

One 'priceless' internship

Hoobastank discusses MasterCard intern program, Campus Invasion Tour

By Nishat Fatima
THE BATTALION

industry would be. He said the internship will be tailored to help students make their first step into the music business.

"The only trait we are looking for is someone who is creative; someone who wants to do this career-wise and not just to take pictures with the band," Rob said.

Chris Hesse, drummer of the band, said the interns will have to face the less glamorous ups and downs of a video production set.

"The students will have to deal with what everyone likes and doesn't like," Hesse said. "It will be a real life experience of how music videos are made. But they will have as much input as any member of a production crew."

Rob said fans seeking to use the internship opportunity to simply engage in debauchery with the band should look elsewhere.

"Seeing as how I barely hang out with my family and close friends, I would honestly say there won't be much hanging out with the interns," Rob said.

Hoobastank bassist Markku Lappalainen said this fact is not discriminatory toward the interns because the band has consistently kept its relationships with members of production crews professional.

"We normally don't hang out with the directors or crew after a shoot is over," Lappalainen said. "It's more business than anything else."

Muniba Riaz, a freshman biomedical sciences major, said the internship can lead to many possibilities for those aspiring for success in the music industry.

"I think the opportunity will definitely be a stepping stone in the long way up there if the interns are smart and make the most of it," Riaz said.

The video creation process is an important one because it allows a song to come full circle, Riaz said.

"It's great that the internship is allowing fan input on a video because music videos are a critical point in selling a song," Riaz said. "Videos are like the last piece of the puzzle."

Rob said videos also help artists connect with their audiences.



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOOBASTANK

Hoobastank (from left to right) Dan Estrin, Markku Lappalainen, Doug Rob and Chris Hesse, are currently on the 2004 MTV Campus Invasion Tour and are working with MasterCard Inc. to give 16 college students from across the country a summer internship in Los Angeles, Calif.

"Videos are important because they help the audience understand the vision the artist had in mind," Rob said. "Personally, one of my favorite videos of all time is 'Buddy Holly' by Weezer. Its sheer humor quality is amazing."

As for Hoobastank's involvement in the 2004 MTV Campus Invasion tour, Rob said visiting college campuses across the country has been a refreshing experience.

"The tour has been going really well," Rob said. "It's nice to play for an hour and a half rather than the 45 minutes of stage time we got when we were on tour with Linkin Park."

The band's involvement in the tour includes the opportunity for its members to be active spokesmen for the "Rock the Vote" campaign, which is

geared toward getting college-age citizens to vote in political elections. Hesse said that although the premises of the band's material is rarely political, they still viewed the "Rock the Vote" opportunity as one beneficial to their fans.

"This band usually isn't the one to stand on the soapbox and preach about issues, but voting is what our country is based on," Hesse said. "Everyone should realize how vital voting is."

The band's Texas stop for the 2004 Campus Invasion Tour, which also features supporting acts the Lost Prophets and Ima Robot, will be in San Angelo at Angelo State University on April 15, which is also the deadline for the Priceless Internship. For more information on how to apply go to mastercard.com.

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