how anyone can find their muse (the show's title "MUS.I.C" is read "Muse I See." I've seen several Vegas shows start with a janitor sweeping the stage (get in your seat at least fifteen minutes early to enjoy his pre-show antics), but this blue collar Wockee maintains his faceless identity during the whole show and attempts to teach us that anyone can dream big by bringing "the colors of sound" to life.

One of my favorite sections of the show was a ninja showdown that featured some glow-in-the-dark antics that were fun with the lights off and hilarious when the lights came back on to reveal their secret tricks. The Jabbawockeez know how to poke fun at Vegas too, dressing up as Elvis, Blue Man Group, Carrot Top, and a show girl.

The original crew consists of seven members: Kevin Brewer, Joe Larot, Phil Tayag, Chris Gatdula, Ryan Paguio, Jeff "Phi" Nguyen, and Ben Chung "B-Tek." Before being accepted as official members of Jabbawockeez, Jeff and Ben Chung had to participate in a dance battle with one of the three founders. I did a head count during the Vegas show and soon learned that MTV's "America's Best Dance



Crew" Season 2 winners Super Cr3w perform nightly with Jabbawockeez, adding some extra athleticism and acrobatics to the show. In fact, at times there is so much going on the stage that it's hard to know which performer to focus on.

The name Jabbawockeez is derived from Lewis Carroll's poem *Jabberwocky*, briefly alluded to in the show when the janitor starts to read the book and then falls into a dream state. By the way, don't sit in the first three rows if fog machines bother you. Although the show started off a little slowly, the packed audience was eager to

award the crew with a standing ovation at the end.

And now a few bummers... I talked to several adoring audience members who had their wallets out, ready to buy merchandise before and after the show, but were quickly discouraged by the ridiculously steep prices, leaving the dope signature masks and t-shirts in the store. I was surprised that the dance crew didn't take their masks off at the end of the performance like they so often do, and a bit disappointed that they didn't come outside the theater to greet the audience and take photos. (I had my Flipcam ready to film them becoming best

friends with my son.)

The crew's success in Vegas means that the show has been extended through spring 2012. Performances are Thursday at 9:30 p.m., Friday at 9:30 p.m., Saturday at 7

p.m. and 9:30 p.m. and Sunday and Monday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets start at \$52 (plus tax and fees). For more information, please visit www.jbwkz.com or www.montecarlo.com.



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HAPPENINGS

Keeping it simple: Kids need to be taught

By Antonia Williams
Answer Staff Columnist

Don't reach for things at the table; ask to have them passed.

Keep a napkin on your lap; use it to wipe your mouth when necessary.

Use eating utensils properly. If you are unsure how to do so, ask your parents to teach you or watch what adults do.

When someone helps you, say "thank you." That person will likely want to help you again. This is especially true with teachers!

When an adult asks you for a favor, do it without grumbling and with a smile.

If you come across a parent, a teacher, or a neighbor working on something, ask if you can help. If they say "yes," do so — you may learn something new.

As you walk through a door, look to see if you can hold it open for someone else.

Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze, and don't pick your nose in public.

If you bump into somebody, immediately say "Excuse me."

Even if a play or an assembly is boring, sit through it quietly and pretend that you are interested. The performers and presenters are doing their best.

Do not make fun of anyone for any reason. Teasing shows others you are weak, and ganging up on someone else is not nice.

Don't call people mean names.

Never use foul language in front of adults. Grown-ups already know all those words, and they find them unpleasant.

Be appreciative and say "thank you" for any gift you receive. In the age of e-mail, a handwritten thank-you note can have a powerful effect.

Knock on closed doors — and wait to see if there's a response — before entering.

When people ask you how you are, tell them and then ask them how they are.

The world is not interested in what you dislike. Keep negative opinions to yourself, or between you and your friends.

When you have any doubt about doing something, ask permission first. It can save you from many hours of grief later.

If you do need to get somebody's attention right away, the phrase "excuse me" is the most polite way for you to enter the conversation.

Do not interrupt grown-ups who are speaking with each other unless there is an emergency. They will notice you and respond when they are finished talking.

When receiving something, say "Thank you."

When asking for something, say "Please."

The following is a list of kind gestures we would like to see make a comeback

Children looking people in the eye when spoken to

A handshake with a proper greeting

Removing hats in restaurants and church (children and adults!)

Have children call adults Mr. Mrs. Or Miss, it is a sign of respect

Apologize face to face instead of sending a text message, email or on Facebook!

Chewing gum with your mouth closed

Excusing yourself to take a phone call (children and adults)

Saying a simple, "yes, please," "no thank you," "I'm sorry."

Questions or comments? Contact Antonia Williams by email at The Answer.

AARP

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Tip 5: Don't Pay Full Price for Consumer Items.

Whether it's food, cars, furniture, clothes, entertainment or over-the-counter medicine—nearly everything can be had for less than full price. Clip coupons, shop sales, learn the best value days at the local grocery store (some have double points, others have one day where both weeks' sale prices are honored), become a frugal shopper and you could save thousands on the basics over a year's time. AARP can help too. In addition to great savings with an AARP membership card; we offer free ideas for anyone to save money every week on our website, <http://www.aarp.org/money/budgeting-saving/>.

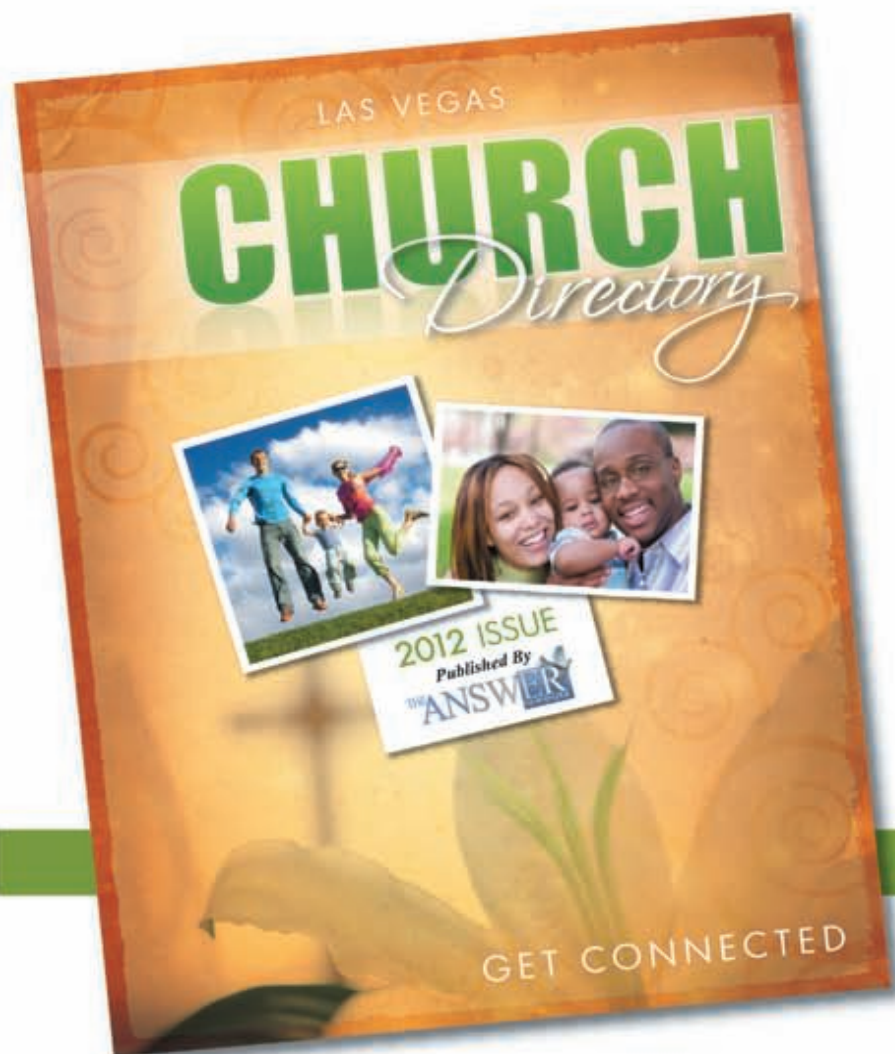
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HAPPENINGS

Annie Meadows

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yearlong process. Preparations — ranging from musical selection to rehearsals to costume fittings — are squeezed in between the concerts and tours and preparation for the new album.

This year's Christmas show will revolve around the theme, "The Polar Express: I Still Believe" and will feature plenty of winter and Christmas imagery in a show designed to serve as an evangelistic tool. The message of Christ and salvation will be included in the hour-and-a-half show.

"The Christmas shows are always very special to me," she said. "It's really a dream come true, and it's amazing how God has used these shows to bring in so many people. I can see God at work. If you're open to being flexible, He'll use your gifts."

Meadows wasn't always focused on serving the Lord — quite the contrary, actually. Once a self-proclaimed witch, Meadows was drawn to the occult, Ouija boards and witchcraft during her teen-aged years.

"At first, it was a curiosity and something I just dabbled in," she said. "But the enemy is very sly. He'll come into our hearts and darken them. Some of us are more susceptible to this than others."

But God clearly had other plans for Meadows, who actually was



pronounced dead at birth from complications but survived and is a living miracle in more ways than one.

Meadows, who always had a talent for singing, was interested solely in having fun. She sought out the rock-and-roll scene and eventually landed in Las Vegas where she met her now-husband, Peter Tibone.

"It turned out, moving to Las Vegas was one of the best things that ever happened to me," she said.

Tibone and Meadows shared several common bonds: Both were interested in music and both had been introduced to Christ at an early age. But while Tibone was inter-

ested in restoring his relationship with the Lord, Meadows had completely blocked Christ from her life.

"But I started to fall in love with Peter, and God used that," Meadows said.

Tibone eventually prompted Meadows to attend a service at Calvary Chapel in Las Vegas. While she agreed to attend, she did so with great rebellion because, as she noted in retrospect, "light and darkness do not mix."

"Everybody at (Calvary Chapel) seemed so happy," Meadows said, reflecting on her subsequent visits to the church. "I began to think, 'Maybe I'll try Jesus.' I went up for an altar call, and people were laying hands on me as they prayed. It was like electricity running through my body."

In a twist of irony, Meadows eventually led worship services at the church. Her first song was a rendition of "El Shaddai" after hear-

ing Christian singer Amy Grant's recording on the radio.

At a Glance:
WHAT: Annie Meadows' Annual Christmas Concert, Benefiting Operation Christmas Child
WHEN: 7 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10

WHERE: Casablanca Ballroom at Loews Lake Las Vegas Resort, 101 Montelago Blvd., Henderson

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