



**BARA DRUMMER**

## **ADVICE ON BEING A PROFESSIONAL**

Show up on time.. to be early is to be on time

Be easy to deal with; dependable, reliable

Project a positive attitude

Be humble. Don't be cocky.

Be prepared. Do your homework on the music

Always work to improve your time, musical awareness, musical radar

Bring energy, passion and excitement

Be able to accept constructive criticism

Accept opinions of others even if you don't understand them

Seek to understand rather than to judge

Always be gracious

Call people back. ASAP. Even if you can't or don't ever want to do the gig

Meet everyone you can

Align yourself with positive, like minded individuals in terms of goals, work ethic, musical style

Self promote without being annoying

Take every gig

Don't play for free (there are some exceptions)

Don't just cancel on a gig for another that pays more – word gets out about you very fast if you do

Find the hottest players/mentors

Listen better = play better

Practicing shouldn't sound good – work on things you can't do yet

Adapt to every different situation

Know who to schmooze and how to schmooze

Learn every style of music at least on a basic level to understand what makes it work

It takes 5+ years to really break in to a new city/scene

Your reputation is everything – the business works on recommendation

Be easy to deal with on the road

Don't abuse drugs, alcohol, etc

Don't engage on social media; Don't feed the trolls (trolls are good for business, let them be)

Don't get burned out – have other hobbies/interests to escape from music every now and then

Stay true to your dreams

Don't have unrealistic expectations about a "big break". What you want is a long sustained career

Feel your way through the music; don't plan everything in advance; figure it out when you get there

Keep your ears open – don't write off any style of music

Put your phone away! Be present, especially on auditions, rehearsals and gigs with a new group.

Make goals and write them down

Follow your heart