

The Label Game

By Bernard De Koven | May 1, 2015 | 0



You know those tags and badges you get at parties or conferences – those things you write your name on and then stick on or hang around your neck? Name tags, I think, is what you call them.

That's what you need to play the LABEL Game – say maybe three per player. They're like \$5 for 100. You can probably find them at most any office supply store.

So, you get a bunch of them and enough markers so that you're not going to worry about people not having several to use. And, as people come in, you ask them to make a LABEL for themselves.

You might have a list of LABEL ideas handy just to get things started. Like:

1-percenter, All Powerful, Arch Nemesis of Evil, Bi Partisan, Bi Polar, Bi Sexual, Buff, Curiously Loving Sadist, Deaf, Devastatingly Handsome, Devious, Emotionally Unstable, Fabulous, Famous, Fashionable, Fool, Gnarly, Holier than Thou, Holy One, Homeless, Horny, Hug-deprived, Impressionable, Inarticulate, Inebriated, Influential, Intellectual, Invisible, Lord of all creation, Magician, Naive, Naked, Nobel Laureate, Not Who I Appear To Be, Over Protective, Pole dancer, Prophet, Queer, Sexy, Shaman, Shawoman, Stunning, Sweet-smelling,, Too marvelous for words, Transgendered, Unlabeled, Vastly Superior, Ventriloquist, Wealthy, Wicked, Wise, Witch, Your Grace, Your Highness, Your Holiness, Your Honor, Your Mamma

They can use another badge for their name, if they so wish. Or not if they don't. They can have as many badges as they want – though three is the recommended maximum.

After they are all properly enbadged, they spend the next fifteen or so minutes people-mixing, as if they were in some kind of cocktail party, treating each other according to their label. So, should you have a label that says “Innocent” everyone would respond to whatever you said to them as if it were coming from an innocent person.

That's pretty much the whole game. You might spend some of the time looking for someone with a label you especially want to spend time with. Or looking for several people whose labels would make them want to spend time with you. You might enjoy introducing people to each other in a host-like manner.

You might want to change your label, add another label, or trade labels with someone else. You might want to remove all your labels and walk around unlabeled. You might want to sit somewhere and just watch.

It's kind of a socially aware game – when you think about how we label people. Except it's different, because we're labeling ourselves. And that little difference is part of what makes the whole thing so much fun. Another part is walking around being treated as if you were invisible, naked and fabulously wealthy.

