

THINGS YOUR BAND SHOULD KNOW

ABOUT PR AND MARKETING







"Stop being disappointed with PR campaigns that don't work for you. Start saving time, money and get better results!"

Rob Town MA (Master of Art)



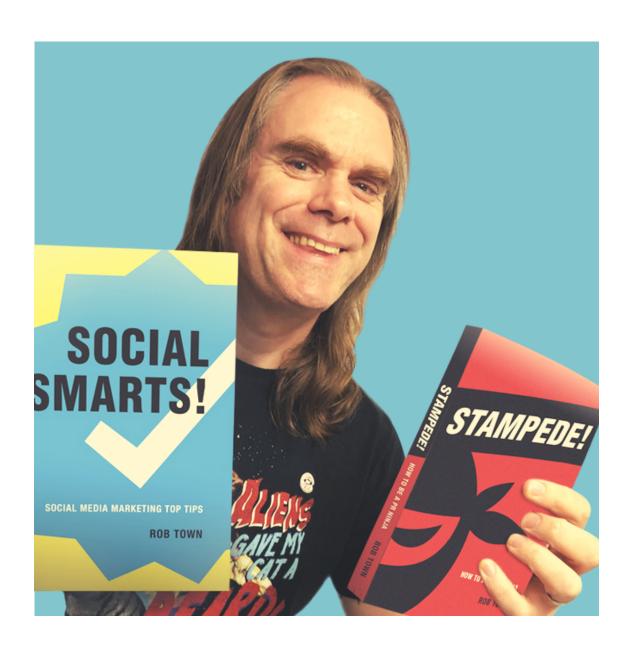
WELCOME

If you're a musician and in a band, nowadays more likely than not you're looking for exposure for your music, and while you are eager to make a big move in the world of PR, chances are it's not as straight forward as you think it might be. Before you even begin thinking about PR, you will need to have a strong toolkit that covers the basics of PR / Marketing and be best prepared for what is up ahead before you start investing in, what can be, expensive and timely processes.

With billions of actions taken on social media everyday, 60,000+ songs added to streaming platforms every 24 hours; there is no shortage of content for press/media, and your potential fans. It's never been more important to have a vision and stand out from the crowd before committing. Ideally you will have a point of difference, an edge that separates you from the masses.

Nevertheless it's crucial to work with reputable music business professionals and educate yourself about basic music business practices if you are to sustain and thrive with your passion. Avoiding common pitfalls is a must.

With this in mind, I've put together a comprehensive list of tips in this guide that can benefit you when seeking help with PR and Marketing for your band and music.



Rob Town MA

(Master of Art - Music Industry Innovation & Enterprise) Stampede Press / Lightning In A Bottle / WaterBear

5 TIPS WHEN HIRING A MUSIC PUBLICIST

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There will come a time when you think about reaching out to a professional publicist to help promote your upcoming music releases. They can be viewed as your ticket to making it big in the industry; a reputable publicist represents you in the press / media and can help you promote your music to a wider audience.

The fact is when you have a good relationship with a good publicist at the right time, then you will see the benefits. But problems occur when wrong choices are made and either the wrong publicist is hired or hired for the wrong reasons and it's all too easy to find yourself in a situation where your expectations have not been met, money has been wasted and your expectations fall short; Ultimately resulting in disappointment and worse still, having a negative effect on wellbeing and creativity.

Check out this blog:

https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/5-tips-forhiring-a-music-publicist

HOW TO PRODUCE

EFFECTIVE PR & MARKETING



HOW TO PRODUCE EFFECTIVE PR & MARKETING WITHOUT SPENDING £££S

With the best possible know-how, skills, tools, preparation, organisation and relationships in place; it is possible for you to produce effective PR and marketing results without shelling out large amounts of cash.

It's most likely only at the right me, when you have gathered enough momentum, that you should consider hiring a reputable PR/Marketing professional, and even then it's important to know what you're paying for and the kind of results you can expect and understand the people and the environment you're investing your hard earned money in.

The more you can do yourself before hiring industry professionals who might be able to open doors you can't, the better you'll understand the mechanics of profiling your music, and ultimately the more worthwhile your campaigns will be!

Learn more:

https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/book-a-prstrategy-session/

CREATE A STORY THAT

ENGAGES YOUR AUDIENCE



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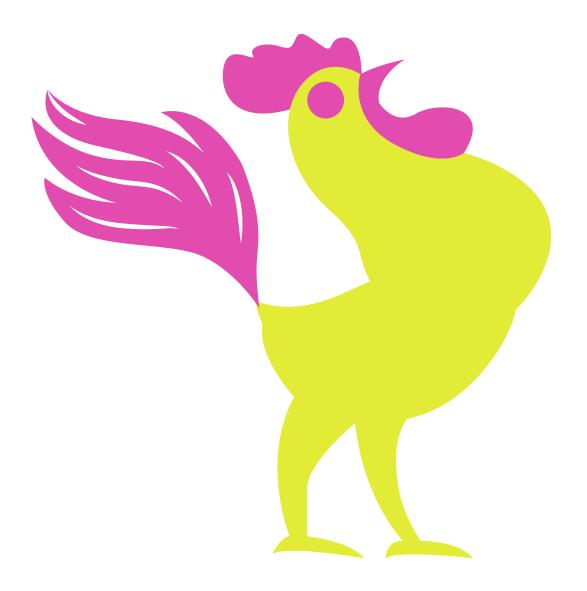
At the heart of any good publicity campaign is a great story. If your music is intact, if it's the best it possibly can be; then you will need to create a story that resonates and engages the press/media and music fans.

Ultimately, great storytelling can turn a casual listener into a fan, and potentially into a customer who regularly buys your merchandise. But, you'll only be able to achieve this if you commit to a solid story creation process right from the start and deliver tangible news that resonates with people and engages, or even better emotionally connects with them.

If you're only releasing your music and hoping that the press and media are going to react because of the music only, then you're shooting fish in a barrel and hoping that something might stick.

However if you create a story that has a real purpose to it, if it informs, educates and ultimately entertains the reader; then you have a chance of connecting with them because you've taken the time to create a great conversation starter.

Check out this blog: https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/creating-your-story/



PLAN AND STRATEGISE

PR/MARKETING CAMPAIGNS
BEFORE LAUNCHING



PLAN AND STRATEGISE PR/MARKETING CAMPAIGNS BEFORE LAUNCHING

It's important to be prepared before you launch your music PR campaign.

If you don't have a plan then you're planning to fail.

Ensuring that you have the correct assets, the right people in place, and you have set your goals out in a clear structured manner can help your publicity campaign to be more productive. Without the correct preparation you risk being overwhelmed and missing key targets all too easily.

You should always understand what your aim is and the best way to approach each goal.

Set yourselves a regular to do list, achieve key goals in priority order and minimise disruptions where possible (e.g. turn off the notifications on your phone, don't be tempted to check Facebook or emails, focus on task).

Check out this blog: https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/plan-and-strategise-pr-marketing-campaigns



ASSET MANAGEMENT



ASSET MANAGEMENT

Asset management is the process of planning and controlling the maintenance, renewal and accessibility of the assets required to run a publicity campaign. When done well this can improve the efficient delivery of your music news and help people understand you and your music, fast.

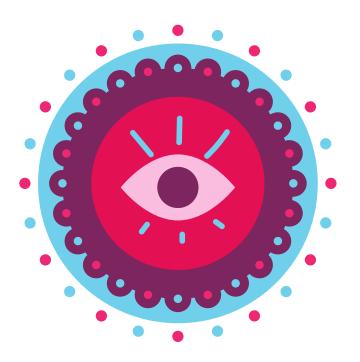
The best way to manage the assets required for a PR campaign is to have a great press kit. Specifically an electronic press kit (EPK) which is 100% digital which includes your band bio, latest press release, hi res photos, artwork, latest music, music videos, key achievements to date, and any live events you have coming up.

In some situations, a physical press kit might be required, however this is getting less and less a requirement.

If you don't have a press kit in place and you're relying on sending emails heavily loaded with text and links then you're risking your music not being checked out by the press and media

It is important to have your assets stored on computers, backed up on hard drives and cloud based platforms like Dropbox, Google's app suite etc and easy to view on smartphones.

Check out this blog: https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/asset-management/



MANAGING

GREATIONSHIPS



MANAGING GREAT RELATIONSHIPS

Building and maintaining good healthy relationships with press and media people is the beating heart of a solid publicity campaign. With such high volumes of music and pitches made regularly it can be a challenge to maintain open connectivity with even the best of contacts.

The good news is because of the innovation of digital communication tools we now have the means to create real relationships with people that can help expose our music to wider audiences.

A crucial key to establishing a successful relationship is to look more at community aspects and take a real interest in the person that you're trying to connect with. Paying interest to others lives by finding common interests and hobbies can help accelerate great relationships and ultimately friendships.

Connect in real life. Help people out by being a kind person who is reliable and not pushy; it will help you get to the top of the priority pile.

Check out this blog:
https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/managing-great-relationships/



EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION IS KEY

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Check and respond to messages regularly but without burning yourself out.

We're living in the age of being online more, and it's an environment where people expect quick responses when it comes to communication.

People's time is the one of the most precious commodities of all, and even if you're the next BIG thing or think you are; getting people to pay attention to your music is THE challenge.

So when the press and media take the time to communicate with you, ensure you're ready to reply in a decisive manner that quickly gets to the point and answers their question.

You never know what opportunities could happen as a result of effective communication...

PITCHING YOUR MUSIC

TO PRESS AND MEDIA



PITCHING YOUR MUSIC TO PRESS AND MEDIA

When it comes to delivering what's called the "pitch" of your music to press and media outlets, it's crucial that you take it seriously and ensure you are best prepared.

This is an opportunity to showcase why you and your music should be taken seriously instead of the others lining up for the gig.

If you've taken the time to create a great story, your planning and strategy is intact, your press kit is solid and easy to access/navigate, and you are taking the necessary steps to build great relationships; then you have a chance.

However, it's important to understand how to best pitch as you are trying to reach people that receive lots of music pitches on a regular basis. Allow plenty of time in advance of your music's official release date to pitch, It's crucial to keep your pitch simple and accessible. Over complicated wordy emails with lots of links will most likely be ignored.

Make it easy for anyone to understand you and your music, FAST.

Check this out:

https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/musicpromotion-services/epks/





Here's the thing... Whilst it can be VERY beneficial to manage your own PR and marketing campaigns, it will be time consuming and require a lot of patience, grit, resilience and positive thinking.

The music industry is one of the most challenging businesses there is, and if your mindset is not managed well things can all too easily have a negative effect on your wellbeing and mental health.

With this in mind, here are some tips on how to avoid common pitfalls and enjoy the process of pr and marketing more...

MAXIMISE PUBLICITY RESULTS



M A X I M I S E PUBLICITY RESULTS

A common misconception by bands is that once a magazine press and media outlets feature a band, that's it...they've hit the jackpot! Whereas 15 years ago the exposure from press/media might result in tens of thousands, maybe even hundreds of thousands of eyeballs on bands; nowadays this is rarely the case.

Social media has been a BIG game changer as it has enabled EVERYONE to have a voice and create a high volume of content filling the internet and in essence it's diluted the impact press and media outlets have.

If you're lucky enough to have a press/media outlet feature you there's no doubt they can all have a great effect on your publicity campaign, but even if you are featured by an outlet you will need to have marketing and advertising campaigns lined up and the best place to do this is social media because that's where pretty much everyone is nowadays.

The good news is that it's very easy to profile your publicity news and results on social media, however you need to be creative with it in order to stand out from the hundreds of thousands of artists profiling their music online.

Championing positive exposure on your social media platforms allows you the opportunity to reach a wider audience and let them know that you've been featured by press and media outlets.

Be sure to include positive results on your band's website and press kits/epks and when sending press releases and music pitches, include publicity achievement highlights in an easy to view format.



TRAFFIC TO YOUR WEBSITE

DRIVE MORE TRAFFIC TO YOUR WEBSITE

For music artists and bands looking to grow their fan base, a great website remains an important tool in a band's toolkit.

It's an exciting time when producing a website as it's your "home". It's a place where fans can easily discover you and your music, and then hopefully go on to be paying customers and super fans who champion your work.

However getting website traffic isn't easy.

Competition for your fans' time is highly competitive due to the sheer volume of information, entertainment, and education outlets available at our fingertips.

If you want to get more people visiting your website, check out this blog:

https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/8-ways-to-drive-more-traffic-to-your-website/

SOCIAL MEDIA: SURVIVE & THRIVE

SOCIAL MEDIA: SURVIVE & THRIVE

Creating and publishing social media content on a regular basis can sometimes feel like an endless line of tasks with little reward.

While it's no secret that social media usage continues to grow, for artists and bands looking to stand out in a crowded market tapping into your creativity should be seen as an ace up your sleeve.

Utilise your creativity and innovate with posts that inform, entertain, and educate your audience. By minimising your advertising style posts, with quality content that engages you'll find you'll have more quality output and responses from your audience when it comes to the sales pitch.

Check out this blog:

https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/your-socialmedia-survive-thrive/

UNDERSTAND FACEBOOK ADVERTISING

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Understanding how to effectively manage Facebook Ads is becoming a staple part of most social media strategies these days. In the past a simple click of the boost button, or a great looking organic post, would be enough for a Facebook business page's audience to see content in their newsfeed. However, thanks to technology innovation social media usage continues to climb. This has resulted in platforms like Facebook investing more in algorithms, so that users can see more of the content they want and keep them on their social media platform.

Effectively, with an increase in numbers, if you want your music business posts to be seen on Facebook, it's likely that you'll need to invest long term budgets into Facebook Advertising. Robust, and when managed well, advertising on Facebook (and Instagram) is extremely cost effective and enables music businesses to finely target audiences interested in their products and services. Crucially, it can help warm leads and eventually convert into sales.

However, Facebook's algorithm system is complex yet robust as it enables advertisers to target the right type of audiences based on their behaviours when using social media (e.g. engagement in posts, recalling posts, purchases based on posts, etc).

Before investing money into Facebook Advertising it is important to understand the different options it offers, which include: 1) Awareness 2) Consideration 3) Conversion, and understanding your desired outcome and how best to achieve the results required.

With over 11 million advertisers on Facebook and billions of actions taken by users on the platform everyday, it's wise to educate yourself before committing funds or work with a reputable digital marketing organisation that can give you the best possible results.



YOU WIN SOMETIMES YOU WIN SOMETIMES YOU LEARN

SOMETIMES YOU WIN, SOMETIMES YOU LEARN

It's really easy to dream of easy solutions... the manager who will do all the hard work work, the record label that will promote the music to ALL the target audiences... the music industry contacts who hold the keys to the kingdom.

The truth is these things do exist BUT as Bon Scott puts it so well, "It's a long way to the top if you wanna rock 'n' roll."

Gone are the days of simply just wanting to be in a band. Unless you're treating it as a hobby and having great fun jamming with your friends purely for the incredible buzz that comes with that; the reality for music artists and bands nowadays is that money will need to be spent on running a music business and effort (lots of it) is vital to achieving goals.

The more you can learn about music business and the industry (without it taking away your passion for creativity and music), the better it will serve you in the long run.

Check out this blog:

https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/blog-sometimesyou-win-sometimes-you-learn/

OVERCOMING FEAR OF FAILURE

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"Why aren't more people listening to my music?"

"Why can't we get on that tour?"

"Why isn't that magazine / radio station / webzine featuring us?"

"Why is that band getting those opportunities and we aren't?"

"I'm a failure."

Sound familiar? You are not alone.

Check out this blog:

https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/overcomingfear-of-failure-in-the-music-industry

HARNESS THE POWER OF FEEDBACK

DISCOVER WAYS TO HARNESS THE POWER OF FEEDBACK

As someone that's creative and whose life involves time spent in music business (whether you're a musician or working behind the scenes), there will be at least one person in your life trying to drag you across the coals for it.

There's no way to live a meaningful life without critics, naysayers, and sometimes haters getting in the way. They're part of the human experience.

However, it's your job to not allow them to stop you from living your life, enjoying music and thriving in your work and personal life.

If you're finding negativity is holding you back due to the actions of others, check out this blog:

https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/harness-the-power-of-feedback

YOU CAN'T BE EVERYTHING TO EVERYONE

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You can't be everything to everyone, especially in music business.

It's impossible, especially in this ever evolving fast paced music industry and the 24/7 accessibility of social media and messaging.

Taking care of yourself whilst doing right by others is a sure way to get on track if you are struggling.

Honesty, authenticity and truth is integral. It's absolutely vital this exists and grows in the music business. It should always be the starting point especially at grassroots if we are to find new music innovators in order for the business to be sustained at all levels.

Check out this blog:

https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/you-cant-beeverything-to-everyone/

MANAGING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

MANAGING YOUR MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

As a creative artist working in the music industry, there's always going to be an element of self-doubt, "am I good enough?" attitude, but it is something that can be worked out eventually and you learn to deal with – especially if you want to work in the music industry.

As for the music business... it's not a faceless organisation. It's made up of human beings all trying to do the best they can about something that's supposed to be fun and passionate for them.

However, passion in this world can be lost so quickly now-days.

There's a fine line between success and failure and the two are blurred constantly.

The need to maintain positive wellbeing and good mental health is essential.

Check out this blog:

https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/sustainingmental-health-well-being-in-the-music-industry/

DON'T BE AFRAID TO HIT THE RESET BUTTON

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If the business of being a musician navigating music business ever becomes overwhelming:

Take a deep breath, go outside, make the time for a walk in a calm location and do something for you that encourages feelings of positivity and happiness.

It's like a reset button.

Check out this blog:

https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/blog-stampede-6-years-the-reset-button/



MAXIMSE YOUR WORK PRODUCTIVITY

MAXIMISE YOUR WORK PRODUCTIVITY

If you find yourself distracted easily, disrupted by your phone pinging notifications, and worse you are becoming more stressed and anxious; chances are you need to learn about the art of flow and how it can help maximise your work productivity.

The flow experience can help you control your attention and strengthen your resolve to achieve results. It can help give you purpose and more determination to succeed.

This is achieved by being immersed in an activity or subject that makes you either anxious (if it's too hard), nor bored (if it's too easy).

In the "flow state" you lose self-consciousness, selfishness and sense of time. Using goal-setting and immediate feedback, you can achieve a state of flow that improves your relationship with work, increases your self-worth and gives your life more meaning.

Learn more:

https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/book-a-prstrategy-session/

HOW TO BE THE BEST BAND ON THE PLANET

(PR & MARKETING TIPS)

HOW TO BE THE BEST BAND ON THE PLANET (PR & MARKETING TIPS)

- 1. Be unique! Take the time to discover ways to stand out from the BIG crowd. Find ways to have creative points of difference with your audio and visuals.
- 2. Create and develop stories to accompany your music that can help listeners and readers emotionally connect with you.
- 3. Be sure to have a plan before releasing any of your music. Strategy is key in music business. Question if you should self manage a campaign or hire a professional;. Seek expert, reputable consultation before committing monies to your music campaigns.
- 4. Produce the best possible high impact unique photos and videos to help your music get attention. Get creative, have a unique vision.
- 5. EPK. Make sure you have a great looking, easy to understand and navigate electronic press kit (epk) that's simple for users to access.
- 6. Make friends and influence people. Real human relationships are key in music business.

- 7 Make the best possible first impression when pitching your music to press and media. Long lasting impressions count!
- 8 Maximise PR results, be sure to utilise digital marketing platforms to get the word out there. Be creative when showcasing on social media and try to reach more of your fanbase with good news.
- 9 Don't ignore local press and media. Grassroots outlets can help get your music out there fast and give you a great starting point for your epk.
- 10 Allow for an advertising budget. Whether it's Facebook ads, online or mag ads, if you have a budget it's worth checking with press and media to see if they have an option that suits your budget. This can help to build real sustainable relationships.
- 11 Never be aggressive, pushy or over salesy. It's a fast "door closer" in the music industry, especially for press/media who are inundated with requests for help.
- 12 Always have passion and purpose, stay on point with everything you do. Remind yourself why you are doing what you are doing. Music should be fun. Music business is just that; business. Try to not take things personally if things don't go your way. No one cares more about your band than you.

- 13. Develop great time management and organisational skills. Keep a calendar "to do list". Know when action needs to be taken and by whom. Take responsibility and commit to the process.
- 14. Avoid over explaining to press/media with long winded emails and lots of links. Keep things succinct. Bear in mind the masses of communication they receive.
- 15. If you receive a negative review for your music, always check if there is any critic that you can take on board to improve. Good or bad, reviews are people's opinions.
- 16. Don't be disrespectful or negative in public if things don't go to plan. We can't win 'em all.
- 17. Respect boundaries and the limitations that come with the territory of being a self release music artist.
 Remember, there are bigger organisations with bigger budgets, connections, and logistics.
- 18. Don't underestimate the power of being a DIY/self release artist. There's so much you can achieve if you do it right. Focus on the things that you can control.
- 19. Be confident and positive as much as possible. Good mental health and wellbeing is an important factor in having a long, sustainable career in the music business.
- 20. Most importantly, be happy and have FUN. You're a creative music artist. It's amazing!

ABOUT YOUR BAND THANYOU

NO ONE CARES MORE ABOUT YOUR BAND THAN YOU

If you are serious about performing music and taking it to mass market, then you will need to come to terms with the business / hard work / investment required, and be as realistic as possible, whilst retaining the passion for music.

If you manage this, and your music is the best it can possibly be, you've got a shot at having great times, with some great people, who will support your music.

Even when soul destroying moments can seemingly beat us down, the highs that can be achieved in this world far out way the lows.

Check out this blog:

https://www.stampedepress.co.uk/blog-no-onecares-more-about-your-band-than-you

ABOUT ROB TOWN (MA)

Rob 'Bobby' Town has over 30 years experience as a DIY musician and music business professional. As a member of British band Panic Cell; he's shared stages with Metallica, Alice In Chains, Papa Roach, Disturbed, and many more.

During this time, and since launching his PR/marketing firm Stampede Press in 2012, Rob has worked with major label artists and many breaking bands. He's been mentored by legacy musicians and music business experts who've worked with the world's biggest rock acts.

Rob co-founded Lightning In A Bottle with Toby Jepson (Planet Rock/Wayward Sons/Little Angels) in 2018; a music management consultation agency that helps bands and musicians tap into their creative spark and uniqueness, whilst maintaining a positive mindset.

In 2019 Rob graduated as a Master of Art. He is credited as a Business & Innovation Tutor at WaterBear – The College Of Music and continuously seeks to help musicians thrive and be happy online whilst navigating the music industry.



MUSICIAN & MUSIC BUSINESS

MASTER OF ART

Rob has over 30 years experience of being a musician. He is the founder of two active reputable music businesses and has a proven track record of success.

QUALIFIED

With a Masters
Degree in Music
Industry
Innovation &
Enterprise via
Waterbear - The
College Of Music,
Rob is legitimate.

Rob has a professional diploma (Distinction) in Social Media Marketing (SCQF Level 8 & EQF Level 5).

TESTIMONIALS

ROB TOWN - STAMPEDE PRESS

"Rob is a true innovator and I can't think of anyone better to advise emerging acts on strategy, growing an audience and formulating realistic and obtainable goals. He thinks long term and tells the truth."



Bruce Dickinson
WaterBear - The College Of Music

"I have had the pleasure of working alongside Rob for many years, he is one of the good guys and is constantly evolving through this ever changing industry, staying ahead of the game.

Rob's advice and knowledge have helped me no end and I couldn't recommend him enough."



Terri Chapman RPM Management - Massive Wagons

"Rob has a natural instinct for this work and is, above everything, a brilliant reader of people. Stampede represents the tip of the spear when it comes to modern day PR and Social Media."



Toby Jepson Wayward Sons - Planet Rock

TESTIMONIALS

ROB TOWN - STAMPEDE PRESS

"Rob is a passionate guy, whose enthusiasm for the bands and music he represents shines through in his work."



Nick Ruskell Kerrang!

"Rob is passionate about our scene and advocating for new bands, and always operates with professionalism and drive."



Eleanor Goodman Metal Hammer

"Rob is the tonic that every band can benefit from. He won't always tell a band what it wants to hear, and he'll challenge some to examine what good really looks like. We need more of this shaping the scene today. If you want to win the marathon not the sprint, Rob is your man."



BOOK A PR/MARKETING STRATEGY CALL WITH ROB TOWN (MA - MASTER OF ART)

MUSIC INDUSTRY
INNOVATION
& ENTERPRISE
QUALIFIED

Access 30+ years experience of music industry PR and marketing knowledge.
Discover your next best right move, now.

Imagine not having to struggle and constantly question if what you're doing is the right thing.

Running a successful PR and marketing campaign is not rocket science, but in the daily digital hustle; knowledge and common sense can easily get lost and time and money wasted. By scheduling a PR and marketing strategy call with experienced musician and music business professional Rob Town (MA) you are guaranteed to get the best possible advice.

With a Master's Degree in Music Industry Innovation & Enterprise + social media certified; Rob is qualified to boost flagging spirits and help guide you through the music pr and marketing maze with finger on the pulse, forward thinking.

By speaking to Rob you'll know when it's the right time to hire reputable experts and agencies, work with innovative communities, and understand who these people and circumstances are a lot better.

LEARN MORE





Stampede Press is a PR and Marketing agency based in the UK that specialises in passionately profiling rock and metal music.

Keeping his finger on the pulse of the ever shifting music industry, Rob Town MA at Stampede Press helps bands music matter more.

OFFICIAL WEBSITE
WWW.STAMPEDEPRESS.CO.UK

