

## A Review of Rolling Stone Magazine

Rolling Stone has become a cultural icon. This magazine brilliantly combines celebrity and music news, candid interviews and features on popular music stars, and artistic and professional photographs. While Rolling Stone is mainly about the music world, it also contains well-written articles about politics, human rights, and other current events of the day in every issue. This magazine continues to appeal to readers by giving them a voice with its correspondence pages and the numerous reader polls. All of these great features are then wrapped up in an eye-catching cover that entices the reader to open it up for more.

Each issue of Rolling Stone provides readers with up to date music news and celebrity gossip. One of the first features in the magazine is the "Random Notes" pages which give you many tidbits of interesting information from how recent concerts went to who was seen at which premiere, party, or other event. These pages even contain a list of celebrity birthdays and upcoming live events. What better what to keep up with your favorite stars and bands? After the "Random Notes" section, they also have a section of short articles to keep you up to date on current news in the music business. For example, the December 14-21, 2000 issue gave music fans a current outlook on the "Napster" vs. the record labels debate and featured a story entitled "Rock's Million Dollar Bash" about how top artist today can make up to a million dollars performing at corporate functions. Features such as these help readers feel more connected with the music business and the musicians they love.

Along with the celebrity news, each issue of Rolling Stone features different artists. Whenever possible they are also sure to include one on one interviews with interesting and original questions and information. For example, in the recent "People of the Year" issue one of the featured bands was the popular group "The Backstreet Boys". Upon reading the article, you would learn about AJ McLean's occasional flaring temper that he takes out on his appliances, or Brian Littrell's religious faith and refusal to appear in the racy photograph that opens the article. The magazine will also feature artists that have made great contributions in music and society that have since passed away. The November 9, 2000 issue features a piece on John Lennon as remembered by other musicians. These types of features appeal to our fascination with the famous and allow us a deeper peek into their lives.

As well as appealing to our fascination with celebrities, Rolling Stone also contains articles about human rights, politics, and other hot topics of the day. The August 17, 2000 issue included an article entitled "Boy Scouts vs. Gays" which discussed the Supreme Court's decision to allow the Boy Scouts of America to continue to ban gay men and boys from being a part of their organization. Controversial articles such as this are always backed up with great research on the subjects and personal stories as examples. These stories serve to make readers more conscious of the bigger issues out there.

Many of these types of articles are even quoted on a regular basis for their well-documented information on such topics.

Not only does this magazine contain such great features and articles, the pictures speak a thousand words in themselves and are as much a part of Rolling Stone as anything written. As well as containing numerous captured photographs of celebrities at live concerts and others events, it is also full of full-page professional and artistic pictures of featured musicians and bands. The October 26, 2000 is a great example of endless celebrity photos that included, among others, Johnny Cash, Shakira (an up and coming Latin artist), Mystikal, and Jakob Dylan with his band "The Wallflowers". The cover itself is always a good glimpse of the great photographs waiting inside as well as making a statement in and of itself. Who could forget faces such as Ike and Tina Turner, Madonna, and the famous John Lennon and Yoko Ono photograph gracing the cover of the magazine? It has often been said that you haven't made it in the music business until you've been on the cover of Rolling Stone.

Rolling Stone also gives its readers an active way to participate in the magazine by offering their readers countless polls on their favorite artists and bands as well as allowing them to write in with the possibility of appearing in the correspondence pages. The polls are always followed up with a featured article on the results complete with statistics, quotations from readers, and more great celebrity photographs. The magazine will also feature positive and negative responses to their past articles, interviews, or anything else about the magazine readers may like or dislike in the correspondence pages without censoring the letters for their own sake.

There are a few disappointments with Rolling Stone. One of them is the countless commercial advertisements in every issue. Many times you must flip through ten or more pages of ads to get the Table of Contents. While one can understand their need to make a profit, it seems to have become excessive. Also, in recent years, the magazine has seemed to offer up much more explicit photos of female artists as well as racy ads. The integrity and reputation that Rolling Stone has built over the years should speak for itself without the need to overuse the "sex sells" adage. However, if you can get past these minor details, Rolling Stone is an interesting and informative magazine that has become a large part of the American Culture. With great articles, interviews, news, and pictures as well as the way the magazine involves its readership, this magazine is a must have for any music fan.

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