



[Alumnus performs with Jason Aldean](#)

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By Jennifer Romero



Rich Redmond started to play the drums in 1977, and there was never a doubt in his mind that his future career would be in the music industry. His current music career involves touring with Jason Aldean as the band's drummer.

Redmond grew up in Milford, Connecticut, before moving to El Paso. It was in El Paso where he met Alan Shinn, professor in the School of Music, and decided to come to Texas Tech.

"I met (Shinn) at one of the band camps they did every summer," Redmond said. "We kind of fell in love with each other and figured out that it would be a good working relationship. He kept me busy for four years."

After graduating from Tech in 1992, Redmond said, he earned his master's degree from the University of North Texas. He moved to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1997 and has lived there since to pursue his music.

Redmond has recorded with a long list of artists, according to his website, including Ludacris, Kelly Clarkson, Kid Rock and Luke Bryan.

“I’m a recording and touring drummer who tours and plays all styles of music,” he said. “I’m what you would call a side man. Artists will hire me to play drums or percussion for them. It’s great. Everyone needs a drummer.”

Redmond had the chance to come back to Lubbock on Thursday for Jason Aldean’s Burnin’ It Down tour, and he hosted his CRASH Course for Success music clinic at South Plains College. Redmond trained to be a music educator while at Tech, he said, and he developed the CRASH Course program seven years ago.

“I tried to come up with a concept that people from all walks of life could use to attract success to their lives,” he said. “It’s been fun.”

In the course, Redmond outlined the components of the CRASH acronym as commitment, relationships, attitude, skill and hunger.

It is important to learn new skill sets because the entertainment industry is so competitive, Redmond said, and he is taking acting and voice-over lessons.

“His personality is what drives the boat with Rich,” Shinn said. “He had both the talent and the work ethic, and I’m not surprised at all that he’s made it.”

Musicians need to establish a reputation every time they move somewhere new, Redmond said, and he had to work to get his name out there when he moved away from Lubbock and eventually to Nashville.

Redmond was a good student while he was at Tech, Shinn said, and it was a beneficial relationship for both the university and Redmond.

“The training at Texas Tech was invaluable,” Redmond said. “It really trained me to be overqualified for the majority of musical situations I find myself in. It laid the groundwork for my musical career, and I’m very grateful for that.”

Redmond has played with Aldean since the country singer started in 1999, he said, and he has been with the same rhythm section since 1997 and they have performed with a variety of artists throughout the years.

Every professional musician is expected to perform at a high caliber, Redmond said, and networking, a positive attitude and hard work are what sets musicians apart.

“Music is probably our greatest gift and highest form of communication,” Redmond said. “Yeah I play the drums, but we have the ability to change people’s lives. I can see what music does for people. It gives them a break from their everyday worries.”

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