

CURRENTLY CRUISING THE GLOBE PLAYING A SERIES OF SHOWS, HOOBASTANK ARE ABOUT TO GRACE TO OUR SHORES ONCE AGAIN. WITH A STACK MORE GRUNT PLANNED THAN LAST YEAR'S ACOUSTIC SET AND A NEW BASS PLAYER TO SHOW OFF, THE BOYS ARE SET TO PACK A PUNCH DOWN AT HARD ROCK CAFÉ. THE BEAT STEPPED UP FOR SOME TIME ON THE MIC WITH VOCALIST DOUGLAS ROBB...

What would you say are some of the biggest lessons you've learned about the reality of being a touring rock band that may not have crossed your mind when you were jamming it out for your first few gigs?

It definitely isn't as glamorous as it may seem from the fan's perspective. It is a lot of hard work and it is a lot of time spent away from your friends and family. That being said, I wouldn't want to do anything else. Seeing the world and meeting so many amazing people has made me grow as a person more than I could have ever foreseen.

As your success has continued to grow and continued to push you onto the road for longer periods of time, have any of you struggled with being away from home or the difficulties that are faced due to distance between partners and loved ones?

It has always caused some difficulty and strain on

relationships. You have to find the right person who can handle you being away for so long. Over the years though we have been very good about bringing out our loved ones on tour frequently. That always makes the two of you feel better and it's fun to travel the world together.

'The Reason' obviously brought about a huge wave of popularity for you guys that widened your audience the world over. Since its release there hasn't been a single to match it as far as sales charts go, though as Markku has said in the past, this is never a true reflection of appreciation, especially compared to live shows. Have you found that on the live front the core fan base has continued to grow from city to city, country to country?

In some cases yes and in others no. Our fanbase has continued to grow in some countries such as Japan, Korea and other Asian countries while at

Hoobastank

Hard Rock Café



the same time in some places such as the U.S. and Europe we've seen a decline. Europe is probably due to the fact that we haven't been back there in a long time. As for the states, the fans here are always looking for the "latest thing". That being said, our core fans who were there before The Reason are still there and they are some of the most passionate fans ever.

Where in the world have you been most surprised by fan appreciation?

I'm always most surprised with our fans in Asia and Southeast Asia. They are SO passionate about music and about our band. They shower us with gifts. They show up at the airports and hotels. It's quite humbling. It's something I never dreamed would happen to us but it's amazing.

Which bands have you crossed paths with over the years that have struck a chord with all of you, anyone in particular that you do your best to catch up with as often as possible?

There are so many that it's hard to keep track of but some of my favorite bands ever to tour with are the ones that we were just friends with in the first place. Bands like Incubus, Linkin Park and Lost Prophets.

On a production level, who has offered the most insight and advice into your songwriting and recording process over the years in regards to forging your sound?

It's more of a process of trial and error with us. We write and write and then see what works. Our producers over the last 15 years have had an influence on us of course. Jim Wirt and Howard Benson.

Was there a point where you all needed time out to find renewed energy and passion in working together?

I think for most bands, including ours, it's a constant fight for momentum. After touring for Every Man for Himself we definitely needed some time to relax even if it meant going "off the radar". Unfortunately in this business if you want to succeed then you don't have much time to relax.

For most relationships between two people, going travelling together can be a true decider as to whether the love will last; have you guys had any harsh lessons in learning to respect each other's boundaries or do you generally just sort shit out over a Chinese burn session on the tour bus?

We've had our share of arguments and differences over the years for sure. We've become a lot better at communicating with each other though. We know each other almost better than we know ourselves. The best way for us is always to be honest and talk it out. We are all best of friends outside of the band and we use that friendship to work through problems.

What have you been most excited about lately as a band?

I've been the most excited about writing new music and writing it as a 4-piece band again. For the last two albums we wrote as a 3 piece and had a studio session bass player come in and record the bass parts. Then we'd have a touring bass player travel with us and play the parts. Now that Jesse Charland is an official member of Hoobastank we've been writing and demoing songs as a "full band" again. It feels great!

Our fanbase has continued to grow in some countries such as Japan, Korea and other Asian countries while at the same time in some places such as the U.S. and Europe we've seen a decline

Individually, what are some of the most exciting things to be happening in your lives this year?

Well for me it's the upcoming birth of my first child. My wife is due in late September. It's a girl. We are both extremely excited.

Did you manage to soak up much of what Bali has to offer on your last trip here? Impressions?

Our last trip to Bali was so fast that we didn't have a chance to soak anything up. This time around we will have a day to relax before the show so I'm looking forward to just relaxing on the beach. Maybe try my hand at surfing? I'd love to go see some wild monkeys again. Back in 2002-2003 we had the chance to spend a few days in Bali and it was a great time.