

# PUSHMONKEY

Austin-based band brings its hard rock music all the way from Woodstock to College Station

BY AMANDA PALM  
The Battalion

Even though Austin is home to that "other school" and all those tips, a rock 'n' roll band born there has found a tremendous following in College Station: Pushmonkey. The members of the band got together 10 years ago and have been climbing the ladder of success ever since.

Lead vocalist Tony Park, guitarists Will Hoffman and Howie Behrens, bassist Pat Fogarty and drummer Darwin Keys make up Pushmonkey. Since the release of their self-titled CD a year ago and since then have seen nothing but their growing popularity. The band is currently in the studio working on a version of "Auld Lang Syne" for a holiday album of various artists, but they still make time to come back to the town that loves to hear them rock.

The band performed at Woodstock and Ozzfest this summer, getting the opportunity to play with Black Sabbath and Ozzy Osbourne. They have also been on a nationwide tour with Godsmack. Park said although he enjoys playing large shows, small shows are great also, especially in College Station.

"What it lacks in size it makes up for in the ability to rock out," he said. "You get 2,000 to 3,000 people crammed into the [Texas] Hall [of Fame] or Shadow Canyon, and it can get crazy. People can go to College Station and say it's the best show they've ever seen because the small places can take the show to another level. It's synergistic effect."

Park said it does not matter how big or small the crowd is, as long as the audience is enjoying the show.

"We play 125 percent every time we go out," he said. "Everything we have done and everything we do is for that one hour. It's our hour of glory, and we give it everything."

It may seem as though Pushmonkey has leapt to the top of the charts and that the band has always had the huge amount of support it has now, but that is not the case. Park said the band has been working for 10 years to get where they are and they still can go further. He said the success they have had in

Texas is due to the fact that they worked and toured in the state long enough to make sure people knew who they were.

As for the success the band has had since it landed a major record deal last September, Park said it was expected.

"It sounds cocky, but too bad," he said. "Yeah, we expected it. We knew once we got the deal, we'd hit it big."

It is common to think that tension and conflicts arise between band members when they spend a year touring, but that is not the case with Pushmonkey.

"[For] the last year we've been stuck in a bus, and that can stress you out," he said. "We've always gotten along and are a civil group. If we have problems, we talk about

them and get them out in the open. We have really learned to be more willing to trust each other because we had to work as a team. It's been us against the music industry, us against the world."

Pushmonkey is still touring with music from its self-titled album, and their latest single, "Lefty," is now and gaining popularity. The song was featured on MTV's Video Music Awards as bumper music. Pushmonkey's songs can also be heard on the World Wrestling Federation Sunday Night Heat.

Park said the success of the latest single will determine when another album will be released. "We've been playing this album for a year," he said, "so we're ready from some new stuff."

When the band recorded its previous album, it had written 20 songs but only used 11 on the album. Park said the band still has five or six songs from the first album that could be used, plus six or seven new songs taking shape.

Pushmonkey has made it. They have worked hard, paid their dues and still come back to play the small towns that love them. Park said it does not matter where they play, he has never heard anyone say they did not like the band.

"They may like someone else better," he said, "but they'll still say 'Y'all are great too.'"

Pushmonkey  
with Chlorine

at the  
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- Hors d'oeuvres and Refreshments Provided

- Contact: Chapter Development Consultant  
Jerome Vascellaro  
764-1206  
frjeva@aol.com