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Punk Rock Etiquette: The Ultimate How-to Guide For DIY, Punk, Indie, And Underground Bands



Synopsis

Looking to start an underground band? Don't make a move until you've read this book! So you KNOW you are destined to rock... well you're in luck -- all you need is this book! (Please note musical talent, bandmates, a car for touring, and an uncle who owns a record label might also help.) An original blend of nonfiction how-to's about all things DIY rock created by an indie-circuit veteran with a knack for hysterical snark, PUNK ROCK ETIQUETTE teaches you everything from how to pick your bandmates and choose a name (Never deliberately misspell your band's name. C how lame it lookz?), to detailed guides on screenprinting your own merch, and interviews and advice from studio owners about the do's and don'ts of recording. PUNK ROCK ETIQUETTE is an unfiltered peek backstage that will appeal to aspiring musicians and anyone who's curious about what goes on in the hours between the last chord and the next big show.

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 18 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 8 Up - From the first steps of forming a band through going on tour, Punk Rock Etiquette provides how-to advice on aspects of the indie and underground music scene. Nichols's narrative has a "been there and done that" tone and borders on the cheesy, as it at times tries too hard to use teen slang, but his advice is valuable even beyond the rock environment. Suggestions are offered for silk screening posters and T-shirts, designing Web pages, and using social networking sites to help create a brand, all of which could apply as easily to poetry-slam hosts and

other creative groups as to rockers. For would-be performers, the author provides sage advice on recording and tips on touring, from what vehicles to use to what to pack. Parents and advisors should be aware that tour tips include sleeping in cars while traveling cross country or staying at the homes of strangers, practices that seem unsafe, particularly for teens. In areas where many students are hoping to make their way in the music world, however, the good advice is valuable and will appeal to a broad audience. The illustrations, spread throughout, are most successful in the comic of one band's road trip in the middle of the book. In other places, the animal characters are so cute that it is hard to tell if Nichols is being ironic, which would appeal to his audience, or if he felt that the cuteness would gel with the punk rock style. —Alana Abbott, James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford, CT Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

This sometimes clever, rarely earnest guide for aspiring rockers features a rundown of various bandmate types (The Tortured Poet, The Guitar/Drum/Other Hero); tips for coming up with a killer band name (Do: Choose something that is obviously pronounced. Don't: Mizspell wordz in yur band's name. That's for doucherock.); and even a helpful section on the ins-and-outs of touring. True, there's not a whole lot on how to make your band, well, good. But really, it's not that type of book. It leans further toward the funny in its blend of humor and how-to, with admonitions like, If you're about to see a band, and they're a bunch of fat dudes with beards, prepare to be DESTROYED. Awesomely. Yes, of course, there will be teens who cry out that just about the least punk rock thing you could possibly do is to read a book about how to be punk rock. But others will find a lot to laugh about and maybe even a little to learn in this irreverent guide. Grades 7-10. --Ian Chipman

This is the perfect reminder & educator for all things with a band. It's humorous, realistic, inventive, and Underground all the way. Weeell worth \$5 even if it lays around the house/band-room for someone to pickup that's visiting. I'm going to mention it on M-Dub-K.

This playfully informative book can help anyone new to being in a band or a veteran looking for fresh ideas.

This is my favorite book now, it's like a diary of the road, dos and don'ts of the road. Absolutely amazing!!

this book is it and it's great because it ain't about country music haha

It is a well-known scientific fact that everyone wants to be in a band. Everyone. At least, that's what illustrator/musician/author Travis Nichols was presumably banking on when he wrote "Punk Rock Etiquette: The Ultimate How-To Guide for DIY, Punk, Indie and Underground Bands." As the book's lengthy subtitle suggests, "Etiquette" offers loads of tips to aspiring rockers from the perspective of Nichols, who has firsthand experience wading through the not-so-glamorous trenches of the (extremely) indie-rock scene. It is a refreshingly quick read, and Nichols punches up his earnest advice with enough humor and personal anecdotes to paint a realistic picture of what it must be like to play in -- and tour with -- a garage band with a few buddies. To be sure, the book is very much geared toward the class of bands that truly qualify as "indie" -- the ones whose members hand-draw their own posters and flyers, make CD sleeves from cereal boxes, count on word-of-mouth publicity, and survive by booking any paying gig they can get their hands on (and going halvesies on gas and food money). Steven Tyler and Mick Jagger will find nothing useful here, but for the remaining 95 percent of bands who regularly lug their equipment around in a used GMC van, the information contained in Nichols' guide is invaluable. Part One provides descriptions of several common types of potential bandmates (i.e., The Tortured Poet, The Rock Star, The Delinquent) and lists their respective pros and cons. Also given is an insightful list of do's and don'ts to follow when choosing the look and name of your group (do not wear one of your band's own T-shirts on stage, and avoid using weird capitalization in your band's moniker: "SeE hoW lame iT LoOkS?" writes Nichols.) Nichols has played in a number of bands (Omega Monster Patrol!, the Needies) and even self-released a few albums, so it's obvious he knows his stuff when it comes to "Etiquette"'s subject matter. And the passion with which he writes about life as a small-time musician is incredibly endearing and honest. Nichols hasn't hit the big time yet, but to hear him tell it, the sense of satisfaction and fan adoration he gets from performing at a local youth center is comparable to a headlining gig at Madison Square Garden. Information about the technical side of music abounds, with advice about the different types of recording equipment, how to best utilize your time in a studio, and even a step-by-step guide for screen-printing your own T-shirts (merchandise can be a significant source of revenue for even the most amateurish of bands, Nichols says.) The heart of "Etiquette" lies in the very genesis of its inception: manners in music. Nichols' tongue-in-cheek delusions of grandeur may elevate the persona of a humble musician to that of a bona fide rock god who would gladly melt your face off with a blistering guitar solo, but he is still very much a Nice

Young Man. A lifelong Texan, a vegan and a relentless friend to the environment, Nichols is adamant about practicing good behavior on stage and on tour. For example, it is standard procedure to thank the venue before beginning your set and talk up the next band afterward. When you finish, get your gear off stage quickly, tip the sound guy (who knew?) and politely ask for your payment (but divide the profits among touring bands if you are the local act.) Not everyone can be a rock star, but even if you have no musical ability, are a homebody, or have a family and full-time career (strikes one, two and three against folks like me), "Etiquette" is still an enjoyable read. Nichols also dresses things up nicely with his distinctly cute illustrations of anthropomorphic animals, which are scattered throughout. For beginner bands whose members need some inside information on how to get their collective feet in the door, the book is a valuable tool. And for would-be guitar heroes who still need to master the A chord, it's still totally punk rock.

I am a middle school teacher and am constantly searching for things to recommend to boys in my classes. While there is much wonderful young adult literature out there, I still have trouble finding things that fit the bill for the "skateboarding rock and roller guy." This engaging book is like a silver bullet. I've ordered two for my classroom, and they do not stay on my shelves - they're constantly checked out. I think it's because of the conversational approach that the author takes, as well as his cheeky drawings of humanoid animals guys and gals doing band-ish things. I also plan to use it as an example for a lesson on finding authentic voice as a writer. One thing worth mentioning if you plan to use it in a classroom: It does use the word hell and acknowledges (but does not necessarily endorse) the fact that some people consume alcohol. I do not find that the subject matter is any "worse" than that found in other books, but be aware of it before you put it out there so you're ready if a high-strung parent freaks out on you.

"Punk Rock Etiquette" is the ultimate guide for anyone looking to start a band. It gives the basics on everything from finding and choosing bandmates, finding gigs, making your own merchandise, and touring. The book is full of useful advice on stage and touring etiquette, and tells you why these guidelines are so important. The biggest thing that makes this book stand out from other books on these topics, is that it is entertaining. There are many books on how to start a band and how to print your own shirts, but they tend to be very dry and clinical. That's not punk rock! Travis Nichols doesn't dwell on a topic longer than necessary, and the book flows nicely. The writing has the feel of a friend who has been there sitting you down and telling you what you need to know.

Illuminating and true to the punk idiom – this is a nostalgia trip I'd go on over and over. Thanks for this.

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Indie 2.0: Change and Continuity in Contemporary American Indie Film
Complicated Fun: The Birth of Minneapolis Punk and Indie Rock, 1974-1984 --- An Oral History
DIY Household Hacks for Beginners: DIY Hacks For Cleaning And Organizing, Increased Productivity, Declutter your Home (DIY Home Improvements, DIY Household ... And Organizing, Increase Productivity)
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