wanna work with...

rock stars

Can't play drums or hit the high notes? No worries, you can still make it in the music biz.

Some girls seem to have it all ... hanging with Pink, Avril Lavigne and Christina Aguilera, and getting free tickets to the best gigs around. Chloe Melick, a publicist for record company BMG Australia, reveals how she scored her awesome job.

Did you study at uni?

"Yes, I did a Bachelor of Arts at Sydney University, majoring in English and psychology, with a little bit of philosophy!"

How did you break into the music biz?

"After uni, I worked in television for a while as a promo producer for Optus on MTV, and on some of the other channels. I resigned from that job because I decided I wanted to work in music, but the music industry is kind of hard to crack so I then spent a couple of months trying to find a job.

"A friend of mine told me about a job at *The Music Network*, which is a music industry magazine, and I applied for it. They were so desperate because they needed someone to start the next day, and I was like, 'I can do that', so I got the job.

"I started out as a chart assistant and then became the chart manager, where I compiled all the weekly music charts and did reviews and all that kind of stuff. A job like that is so good for meeting people in the industry, so I made a lot of contacts that way and that's how I heard about the position that was going at BMG.

"I really liked the company, so I was thrilled when I got the job and started there as a coordinator. I only ended up doing that job for about three weeks, because one of the people in the publicity department left and I took up her role as national publicist. It was a series of good coincidences, really!"

Tell us about your job?

"I'm one of two people in my department who liaise with press [such as newspapers and magazines] nationally. We talk to the media every day and organise promotional schedules and tours for our local and international artists.

"That involves talking to various media organisations, such as DOLLY, and trying to facilitate all requests from the media [for things like interviews and photo shoots] as well as requests from the artists' managers and interstate promotional representatives. I spend a lot of time organising schedules for the BMG artists, arranging interviews and making sure that they happen."

Chloe (far right) has worked with Christina Aguilera and Kelly Clarkson (above).

What celebs do you hang with?

"Obviously all of the BMG artists when they come to town, such as the Foo Fighters, Pink, Christina Aguilera, Avril Lavigne, Carlos Santana, Kelly Clarkson, Usher and Maroon 5. On a more regular basis, I'll see people like Millsy, Shannon, Guy and Mercury Four."

Any celeb dirt?

"They're actually all really friendly. Generally, when the artists get to town they're always happy to be here. They all absolutely love Australia. I think they just like the warm weather and they seem to think that everyone here is really nice."

Any super-cool perks?

"Yep. Lots of free concert tickets and heaps of CDs. Also, spending time with a lot of interesting people. I meet so many artists in Australia and heaps that have come in from the US, UK and Europe, and they're always really interesting to talk to."

What sucks?

"There's long working hours and lots of late nights in the office, but it's always worth it when you get the finished product or you've got an artist in town and they have a great promo tour – that's always exciting."

"Do I need to do a course to work in publicity?"

While you don't have to study a particular course to break into the music publicity biz, it does help to have some qualifications. Have a look at arts, public relations, media and communications courses, which will also qualify you to work in other industries.

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Check out the Public Relations Institute of Australia at **www.pria.com.au** and **www.myfuture.edu.au** for career info.

WANNA BE A MUSIC PUBLICIST?

Here's what you need...

- Number one, of course, is a passion for music.
- You need to be organised and have an outgoing and relaxed personality. "Part of the job is dealing with a lot of people who all want different things, so you have to be able to make what they want happen for them," says Chloe.
- It does help to have a university degree – if nothing else, it shows that you're organised enough to get through a course!
- Try to get some work experience or an internship in the music or entertainment industry (such as on a magazine, at a radio station or at a record label).

"I know a lot of people who have started off doing work experience and have ended up getting a job through that," says Chloe.

Before applying for work experience, check with your careers advisor that your school will cover your insurance costs.

- You'll have to be prepared to work long hours and be able to deal with stressful situations. There are extra things outside work hours you'll have to do, such as going to gigs or concerts. Gosh, it's a hard life!

WORDS CHRISTINE KNIGHT

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