



“I love talking to bands and seeing them perform. It’s fun, and I get to do it every day.”

When he’s not researching or listening to music at work, he’s busy researching and listening to music in his free time. *Really*. It was Steven’s passion for music that was crucial to his breaking into a career in hosting: “I was an actor in Los Angeles, and a very bad one. I went to my agent and asked him, ‘Do you have the microphone-holding, talking-person job?’ He asked if I had any experience, and I said, ‘Tons, I can host my pants off.’” Having never hosted before, but hoping that what he knew about music would get him through, Steven went out on an audition for a video show, and booked the show! “The next day, I was interviewing Fatboy Slim, and I’d never interviewed anyone before,” he adds proudly. Steven eventually searched for greener pastures, and he is now one of the favorite veejays at Fuse. And lucky for us, Steven happily set his headphones aside to dish about one of the coolest careers on the planet.

Who: Steven Smith

Job: Fuse Veejay

What shows do you host at Fuse?

Aside from *Steven’s Untitled Rock Show*, I host *Daily Download*, our bizarre countdown show. I also host *7th Avenue Drop* and *Comp’d*, which are live performance shows. If it involves bands, interviewing celebrities, and that sort of thing, it’s me.

What else do you do?

I help out researching bands for *Daily Download*. I write a column called “Steven’s Untitled Rock Column” for *Alternative Press*. We have our *Untitled Rock Blog* that I check out, especially the fan message boards. I also travel all the time—around every 10 days, we’re off doing something.

You were a theater major in college. Has that helped in being a veejay?

It’s helped in knowing about presentation and how to communicate. That’s my job—it’s talking to people, getting things across, being understood, and being personable. I have conversations with people all the time, and you have to get out of them what you need to. Some people just won’t talk, but you have to make them comfortable, and [then] maybe they’ll want to hang out.

What do you think makes you a good veejay?

Loving music—that’s rule number one. Since I was in high school, I would read every [music] magazine I could get my hands on, listen to every CD I could, and read every liner note.

All I am is a professional fan. People can identify with me; and hopefully I’m asking what they want to know. I really don’t care about who artists are dating—I want to talk about the music and performing. All artists love music, that’s why they do it. They like talking about it, and I love talking to them. That’s my angle, and here I am, with dozens of rock shows under my belt!

What do you enjoy most at Fuse?

I love talking to bands and seeing them perform. It’s fun, and I get to do it every day.

Is there anything you don’t like?

Sometimes the travel gets tiring.

What else do you do in your free time?

I’m a nerd. I watch a lot of cartoons. I’m a huge *Justice League* fan, and I worship *Tom & Jerry*. And I just discovered audio books. I’m listening to the Beatles biography—it’s great.

Do you have any advice for aspiring veejays?

My mom would tell me, “If you knew as much about your classes as you do about these bands, you’d go really far.” The funny thing is, knowing all about the bands *is* what got me far. When you get to college, take the classes you like and turn them into a career. School makes you well rounded, so stay in school.

BY VERONICA DOMINGUEZ-GARCIA

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