

Pen Portrait John Coleman



What is your job?

Professional Drummer

What years did you attend Lewis School Pengam?

2005 - 2012

What qualifications/work experience do you need to achieve a job in your chosen field?

Some people will say you absolutely need to do musical gradings/ music lessons, study music at GCSE/ A-Level and progress to a musical/ performance related Degree; in short, you don't (Sorry Miss Jenkins!). Don't get me wrong, if that's the route you want to go down, perhaps you have no musical background at all, then do it - you'll get a brilliant knowledge of music. However, for me personally, there's no substitute for just working hard; whatever walk of life you're in, if you work hard enough, you'll get your reward. Practice your playing and don't be afraid to try things and make mistakes; that's how you improve and learn. Then, when you're at a level that you feel comfortable performing with others, do it! You can play along to music all day long but there's nothing like playing live, to improve you as a musician. Lastly, listen and watch (and practice to) loads of different music, all sorts of genres - you'll pick up different ideas and techniques that you can add into your playing and also that way.

What happens in a typical day in work for you? For example the times of your day, your role and responsibilities?

In normal, non-Covid times, there's a lot of travelling - usually by road or air, so lots of time on the road, in airports and hotels etc. Then, obviously there's the performing, usually late at night, so they're long days. There's also a lot of recording, song writing, rehearsing new songs etc and trying out different things. I also do most of our management, so I spend quite a lot of time emailing/ calling, sorting contracts, organising tours and everything that comes with them, sorting merch orders, updating our website and social media, arranging video/ photo shoots etc. and, as I'm lucky to be endorsed by a number of companies, collaborating with them on different projects.

What do you enjoy about your job?

First and foremost, the playing! Whenever we play, whether it's to 10 people or 10,000 people, I'm living my dream; It sounds cheesy but every single time we play it's always a privilege; I'm able to do what I love and do it for a living. Many people dream of it but aren't able for whatever reason, so that's the most special thing. That being said though, big crowds are awesome! The noise is unbelievable, it gets the goosebumps up on your neck for sure.

What do you find most challenging about your job?

For me, it's nothing professional - there's always challenging things to learn and master but that's part of the job and is something I enjoy. For me, it's just the more personal stuff. I'm a Dad and Husband, a friend, and usually spend a lot of time away from everyone. Especially during the summer months, when we're performing at a lot of festivals in different countries, we spend a lot of time away.