



Our Linkin Park Adventure!



On Saturday 10th November 2012 a group of 10 young people from the CMDA embarked on a memorable adventure!

We received free tickets and back stage passes from Big Concerts for the Linkin Park Living Things World Tour concert at Soccer City Stadium, Johannesburg.

We hope you will enjoy reading about our CMDA road-trip!



Ready to Rock 'n Roll

Back Row L to R: Daniel Bruce-Brand, Mcondisi Mahlalela, Michael Matthews, Sonya, Musa Ndlovu,
 Second Row L to R: Langelihle Zulu, Sibahle Chauke, Courtney Grobler, Jennifer Rodrigues, Odysius Mabuza
 Front Row L to R: Paul Bruce-Brand, Lungisile Makamo, Innocent Mashaba,
 Seated: Neville Mlaba



Our management had a tough job in choosing the 10 CMDA students who would attend the concert, as we knew there would be disappointments for those who didn't make it. The students were selected based on their consistent participation, dedication and discipline in all their CMDA activities. For those who went to the concert this was an opportunity of a lifetime and they appreciated this wholeheartedly!

Our group felt like a team as we embarked on the Linkin Park road-trip! Each student was given a branded Linkin Park t-shirt with his/her name on the front as well as a personalised autograph booklet, containing details of their own music career together with details of each Linkin Park band member. The idea was that if the opportunity arose, the booklet's contents could be shared with the Linkin Park members, autographs would be collected, and this would form a special keep-sake for each child.

Two buses sponsored by Budget Car Rental headed up to Joburg on Saturday morning with the music of Linkin Park accompanying us at full volume throughout the trip. Some of the students weren't entirely familiar with the band's music so this was a great opportunity to get to know it and decide on their favourite songs. By the time we reached Soccer City, the excitement was at an all time high! The spectacle of this enormous stadium, glistening like a mosaic in the late afternoon sun, and already filling up with thousands of people was a mind-blowing sight for our small-town youngsters.

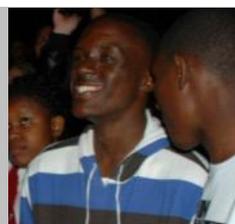


We were given a back-stage tour of Soccer City which was fascinating, and then we had the privilege of being taken into the dressing rooms, where we met the Linkin Park team. Their entire 'roadie' or 'techie' team gave our kids a great welcome, and shared much practical, inspirational advice with us. Jim Digby, who recently was awarded the Parnelli Award for being the best Production Manager of 2012, was wonderfully engaging and appeared truly delighted to meet the CMDA students.

Linkin Park is on a gruelling world tour, and despite being exhausted from setting up the stage, and having a huge show ahead of them, everyone was friendly and welcoming!

Cory O'Donnell, the road manager, and Sam Harrington, the coolest 'roadie' ever took the students onto the magnificent main stage.

As our group walked onto the enormous stage we were startled when the thousands of people who were already filling up the enormous stadium burst into applause. This gave the students a great insight as to how it must feel to be a rock star! Jim explained to us what is required to be part of a band 'team' emphasising the need for passion, dedication and team work. The students were thrilled when Sam joined us all for dinner, sharing jokes and laughter and he was treated to a special rendition of Shosholoza!





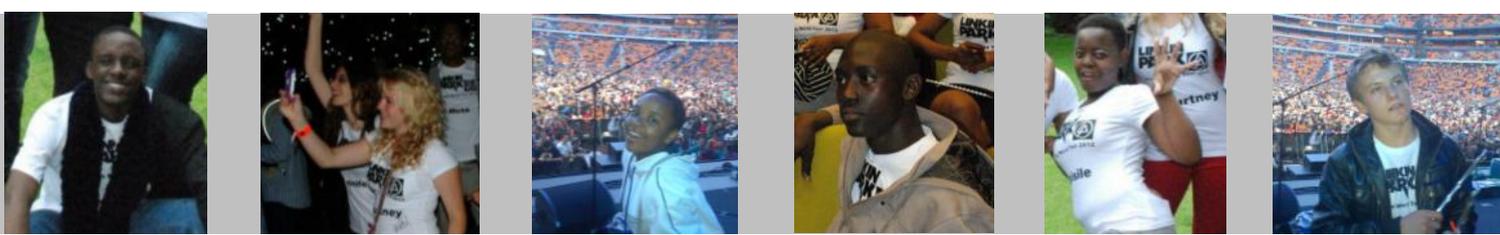
Meeting the Linkin Park band itself was obviously a major highlight, and we were in awe of this group of musicians who showed such humility and genuine interest in the students. They shook hands with every child, signed autographs, shared chit-chat and posed for photographs. It was a wonderful lesson to see that these people who have achieved so much were prepared to give back so graciously and honestly.



We had a great spot from which to watch the show itself, and the effects and sheer spectacle of it all was awe-inspiring! We feel so blessed and privileged that we had the opportunity to expose a small group of CMDA students to this world-class experience. It's definitely an event that will never be forgotten, and already news of our Linkin Park adventure is spreading like wildfire throughout the community. We have many new young people now interested in registering with the CMDA.



Through this experience minds have been opened, worldview has broadened, and our passion for music and the desire to succeed in life has increased, and most importantly, an ethic to always 'give back' has been instilled.





Some feedback from our Linkin Park road-trippers....

!!Wow!! Is how I would describe this. Compared to the way LP started, I only realized now that I have a very good foundation in music that was laid by the academy. There are these words that the band manager said (The Boss), 'You don't have to be multi talented to be good, but it takes commitment and passion to make it in the industry' and I took those words to heart. A warm thank you to the CMDA for organizing the trip which made a huge impact on my life. - Sibahle

It has been a great initiative for the 10 CMDA band members to be chosen as ambassadors in the first road trip to meet up with Linkin Park. What I fortunately realized is that Big guys like Linkin Park capitalize on every opportunity that comes their way. This has and will open new doors for the Academy, because everyone now, will attend and give some time in his/ her nearest CMDA HUB. Thank you. - Neville

Nginyabonga for giving me the opportunity to meet the Linkin Park Band at their Living Things world Tour concert in Johannesburg. This was an experience of a life time and a dream come true. I really appreciate it with all my heart. I experienced the best things ever during this tour and I felt like I was dreaming when they took us to see the stage. I learnt a lot from these experiences and will share my lessons with my fellow band members. CMDA you have made my family and my community proud of me. - Innocent

I was happy and couldn't believe that it was true that I was going to meet the 2 time award winning and 3rd best band of the new millennium, Linkin Park. I really want to talk about other enjoyable things that happened during our journey to JHB - we learnt a lot about how different races do things and I made new friends and spoke to a few people I had never had a conversation with. For me, being able to talk to other CMDA band mates and getting to know more about them was the best thing ever and lastly, going there with my heads Musa, Sonya, Mike and Paul was a great experience. When we arrived in Joburg and drove around it was fun because Mike and Musa taught us more about the history of the places we went past. We drove to soccer city where we had a chance to get a stage toured where Linkin Park was going to set foot and play, and standing in front of +50 000 fans was the best feeling ever. I felt like I would also 1 day perform for a crowd as big. I thank CMDA for such a great experience! - Odysius



Please have a look at the pics on our Facebook Page to see just how much the CMDA team loved their day at Soccer City!

A new CMDA development takes shape... an appeal for assistance!

The CMDA is in the process of developing an educational platform to deliver free educational content via the web, either online to users with good internet connections or offline to rural digital hubs. This will be populated with music content for our members who wish to learn music theory, guitar, piano and other instruments. To complement this, we are planning to load all the maths and science content for G8 - G12 based on the current syllabus which will enable our students to prepare for their school examinations.

We are in search of donors who will make a once off donation to load the math and science content on to the platform, the costs of which are to pay qualified teachers to do this so that it is both relevant and aligned with the various curricula. The estimated costs are R80k per subject per grade totalling R400k for science and R400k for maths. This once off investment will then create an free and easily accessible learning platform for all South Africans. If you wish to find out more about this application or to invest in this project, please contact Michael Matthews on mike@mpuma-music.org.za. Your support will be highly appreciated.

