

Tips for Future Rockstars



Attention up and coming musicians and other future celebrities!

It may seem to you that it will be cool and exciting to be famous, and in many ways it's true. The fun of travel, meeting interesting people, the joy of being in front of an appreciative audience, and the dream of not needing to have a "normal job" definitely have their appeal.

That said, we have all heard stories of people who have crashed and burned after experiencing the trappings of becoming high profile. How many glossy magazines tell the tales of the problematic personal lives of stars?

Getting famous generally happens through a combination of drive, talent, good looks, and/or luck (though in rare cases only one of the four is enough.) Staying sane once you get there is another story. This booklet presents a few tips that can help you stay grounded along the way.

Stay Humble

Your talent is a gift! You are lucky to have it! Remember that it does NOT make you better than other people. As more and more people admire you and tell you how great you are, you may be tempted to believe that you are superior. While there are many famous people out there who enjoy acting like a jerk and pushing people around because they can get away with it, it is not cool and this kind of behaviour ultimately attracts ass kissers and yes men instead of the real friends and allies you will need.

Remember the people who helped you

Along the way to the big time, there will be people who encourage and help you. Keep in touch with them and be generous with them as you become more successful. This will have mutual and reciprocal benefits.

Read the fine print

Be careful when signing contracts with record companies and other agents. In the old paradigm music industry, there are countless

stories of artists being excited about “getting a record deal” and losing everything later.

Often, someone who makes an awesome first album will be offered a contract to make another without the creative control needed to produce something inspired the next time around. The record company may require that the artist use a certain recording studio, a certain producer, and finish the album by a certain date. This is the reason many second albums tank in the market and why many talented artists are remembered as “one hit wonders” when they could have done so much more. Another thing to look out for is being saddled with paying tour expenses!

Read the fine print in contracts, get a lawyer to look them over with you, and consider staying independent or going with a smaller label. This may not give you the speed and momentum at first that signing with a corporate entity would give, however ultimately your career may last longer and be more lucrative this way.

Watch out for substance abuse

Drug overdoses are cliché among rockstars. Be very very very careful when the new partying opportunities start showing up as too many drugs and/or too much alcohol can seriously ruin your life. Cocaine is especially detrimental (including the effect it can have on your wallet!) This can be especially tempting on tour. Have fun, but be vigilant about protecting your health and well-being.

Practice sexual responsibility

Famous people are in demand as sexual partners. Many temptations arise for rockstars in this realm and it is important to be careful when considering whether to indulge in “groupies” and other sexual opportunities. We all know about the risks of STDs and pregnancy, however sleeping with someone can also invoke intense emotional ties that create obsessions or even dangerous stalkers. It is also morally questionable (and possibly illegal) to take advantage of young people who are perhaps too immature to make good choices about their bodies.

By all means enjoy the improved calibre of lovers available to you, but use your best judgement and make sure you're acting within your own personal integrity.

Relax when you are copied and keep innovating

Other artists will be inspired by what you are doing and sometimes it will seem as if they are “copying” you or stealing your ideas. Relax about this as it is inevitable, and take it as a compliment. Keep growing, keep practicing, and you will continue to be recognized as an innovator.

Learn to take criticism

When you become higher profile, you will also start to encounter more criticism. Bad reviews, jealous wannabes, and other forms of negativity will appear. Relax about it, do not let it affect your self image, and remember this wisdom from Oscar Wilde, “The only thing worse than being talked about is not being talked about.”

Support your community

Give back to the community around you, causes you believe in, and the world in general.

Celebrities are perhaps the most influential people in our culture and you can turn your notoriety into a positive public influence. Good karma will ensue.

Enjoy yourself

While it's important to be generous, it's also important to enjoy yourself along the way. Eat well, buy nice clothes, travel to places you've always wanted to go, and create your dream life by focusing on the positive. Live large and give large!

Be satisfied with where you are now

Perhaps your happiest life isn't about being famous after all. Enjoy where you're at today and stay open minded about other possibilities for your destiny. Have faith that you will be brought to your happiest path and it becomes so.

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