

Shay McConnon

of people First Intl

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Summary

Shay McConnon is a psychologist, an author and the founder of People First and international training and consultancy group that specialises in leadership and culture issues.

Shay recognises that people are the key to organisational success and excellence. He has developed a series of innovative programmes for developing not only leaders but leadership across organisations.

He is the creator of An Even Better Place to Work, an on-line, self service programme that prevents people problems and encourages the “What am I going to do” not the “What is management going to do” mindset. This programme is being used by TNT, BAE Systems, Astra Zeneca, and other leading organisations to engage their staff and promote ownership.

Shay is a regular speaker at conferences, is a Fellow of the Professional Speakers Association and has recently been awarded top speaker by the Academy of Chief Executives and best new speaker by Vistage (the world’s largest organisation for chief executives).

He is a member of the Magic Circle and he uses magic to illustrate his key messages in a fun and memorable way.

“One of the most motivational, educational and moving keynote addresses we have ever heard- it was also the funniest by far” NACGT Conference organiser

Specialties

Motivational / Business Speaker -

Leadership and culture issues -

Conflict management and prevention in organisations

Experience

Creator at An Even Better Place to Work

September 1999 - Present (13 years 9 months)

The world's first on line, self service culture enhancing programme - a new approach to creating well led, highly motivated, productive people.

Create valued people who will drive performance - no burden of time or work on any one person - used by BAESystems, Siemens, NHS, TNT etc

6 recommendations available upon request

Founder at People First Intl

September 1988 - Present (24 years 9 months)

Specialise in leadership and culture issues

5 recommendations available upon request

Honors and Awards

Top Speaker by the Academy for Chief Executives

Best New Speaker for Vistage - world's largest organisation for Chief Executives

Interests

Staff engagement

Leadership

innovative approaches

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11 people have recommended Shay

"I got to know Shay as the creator of "An Even Better Place To Work" program. A brilliant invention from a brilliant mind! He surely makes a difference for people and organizations. Through his simple but powerful tool it becomes easy to improve communication and understand how we are different as individuals so we can create better workplaces together. This indeed leads to higher engagement and increased productivity. Shay, thank you for our inspiring conversations and for your valuable insights!"

— **Iris Kassim**, *Executive Consultant HCM Practice / Employee Engagement Program Lead, Stamford Global*, was with another company when working with Shay at An Even Better Place to Work

"Shay is an outgoing and charming individual whose style is suited to both small intimate Groups and larger Conference audiences. Over the years he has got a very good balance between his serious content and the skills he has as a member of the Magic Circle. He is at ease with a CEO audience getting them to think strategically and then he can interact with Departmental leaders getting them to think tactically about the issues they face on improving team performances. In the last year I have used him for a large mixed audience of over 30 participants whilst two clients have used him for events where all the staff participated in the first instance & where the sales force needed to be re-energised at the other. The feedback was very positive. Brief him well & you get a real payback on the day."

— **DAVID DARCY - Business Coach**, was Shay's client

"I hired Shay to facilitate a very important session as part of a conference I had organised. The session involved understanding the differences between people and Shay used magic, humour, appropriate theories and anecdotes to introduce and discuss the topic. But more than this, he actually managed to bring the topic to life. Evaluation at the end of the event confirmed that most of the 150 delegates thought that Shay's session had been the most powerful, thought provoking and inspiring."

— **Quentin Emery**, was Shay's client

"Shay's mind is in competition with his heart...both are huge. Shay's work has positively impacted the lives of thousands and will endure for generations to come. That is matched by his gifts for making others feel special. Shay is a role model for leaders throughout the world."

— **Jim Rembach**, *Chief Spokesman, Beyond Morale - Online Leadership & Employee Engagement System*, was with another company when working with Shay at An Even Better Place to Work

"I have worked with Shay for many years across 2 different organisations. His unique style of delivery is how would I say, MAGIC! The whole concept behind SDI really helps people understand their communication and management style and helps on an individual and team basis. Highly recommended"

— **Ryan Cheyne**, was Shay's client

"Shay delivers great workshops on getting the best out of people and understanding people differences. He has an entertaining and engaging style. His web based approach to engaging your workforce is first rate with plenty of practical tools"

— **Alan Dean**, was Shay's client

"Shay is an excellent educator. He is engaging and knows where he talks about. Shay did for IMS Amsterdam several programmes. His scores are amongst the highest for IMS Amsterdam. He is not only for more than 100% dedicated to the material he is presenting, but also to the participants, and last but not least also to me organizing the sessions. I always look forward working together with Shay. For Shay the glass is always half full instead of half empty."

— **Giep Franzen**, was Shay's client

"Shay is an engaging speaker who skilfully mixes magic with his powerful Message. I highly recommend him as a speaker."

— **Simon Zutshi**, *Internet Marketing Manager, Cadbury Limited*, worked directly with Shay at People First Intl

"Shay delivered an excellent session on 7 Keys for Leadership to one of my Vistage CEO groups today. There was a great level of energy in the room, the content was superb, his presentation skills are excellent and his sessions are always delivered in a very entertaining fashion. All our Vistage sessions are rated and Shay scored 88% for value and 89% for communication, excellent results for this group. After he left we had a review of what had worked best and what actions the participants were going to take. All of them went away with at least one very high value idea for implementation and improvement. Although the primary focus was on leadership skills in a business setting many of us found that the lessons learned were even more valuable to us in our personal lives. I have used Shay on a number of occasions before and would not hesitate to use him again."

— **Edmund Johnston**, was Shay's client

"Shay presented "Winning Relationships" to Vistage Key 219 group on Thursday and was a resounding success! Shay has the magical ability to stimulate motivate and inform Some of the comments from participants were:- "Exceptionally practical, thought provoking and refreshing ." -"I have lots to take away and use." -"Some very useful words to cascade the learning and approaches to achieve the outcome". -"Lively and thought provoking" -"Some really useful ideas that I will be implementing with my new team." -"Enjoyed the session - very interactive" Shay scored an average of 89% on the value of the presentation to

participants. and 90% on his communication ability. Great Job Shay thank you."

— **Bob Battye**, was Shay's client

"I am making this recommendation for Shay to share on LinkedIn with potential clients and business partners : I have been working with Shay since my position as Corporate Director Human Resources at Ares Services SA (Serono Group) in the early 1990's. Shay is an excellent provider of seminars, solutions and key note speeches in the fields of Relationship Management, Leadership and Satisfaction at the workplace. His seminars and speeches are of exceptional quality, always adapted to his audience and their needs . They leave a big impact and learning effect on the participants. and - in addition - they are great fun!!! (Shay is a hobby magician...). Together with late Graham Barrett, he brought an innovative and unique new business tool to the market, called AnEvenBetterPlacetowork. It is based on his work and experience and helps companies and organizations improve their productivity and efficiency by improving Satisfaction at work and with it Employee Engagement, Motivation, Ownership and Leadership on all levels. It is fully web-based and designed as a self service tool that can be complemented with additional services, as needed. Give it a try on his website www.anevenbetterplacetowork.com! The users love it, and the effects are immediate!"

— **Joachim Heidrich**, *Managing Director, Peak Performance Partners SA*, was with another company when working with Shay at People First Intl

[Contact Shay on LinkedIn](#)