

Meet Austen Hooks



Katy High School graduate, Austen Hooks rocks the drums during a concert



Hooks and his fellow Theft band members, Daley Hake and Matt McCartie

Katy drummer experiences life on the road on tour with *Theft*, the opening band for *Creed*

Written by Natalie Cook Clark

When Austen Hooks was 15, he played the drums in a band with his closest Katy High School friends and never dreamed he would one day be on the road touring as a musician. This past summer, he realized his dreams, playing drums with his band, Theft as they toured the nation opening for multi-platinum recording artist, Creed. As success continues to find the KHS graduate, Hooks stays true to his Katy roots through the support of his family and friends. He loved it when the tour took him home to Houston. "There couldn't have been a better place to end the tour than at Cynthia Woods [Mitchell] Pavilion," he shares. "I was looking forward to that show the entire time, so that I could see my family."

The Path to Fame

With a strong musical start in high school, Hooks put his dreams of being a rock star on hold to attend Texas A&M University, where he studied electronic engineering. Even then, though, he still felt called to follow a career in music. "There's nothing like being able to create and perform music with best friends as a job," he says.

After playing with a number of bands as the drummer, Hooks now finds himself with a group that is going somewhere in a highly competitive industry. Theft currently is working on a music video and will release a full album before hitting the road again in early 2011. Some of their current releases have even become the theme songs for popular MTV shows.

Theft was born with the partnership of multi-instrumentalist and producer, Matt McCartie and producer, Dwayne Larring. The two created many songs together, three of which became Theft's debut sound. It seems that this Brit-rock inspired wall of sound has found its niche, adding talented band members like Hooks along the way.



“There’s nothing like being able to create and perform music with best friends as a job.”

-Austen Hooks



Get to Know
Austen Hooks

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Hometown: Katy

High School: Katy High School

Bands He’s Been In: Pilot Radio, Alpha Rev, The Valentines, The Fieros

Current Band: Theft

Musical Inspiration:
Any true song



Hooks enjoys sharing music and songs with others

Finding Meaning in Music

Hooks is and always will be a “song guy.” “I continue to be inspired by true songs,” he explains. “It seems to me that music is becoming bands that just sound hip.” He enjoys writing songs along with his band members and has recently co-written a few. Hook’s musical inspiration is vast. “Genres mean nothing,” he shares. “If it’s a song with lyrical substance, I’m in.”

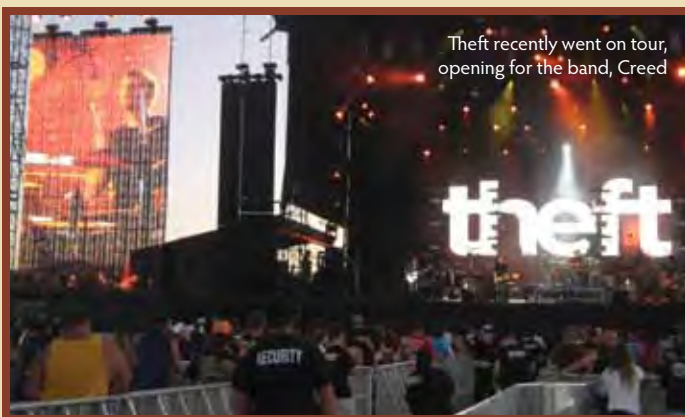
He loves being able to share those meaningful songs with others, and says touring is his favorite part of the music business. “Waking up in a different city almost everyday is the best part of touring,” he says. “It feels like a new start every day playing to new faces and [it] never gets old. It was a fantastic feeling to be playing the venues where I grew up seeing my favorite bands.”

Theft’s future looks bright, but Hooks knows that this is a difficult industry. Still, it’s an industry he loves and is passionate about. “As long as I can play music and break even, I will be happy,” he says.

Staying True to His Roots

Hooks has come a long way from his early days of playing the drums with his KHS friends and classmates. Despite his standout success, he strives to stay true to himself and his roots, making it a point to visit his family and close friends in Katy often. Even amidst all his travels and waking up in a different city each morning during tours, Hooks knows that he will always call Katy home. **KM**

NATALIE COOK CLARK is sad to be leaving Katy with her husband, daughter, and dog. She will continue her writing career from the forests of Arkansas and plans to frequent her hometown of Katy often until her family returns permanently.



Theft recently went on tour, opening for the band, Creed

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Be joyful always; pray continuously; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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