

# **Creativity in SM or Who's Scene is it Anyway!**

Levels of Play: Body Mind Spirit Soul

## **What factors keep us from being creative?**

1. Fear - Fear of failure, ridicule, exposure
2. Complacency - stick with the norm
3. Lack of expertise
4. Requires expending energy

Fear is the biggest factor. Universal and normal. Fear must be conquered. If not conquered, panic could keep us from developing our full potential. Panic could be caused by doubt and lack of confidence.

## **What are the 5 key ingredients of creativity?**

1. Imagination
2. Enthusiasm
3. Talent (Natural ability)
4. Skill
5. Confidence.

I believe that this is one of the most critical factors for being free enough to be truly creative.

Take advantage of what you do professionally or as a hobby to use as a springboard.

A truly creative person is generally someone that takes a different path, bends the rules, is willing to risk failure, and doesn't mind being a bit of a Pioneer. Those who don't, generally find their play to be mediocre and uninspired. You cannot allow anything to cause you not to believe in yourself!

Think outside the box. We create an environment that has a comfort zone and we don't like leaving it. If we don't, our play becomes predictable and boring.

1. Increase your knowledge
2. Improve your skill set
3. Change the way YOU think

Don't rely on shock value to get noticed. Flashy play without substance is quickly dismissed. Never risk flashy play (disguised as creativity) that ultimately risks the very creed of our community. (Safe, sane, consensual)

Little of what we know is really new. Most of what we know we learned we learned from others. The trick is applying this knowledge in a new and different way. Taking what you know and adding your own personal twist can raise play from mediocre to memorable.

Surround yourself with other creative people. Not just in the scene but in your daily life. Negative people build barriers to creativity. Enrich your creativity by attending theatre, museums, inspirational speakers as well as events such as this one. As with any kind of knowledge, if you aren't growing you are becoming stale and stagnant. Creative exploration of the scene will keep it fresh and fun.

Play off each other in a scene. If a bottom likes the way a scene is going, they can play off the Top and add their own ideas which will generally make the scene more creative and satisfying *for both parties*. It becomes much like improvisational erotic theatre in which no script is used and the scene evolves based on the creative talent of the two players. Both players ultimately share the responsibility for the success of the scene. For this sort of play to be effective both players must be open minded without preconceived ideas. That would lead to a scripted and less successful scene.

*"A romantic mind is open to all sorts of exotic ideas, beautiful thoughts and creative attitudes. It is tough to be a creator and be uptight about life. Your outlook on life, your personality, and your sense of romance all show up in the creativity you display when playing. If you are enjoying what you do and have fun doing it, it will have a positive influence on the end product. You may be able to fake it by copying those around you but that is not very satisfying to you or the bottom. Let the joy and pleasures of life be the inspiration for erotic play. If your play adds a sense of delight to those with whom you play, you will have done more than just adding creativity to a scene. You will have enhanced the life of that person."*

free thinking – open mindedness.

If you prejudice yourself against considering something new you immediately block the creative process- You do however need to filter this information as it comes across your brain. Take the time to empty the trash often so your brain does not get bogged down with unimportant information. Process what you see, learn and feel and apply the good stuff in your play. Creative ideas for scenes may come from completely unrelated events. Be constantly on the lookout for new ideas. They may come at any time or place.

You can't force or fake creativity. Your mind has to be free to experiment without fear of failure. Let it happen. Let your mind wonder. See things through a new perspective, refocus your mind to seek creative solutions.

The major barrier to the creative process is when a person focuses on evaluation, competition and reward. We have been told our whole lives to color inside the lines. When you were six you had 64 color crayons to use. Now you if you are lucky, you have a black, blue or red Uniball pen. How creative is that?

The easiest thing is to create a scene strictly adhering to what the bottom has said they want and enjoy. That's OK for an outline but apply a few surprises. This assures that you will have their complete attention. These surprises will allow you to exercise your creativity and perhaps stimulate theirs. Keep in mind that you will need to deliver on your new creativity. Don't show them a knife and not use it. Don't crack a whip and not leave a trophy to take home. Don't let them call your bluff. Don't wrap up an ordinary scene in Christmas wrap and give them underwear and socks.

The creative process should bring you great pleasure. Even if a particular idea does not work out you had a good time in the chase. The mind works much better when it is creative instead of going through the same old scene using the same old scenario. Creativity is inventing, experimenting, growing, taking risks, breaking rules, making mistakes and having fun.