

ROCK CHICKS

a couple of guitarists," she laments. "It's hard enough to find someone that is good enough to play Zeppelin, period. When you have a chick that can play Jimmy Page licks, you tend to lose her to national tours."

For bassist Loa the best thing about being part of a female Zeppelin band is zapping an audience's misconceptions. "Most people show up at first for the entertainment value of seeing chicks try to play," she remarks. "The novelty thing of chicks onstage, and then it really blows them away when we nail it. They don't expect that."

Meanwhile, drummer Courtenay has a unique connection to Led Zeppelin's revered drummer. "John Bonham died the day I was born," the 28-year-old says. "While that didn't inspire me to become a drummer, I always wanted to be an alcoholic." Chicks that rock and drink? Count us in!

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THE IRON MAIDENS

English rockers Iron Maiden are not normally associated with women. Their patented blend of testosterone-fueled heavy metal and ghoulish theatrics have rocked a mostly male audience for decades. Maybe that's what makes Iron Maiden's opposite-sex counterparts so compelling. The world's only all-girl Iron Maiden tribute band, The Iron Maidens are five hard-rocking chicks, two of whom had an unexpected (and intimidating) opportunity to perform with their mighty idols.

Vocalist Aja a/k/a "Bruce Chickinson": "Wanda and I sat in with Nicko McBrain, the drummer for Iron Maiden, and that was terrifying and exhilarating at the same time."

Bassist Wanda "Steph Harris" Ortiz: "We were nervous."

"Bruce Chickinson": "Horribly nervous. You are up there doing the tune, and I turn around expecting to see a tiny brunette, and there's this big blond guy with no shoes on going, 'Yeah, your ass is a lot better than Bruce's [Dickinson]. He definitely dug Wanda's game more than his bassist, Steve [Harris].'"

The L.A.-based beauties have also enjoyed their fair share of groupie love. Drummer Linda "Nikki McBURRain" McDonald: "When guys get really drunk, they seem to want to have their body parts signed."

Guitarist Sara "MiniMurray" Marsh: "Guys tend to want their unit signed, but we usually have to just initial it because there's not much space. Initials are all that are going to fit. Initially they are a little uncomfortable about being a groupie, but once they are into us, it gets just fucking crazy!"

"Bruce Chickinson": "We have bootlickers. They're never out of control, but they really get into it. The fans of this music are really into it, and you add us being girls on top of that, and they get lost."

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