



## *De's Dazzles – The Show Must Go On*

Freddie Mercury, lead singer for Queen, was diagnosed with AIDS in 1987 and by the early 1990s his health was declining. Despite struggling with vocals and in a lot of pain, Mercury was adamant about continuing to make music, record an album, and perform for his fans. Queens' guitarist Brian May wrote a song called, "The Show Must Go On" and had his own doubts about Mercury's ability to sing the song. But the recorded version is some of Mercury's most powerful and emotional vocals, conveying a sense of urgency and determination despite his personal struggles. One simple and profound lyric from the song I find is, "Inside my heart is breaking, my makeup may be flaking, but my smile still stays on."

*The show must go on* conveys that despite encountering problems or difficulties, you must persevere and carry out the intended task(s). Another way to say it is to push through the hardship to fulfill one's responsibilities, press on or keep on keeping on!

The phrase came into being during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century circus era. If a performer was injured or had a mishap, or an animal became unruly, the ringmaster would make certain the circus continued so the audience was not disappointed. "The show must go on" phrase continues throughout the entertainment industry today as performers are expected to carry on with their performances regardless of personal or technical difficulties. I recently heard of a concert with 10,000 attendees that after a couple songs the sound board quit working. So, until another sound board could be delivered, the band members walked amongst the crowd taking short social media videos and taking song requests which all 10,000 attendees sang acapella! The show went on, not as planned but making for a memorable event!

May & June have been fraught with moments where "the show must go on" right here in Corning. From the water leaks and buckets catching the drips the rentals continued! From my mother's hospitalization and death, the lighting for the youth musical was completed, though not as planned. I placed an order for part of the cast meal and the business forgot to make it, but in the end, it all worked out ok! Thanks to all my friends and volunteers who stepped up and made sure that no matter what "the show must go on." The phrase is more than a classic rock song and speaks to my soul. So, to all those who are facing significant obstacles, be strong, carry on, stick with it, and push through these challenges. The Show (life) will Go On!

Sincerely,  
De Heaton, Executive Director  
7/1/24