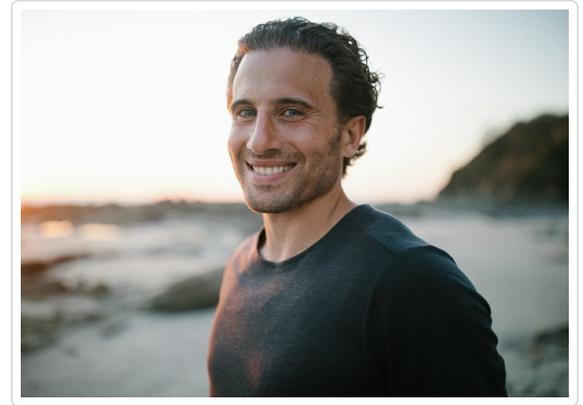


# Chris Bashinelli

**National Geographic Explorer & TV Host; United Nations Moderator; Actor from The Sopranos (HBO); Expert on Human Connection & Happiness in Business**

Please contact a GDA agent for information.



## Topics

- Business Growth Strategies & Trends
- Connection & Belonging
- Leadership
- Mental Health & Stress Management
- Psychological Safety
- Sales
- Trust

## About Chris Bashinelli

Chris Bashinelli, National Geographic Explorer, TV host, and celebrated speaker on human connection, travels the globe researching what drives happiness, purpose, and belonging in life and business. Drawing from immersive experiences in over 40 countries, Chris—known affectionately as “Bash”—helps organizations boost sales, reignite employee inspiration, and build cultures of genuine connection.

Born in Brooklyn, New York to Lebanese and Italian-American parents, Bash’s worldview was shaped on his childhood “Stoop”, where his friends shared more than 13 nationalities. After a decade-long acting career, including a role on the hit HBO TV series The Sopranos, Bash traded the red carpet for the road, launching Bridge the Gap, a global documentary series featured on PBS and National Geographic Channel.

Bash’s adventures have taken him from living with nomads in Mongolia, to harvesting tea in China, to Sumo wrestling the heaviest Japanese human in recorded history. He fully embeds himself in different worlds as a modern-day Cultural Anthropologist- learning from Ugandan mystics, Mongolian herdsman, Lakota suicide prevention activists, and some of TIME Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People on the Planet.

A passionate advocate for mental wellness and happiness, Bash has studied mindfulness and meditation for over 20 years. Following the loss of his father to cancer when he was 20 years old, he began a lifelong mission to understand the human condition. Through his service work, he has brought mindfulness to inmates across federal and state prisons and to veterans of nearly every major conflict since WWII.

As a keynote speaker, Bash brings stories of adventure, interactive exercises, and exclusive content from his travels to create powerful, customized experiences for every audience. His authenticity and curiosity spark something rare and unforgettable—an alchemy of trust, laughter, and transformation. Bash has headlined events for AT&T, American Express, Coca-Cola, Deloitte, the Federal Reserve Bank, the Million Dollar Round Table, and many more.

Bash has shared the stage with luminaries like Stevie Wonder and Michael Douglas, and at just 24, became the youngest person ever to moderate the United Nations International Day of Peace. His most recent film explores the power of friendship with his adoptive grandfather, actor Dominic Chianese (Uncle Junior on The Sopranos). His work has been featured in Delta Sky Magazine, Lonely Planet, Huffington Post, and The Daily News Zimbabwe. He’s also an Eagle Scout and guest host on the Be Here Now podcast network. **In a world hungry for meaning and connection, Chris Bashinelli delivers – with heart, humor, and an unwavering belief in our shared humanity.**

## Select Keynotes

- **The Way of Human Connection: A Revolutionary Approach to Building Lasting Trust with Clients and Teams**

What if the real secret to sales and success wasn’t persuasion- but connection?

Today’s employees and clients are more discerning than ever. An Edelman study revealed 90% of customers will walk away from a brand they don’t trust. Almost half of all employees have quit a job due to distrust in senior leadership. And yet, in our rush to “influence” or “close the deal,” we often sacrifice the very thing that fuels long-term growth: Authentic Human Connection!

In this game-changing keynote, National Geographic Explorer and Scientist of Human Connection, Chris Bashinelli, reveals the overlooked superpower in business: putting people first. Drawing on years of global research— from living with nomads on the Mongolian steppe, to

connecting with financial advisors in Fort Worth – Chris shows that when we are fully present, deeply empathetic, & driven by service, we unlock the kind of trust that leads to exponential growth.

This is not about manipulating your clients or employees – it’s about meeting them with genuine care, turning “them” into “us,” and building bonds that last far beyond the sale. Whether you’re leading a sales team or building client relationships one conversation at a time, this keynote will transform the way you sell—and the way you connect.

#### **Key Takeaways:**

- ◊ Bash’s patented “Discover Our In” method to build deep, lasting trust
- ◊ How to shift from transactional selling to transformational relationships
- ◊ The science behind empathy— how to apply it in real sales conversations
- ◊ Practical tools to become fully present and emotionally attuned to clients
- ◊ Strategies to build a “People-First” Sales Culture that fuels growth and loyalty

#### **• Leading Through Change: From Busboy to Nat Geo Explorer - Embrace Change, Become your Best Self, & Reignite Employee Inspiration**

Change is no longer the exception in our organizations – it’s the environment we live in. Markets shift, structures evolve, people come and go. The question isn’t whether change will happen – it’s how we lead through it. When faced with uncertainty, the most impactful leaders are those who stay grounded, connected and authentic – creating stability not by controlling external events, but by strengthening the foundation within themselves and their teams.

When Chris Bashinelli returned from East Africa at 20 years old, his father was diagnosed with terminal cancer. That moment – one breath to the next – forever changed the course of his life. This sparked a lifelong journey to understand how we navigate hardship, remain steady in the face of the unknown and how to lead and inspire others when we are hurting ourselves.

From working as a busboy in Brooklyn, to creating an international TV series from his parent’s basement, to becoming the one of the youngest Emcees in United Nations history, Chris discovered one profound truth: we cannot always control what happens around us, but we can always choose how we show up. And how we show up – our presence, our authenticity, our humanity – is what inspires others to move forward with us.

In this keynote, Chris leads audiences on a journey across cultures and continents, sharing real stories of resilience, wisdom and human connection. Together, we explore how embracing challenge can reveal our greatest potential, and how leading through change begins by reconnecting to what is real, grounded, and unshakeable within ourselves.

#### **Key Takeaways:**

- ◊ Lead from the Inside Out: Learn to ground yourself in presence and perspective – the two things we always control – even when the external environment feels uncertain.
- ◊ Inspire Through Being, Not Telling: Discover why authentic leadership has a greater impact than motivational instruction – and how your presence influences your team more than your words.
- ◊ Transform Challenge into Growth: Reframe adversity as an opportunity to evolve into the leader you are meant to become – individually and collectively.
- ◊ Strengthen Trust Through Humanity: Use empathy, transparency, and care to build deeper connection with teams navigating change.
- ◊ Adopt the Abundance Perspective: Understand how our mindset shapes our reality – and how to choose the one that supports resilience, unity, and forward momentum.

#### **• A Culture of Trust: Building Unbreakable Teams Through Human Connection**

Teams don’t become resilient because they avoid challenge – they become resilient because they trust one another through it. Trust is the foundation that allows people to speak honestly, collaborate creatively, and show up as their authentic selves. When trust is present, teams innovate. When trust is absent, even the most talented groups unravel.

Chris Bashinelli has spent two decades studying human connection in over 40 countries – from the hillsides of Mongolia, to the Pine Ridge Reservation, to his childhood “Stoop” in Brooklyn, where thirteen nationalities came together every day. Across cultures, industries, and borders, the pattern is the same: people thrive when they feel seen, valued, and safe to be who they are.

In this keynote, Chris shares a clear, human-centered approach to building teams that are strong enough to withstand change and inspired enough to grow from it. Through powerful global stories, interactive moments, and the PACT of Connection (Present. Authentic. Care. Trust.), Chris shows leaders how to cultivate environments where every voice matters and every person feels at home.

This is how we turn groups into communities – and communities into unbreakable teams.

#### **Key Takeaways:**

- ◊ Lead with Presence, Not Pressure: Create space where people feel grounded, respected, and able to contribute authentically.

- ◊ The Bridge of Trust Framework: Build trust through shared humanity – not force, influence, or control.
- ◊ Unlock Each Individual's "Superpower": Reframe challenges and personal story as the source of strength and creativity – in ourselves and others.
- ◊ Inspire Innovation by Including Every Voice: When people feel safe to speak, teams unlock new ideas, speed, and resilience.
- ◊ Create Your Company "Stoop": A cultural foundation where belonging fuels performance, collaboration, and purpose.

- **The Happiness Effect: Why Starting from Happiness is the Secret to Lasting Success**

In a world defined by rapid change—AI disruption, budget cuts, and burnout—one powerful force remains in our control: our ability to create happiness.

When National Geographic Explorer Chris Bashinelli returned from East Africa at just 20 years old, he was met with devastating news—his father had terminal cancer. That moment sparked a two-decade journey to uncover how people around the world live joyful, purposeful lives, even in the face of adversity.

Rooted in 20 years of mindfulness practice and first-hand experiences in 40+ countries, Bash reveals the unexpected truth: happiness isn't a reward at the finish line—it's the starting point for meaningful success.

From Tanzanian filmmakers to Mongolian nomads, and through deeply personal stories of loss and resilience, Bash shares transformative lessons that show how happiness fuels trust, boosts productivity, and drives high-performance teams. Backed by first hand research and brought to life with humor, vulnerability, and audience interaction, this keynote helps individuals and organizations unlock their most powerful resource—their mindset.

**Key Takeaways:**

- ◊ How to cultivate happiness even in challenging times
- ◊ Why abundance thinking often leads to greater wealth
- ◊ Simple gratitude practices that deepen trust and enrich relationships
- ◊ Mindfulness techniques to improve focus, reduce stress, and boost well-being
- ◊ The clear connection between happiness and business success

**Select Testimonials**

Chris has a passionate, captivating personality, and is a truly inspirational speaker. He breaks through cultural and generational boundaries and puts life into perspective. He ignites sincere emotions, which tend to get lost in our full and busy lives. His message inspires individuals to become more committed members of the society. Chris motivates with vivid stories from all over the world and encourages people to use obstacles as building blocks and to see "failures" as lessons. And, he reminds us that success in business and in life also comes from thinking outside our own boundaries.

— *BMW GROUP*

Caesars Entertainment is committed to our core value of building community and "Bash" magnified the importance of that value in style... Chris Bashinelli's powerful keynote at one of our flagship events helped drive home the true meaning of cultural awareness and compassion. By inviting clients and co-workers to sit on our "stoop", we can strengthen any relationship. He reminds us to simply start where we are and we will see our partnerships and business relationships grow. When we care about each other and the communities we live and work in, the stakes become that much more important, and the positive results are evident. I highly recommend "Bash" for any corporate event."

— *CAESAR'S ENTERTAINMENT*

"Chris Bashinelli was the closing guest speaker at the Entrepreneurs Organization's Global Leadership Conference in Manila, Philippines. His dynamic entrance, larger than life, unabashed manner turned heads, our attention on him right from the start. Chris tells an amazing story of his life, his quest and his vision. For someone so young, he's done some crazy stuff. He had the audience captivated mentally and emotionally. He totally owned the space and the hour of his presentation. Great guy."

— *ENTREPRENEURS' ORGANIZATION Sue Duncan, President of EO New Zealand*

"Chris you were absolutely amazing and a pleasure to work with. You are so comforting to be around and I feel as if I have known you for years! Chris connected with our audience in a way that captivated them, and left them wanting more. For the Greater Nashville Apartment Association Chris absolutely exceeded our expectations on delivering our goal to Educate, Empower & Motivate our members."

