



# Valerie VIGODA

Transformational Performer



## Meet Valerie

"Life is meant to be daring. It starts when we realize how extraordinary our lives can be and break free to be more boldly, fully alive." - Valerie Vigoda

Valerie Vigoda is a transformational entertainer—connecting with and uplifting her audiences, galvanizing them toward fearlessness and igniting their innate confidence and creativity—through her one-of-a-kind combination of world-class vocals, dazzling electric violin, trailblazing technology and heartfelt, authentic musical storytelling. Her arsenal of talents drives home her rabble-rousing, empowering message.

Her unique personal story of repeatedly facing into her greatest fears, rising to challenges in order to grow and play larger in the world, resonates with anyone who has ever felt insecurity, stagnation, or the fear of not being "enough." The listlessness and boredom we feel from cloaking our greatest ideas is an internal cry for life-changing power; we were meant and made for so much more.

As a classical violinist turned rebel, former backup musician to rock stars and an Off-Broadway star herself, Valerie knows that nothing connects more primally with humans than music. It accentuates the content she teaches, guiding people toward a more vivid place where they are pushing their edges and thriving in uncertainty.

**This is no ordinary keynote—it is an experience.**

*"Fear and passion  
cannot coexist in  
the same moment."*

- VALERIE VIGODA



# The Experience



Her most requested topic, **PEAK ALIVENESS: Transforming Fear Into Flow**, combines musical performance, story and interactivity.

Based partly on the heroic journey of Antarctic explorer Ernest Shackleton—the subject of her own hit Off-Broadway musical—the presentation inspires people to climb higher peaks, connect with their own courage and optimism and level up. Val's PEAK Aliveness program propels us toward the juicy edge of resistance, that sizzling place where we can be our truest, most innovative and fearless selves.

She offers the extraordinary option of composing a theme song specific to your event, which she performs with her unique solo live-looping setup. Click here for an example: the anthem "Right Now," tailor-made for the Learning 2017 Conference in Orlando, Florida.

## What People are Saying

"That was beautiful!" - **Michelle Obama, Learning 2017**

"To call Valerie Vigoda talented barely seems to do her justice. She has a great voice, is an intelligent lyricist ...and is an ace violinist. Methinks we'll hear more of her."  
- **Dirty Linen Magazine**

"Val Vigoda is a compact bundle of talent. She plays a strapped-on electric violin like a demon. She sings with a voice that pushes the walls into expanded dimensions. She acts with great charm."  
- **The Huffington Post**

"Val lit up our classroom with tales from her career... offering incisive and much appreciated feedback. The students seemed mesmerized by her and the visit was nothing less than inspirational."  
- **Michael Wartofsky, Professor, Berklee College of Music**

"Val is amazing. Let's do more together!"  
- **Elliott Masie, Learning 2017**

"Her insight into both the business and art of crafting a creative life are invaluable."  
- **Chris Larson, Stanford University**

"Valerie Vigoda unleashes a diva-worthy torrent of passion"  
- **The Washington Post**

"Val is terrific in the classroom. Her ability to convey with passion and clarity what it takes to make it as an artist out in the world is an invaluable contribution... [She is] the ideal guest artist."  
- **Polly Carl, PhD, Associate Vice President, Emerson College**

"Uber talented...Val Vigoda's musicality is a symphonic masterpiece."  
- **Times Square Chronicles**

# More About Valerie

Whether she is lighting up New York stages with her award-winning female-empowerment musical ERNEST SHACKLETON LOVES ME, sharing the stage with Michelle Obama at a cutting-edge education conference, or inspiring thousands of executives and students toward more presence and vividness through her musical keynotes, Valerie brings a magnetic, contagious spirit of **peak aliveness** to everything she does.

Granddaughter of world-renowned cantor/RCA "gold record" tenor Samuel Vigoda, and daughter of masterful Washington, DC society pianist Bob Vigoda, Valerie grew up immersed in her musical heritage. She learned how to sing and sight-read at her father's side on the piano bench, and started classical violin at age 8. Her natural curiosity and love of learning, combined with a rebellious spirit, led to a highly unusual educational path. Skipping three years ahead in school, she headed to Princeton at age 15, and joined Army ROTC to pay for college. The discipline she learned in the military served her very well, even as she followed her heart into the wilds of the music industry, switching from classical to electric violin. **Valerie honed her skills touring the world with Cyndi Lauper, Joe Jackson and the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, and founded the acclaimed band GrooveLily, which toured for many years on the indie circuit.**



Valerie and her bandmates moved into the world of theatre with their hit stage musical STRIKING 12, and were pioneers in the "actor-musician" theatrical movement which continues to this day. She (and her then-husband /collaborator) took an absence from touring and decided to concentrate more on songwriting in order to raise their son, Mose. Over the next 10 years she co-wrote many songs for Disney, as well as multiple stage musicals which have been produced from La Jolla Playhouse to Off-Broadway. Her work has won the Jonathan Larson Award for Excellence in Musical Theatre, the LA Ovation Award for Best Musical, the ASCAP Richard Rodgers Award and the Off-Broadway Alliance Award for Best Musical.



Valerie is now expanding her reach in the realms of performing, writing, educating and speaking: creating work with new collaborators as well as **spreading her wings as an in-demand musical keynote artist and educator**, solo performer and Off-Broadway star. She is also the newest Artist Mentor in the groundbreaking Electrify Your Strings program, which brings rock arrangements and joyful, high-octane performance energy to school orchestras throughout the nation. She lives in Seattle with her son Mose.

“Watching Valerie Vigoda is an **experience like no other** and one you and your audiences will never forget. She masterfully weaves art - in musical form - right before your eyes; you witness **the moment** of artistic creation, as a tapestry of **musical magnificence** unfolds. **This is a must for all audiences everywhere and an important glimpse at the future** of our industry.”

- Keith Cromwell Executive Director, Red Mountain Theatre Company (Birmingham, AL) Board member, National Alliance of Musical Theatre

## Why Valerie

Valerie Vigoda is the woman cutting-edge organizations engage to galvanize their people, amping up their power and presence so they can be better creators, communicators and leaders. **Her energy and impact are undeniable.**

Drawing upon her own life lessons as a classical violinist turned rebel, Disney songwriter and Off-Broadway creator and performer, her **PEAK Aliveness** program propels people toward the juicy edge of resistance, where they can overcome obstacles and be more boldly, fully alive.



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