Live Nation, Inc. Form 10-K March 21, 2006

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 10-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

to

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005

or

o TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from

Commission File Number 001-32601

LIVE NATION, INC.

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

20-3247759

(State of Incorporation)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

9348 Civic Center Drive Beverly Hills, CA 90210

(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

(310) 867-7000

(Registrant s telephone number, including area code)

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:

Title of Each Class

Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered

Common Stock, \$.01 Par Value per Share

New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act:

None

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes o No b

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes o No b

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes b No o

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant s knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer.

Large accelerated filer o Accelerated filer o Non-accelerated filer b

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes o No b

On June 30, 2005, the registrant s common stock was not publicly traded.

On February 28, 2006, there were 63,798,312 outstanding shares of Common Stock, excluding 3,376,600 shares held in treasury.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

None

LIVE NATION, INC.

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PART I

Special Note About Forward-Looking Statements

Certain statements contained in this Form 10-K (or otherwise made by us or on our behalf from time to time in other reports, filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, news releases, conferences, World Wide Web postings or otherwise) that are not statements of historical fact constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, notwithstanding that such statements are not specifically identified. Forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements about our financial position, business strategy, competitive position, potential growth opportunities, potential operating performance improvements, the effects of competition, the effects of future legislation or regulations and plans and objectives of our management for future operations. We have based our forward-looking statements on our management s beliefs and assumptions based on information available to our management at the time the statements are made. Use of the words may, should. continue. antio believe, predict, or variations of suc estimate, expect, intend. outlook. could. target, project, seek, expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements but are not the exclusive means of identifying such statements. Forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in such statements. Factors that could cause actual results to differ from those discussed in the forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, those set forth under Item 1A. Risk Factors as well as other factors described herein or in our annual, quarterly and other reports we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (collectively, cautionary statements). Based upon changing conditions, should any one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize, or should any underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual results may vary materially from those described in any forward-looking statements. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to us or persons acting on our behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the applicable cautionary statements. We do not intend to update these forward-looking statements, except as required by applicable law.

Live Nation (which may be referred to as the Company, we, us or our) means Live Nation, Inc. and its subsidiar one of our segments, as the context requires.

Item 1. Business

Our Company

We believe we are one of the world s largest diversified venue operators for, and promoters and producers of, live entertainment events. For the year ended December 31, 2005, we promoted, produced or hosted over 29,500 events, including music concerts, theatrical performances, specialized motor sports and other events, with total attendance nearing 60 million. In addition, we believe we operate one of the largest networks of venues used principally for music concerts and theatrical performances in the United States and Europe. As of December 31, 2005, we owned or operated 119 venues, consisting of 77 domestic and 42 international venues. These venues include 37 amphitheaters, 61 theaters, 15 clubs, four arenas and two festival sites. In addition, through equity, booking or similar arrangements we have the right to book events at 34 additional venues. For the year ended December 31, 2005, we generated revenues of approximately \$2.9 billion. Approximately 90% of our total revenues for 2005 resulted from revenues related to our owned or operated venues and from our promotion or production of music concerts and theatrical performances.

In addition, we believe we are a leading integrated sports marketing and management company specializing in the representation of sports athletes.

Our principal executive offices are located at 9348 Civic Center Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90210 (telephone: 310-867-7000).

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Our History

We were formed through acquisitions of various entertainment businesses and assets by our predecessors. On August 1, 2000, Clear Channel Communications, Inc. (Clear Channel or Clear Channel Communications) acquired our live entertainment business, which was initially formed in 1997. On August 2, 2005, we were incorporated in our current form as a Delaware corporation to own substantially all of the entertainment business of Clear Channel Communications. On December 21, 2005, the separation of the business previously conducted by Clear Channel s live entertainment segment and sports representation business, now comprising our business, and the distribution by Clear Channel of all of our common stock to its shareholders, was completed in a tax free spin- off (the Distribution, the Separation or the spin-off). Following our separation from Clear Channel, we became a separate publicly traded company on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: LYV) on December 21, 2005. In connection with the Separation, we issued, through one of our subsidiaries, \$40.0 million of redeemable preferred stock and borrowed \$325.0 million under a new credit agreement. We used the proceeds to repay \$220.0 million of debt owed to Clear Channel Communications and Clear Channel Communications contributed to our capital the remaining balance owed them. See Recent Developments .

Live Music Industry

The live music industry includes concert promotion and production, set design, venue and concession operation. Our main competitors in the North American live music industry include Anschutz Entertainment Group, which operates under a number of different names, House of Blues Entertainment, Inc., and SMG Entertainment, Inc. We also compete with numerous smaller national and regional companies in the United States and Europe.

According to Pollstar, a leading publisher of concert industry data, from 2003 to 2005, North American gross concert revenues increased from \$2.5 billion to \$3.1 billion, a compounded annual growth rate of approximately 11%. In the 2003 to 2005 period, our global music revenues, comprised of gross concert revenues, increased from \$2.1 billion to \$2.3 billion, a compounded annual growth rate of 6%. We believe this growth was primarily due to increasing ticket prices for top-grossing acts and the continued willingness of these acts such as Madonna, The Rolling Stones and U2 to continue touring. According to Pollstar, while industry revenues increased from 2004 to 2005, ticket sales for the top 100 tours (representing approximately 67% of total domestic concert ticket revenues) declined by 3.5%. Although total attendance at our owned and operated amphitheaters declined in 2005 as compared to 2004 as a result of fewer events, the average per show attendance at these venues actually increased 7%. We believe that this increase in average attendance was driven by a decrease in the average ticket price by 6% during 2005.

Typically, to initiate live entertainment events or tours, booking agents directly contract with performers to represent them for defined periods. Booking agents then contact promoters, who will contract with them or directly with performers to arrange events. Booking agents generally receive fixed or percentage fees from performers for their services. Promoters earn revenues primarily from the sale of tickets, as well as percentages of revenues from concessions. Performers are paid by the promoter under one of several different formulas, which may include fixed guarantees, percentages of ticket sales or the greater of guaranteed amounts or profit sharing payments based on gross ticket revenues. In addition, promoters may also reimburse performers for certain costs of production, such as sound and lights. Under guaranteed payment formulas, promoters assume the risks of unprofitable events. Promoters may renegotiate lower guarantees or cancel events because of insufficient ticket sales in order to reduce their losses. Promoters can also reduce the risk of losses by entering into global or national touring agreements with performers and including the right to offset lower ticket revenue shows with higher performing shows on the tour in the determination of overall artist fees.

For musical tours, one to four months typically elapse between booking performers and the first performances. Promoters, in conjunction with performers, managers and agents, set ticket prices and advertise events to cover

expenses. Promoters market events, sell tickets, rent or otherwise provide venues (if not provided by booking agents) and arrange for local production services, such as stages and sets.

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Venue operators typically contract with promoters to rent their venues for specific events on specific dates. Venue operators provide services such as concessions, parking, security, ushering and ticket-taking, and receive some or all of the revenues from concessions, merchandise, sponsorships, parking and premium seats. For the events they host, venue operators typically receive fixed fees or percentages of ticket sales, as well as percentages of total concession sales from the vendors and percentages of total merchandise sales from the merchandisers.

Industry participants, including ourselves, often perform one or more of the booking, promotion and venue operation functions.

Theatrical Industry

The theatrical industry includes groups engaged in promoting, which is generally referred to in the theater industry as presenting, and producing live theatrical presentations, as well as operating venues. Our main North American competitors in the theatrical industry include Nederlander Producing Company of America, Mirvish Productions, The Shubert Organization, The Walt Disney Company and Jujamcyn Theaters, as well as smaller regional players. In Europe, our competitors include Cameron Mackintosh, Really Useful Theater Group and Ambassadors Theatre Group, as well as smaller regional players.

According to data from members of The League of American Theatres and Producers, Inc., or the League, gross ticket sales for the North American theatrical industry of touring Broadway theatrical performances has increased from \$642 million during the 2002-2003 season to \$934 million during the 2004-2005 season, a compounded annual growth rate of 21%. In the 2003 to 2005 period, our global theater revenues slightly decreased from \$318.2 million to \$317.0 million based on fewer profitable shows that we had the rights to present.

Live theater consists mainly of productions of existing musicals and dramatic works and the development of new works. While musicals require greater investments of time and capital than dramatic productions, they are more likely to become touring theatrical shows. For existing musicals, 12 to 24 months typically elapse between producers acquisitions of theatrical stage rights and the first performances. During this time the producers assemble touring companies and ready the shows for tours. In comparison, dramatic productions typically have smaller production budgets, shorter pre-production periods, lower operating costs and tend to occupy smaller theaters for shorter runs as compared to musicals.

Producers of touring theatrical shows first acquire the rights to works from their owners, who typically receive royalty payments in return. Producers then assemble casts, hire directors and arrange for the design and construction of sets and costumes. Producers also arrange transportation and schedule shows with local presenters. Local presenters, who generally operate or have relationships with venues, provide all local services such as selling tickets, hiring local personnel, buying advertising and paying fixed guarantees to producers. Presenters then have the right to recover the guarantees plus their local costs from ticket revenues. Presenters and producers share any remaining ticket revenues. North American venues often sell tickets for touring theatrical performances through—subscription series,—which are pre-sold season tickets for a defined number of shows in given venues.

In order to secure exclusive touring rights, investors may take equity positions in Broadway (New York) or West End (London) shows. Touring rights are generally granted to investors for three to four years. After investors have received complete return of their investments, net profits are generally split between the limited partners and producers.

Other

Specialized Motor Sports Industry

The specialized motor sports industry includes promoters and producers of specialized motor sports events as well as venue operators. Typical events include motorcycle road racing, supercross racing, monster truck shows, freestyle motocross events and other similar events. Our main competitors in the specialized motor sports industry are primarily smaller regional promoters. On a broader level, we compete against other

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outdoor motor sports such as the National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing, or NASCAR, and the Indy Racing League, or IRL, in the United States.

In general, most suitable markets where we operate host one to four motor sports events each year, with larger markets hosting more performances. Venue operators of stadiums and arenas typically work with producers and promoters to schedule individual events or full seasons of events. Corporate sponsorships and television exposure are important financial components that contribute to the success of a single event or a season of events.

Specialized motor sports events make up a growing segment of the live entertainment industry. This growth has resulted from additional demand in existing markets and new demand in markets where arenas and stadiums have been built. The increasing popularity of specialized motor sports over the last several years has coincided with the increased popularity of other professional motor sports events, such as professional auto racing, including NASCAR and IRL. A number of events are also broadcast domestically and internationally.

Sports Representation Industry

The sports representation industry generally encompasses the negotiation of player contracts and the creation and evaluation of endorsement, promotional and other business opportunities for clients. Sports agents may also provide ancillary services, such as financial advisory or management services to their clients. Our primary competition in the sports representation industry are other sports representation agencies such as International Management Group, or IMG, Octagon Worldwide, and Gaylord Sports Management, as well as regional agencies and individual agents.

Our Business

We operate in two reportable business segments: global music and global theater. In addition, we operate in the specialized motor sports, sport representation and other businesses, which are included under other.

Information related to the operating segments of our global music, global theater and other operations for 2005, 2004 and 2003 is included in Note M Segment Data in the Notes to Consolidated and Combined Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Annual Report.

Global Music. Our global music business principally involves the promotion or production of live music shows and tours by music artists in our owned and operated venues and in rented third-party venues. For the year ended December 31, 2005, our global music business generated approximately \$2.3 billion, or 79%, of our total revenues. We promoted or produced over 10,000 events in 2005, including tours for artists such as U2, Paul McCartney, Dave Matthews Band and Toby Keith. In addition, we produced several large festivals in Europe, including Rock Werchter in Belgium, the North Sea Jazz Festival in Holland, and the Reading Festival in the United Kingdom. While our global music business operates year-round, we experience higher revenues during the second and third quarters due to the seasonal nature of our amphitheaters and international festivals, which are primarily used during or occur in May through September.

Global Theater. Our global theater business presents and produces touring and other theatrical performances. Our touring theatrical performances consist primarily of revivals of previous commercial successes and new productions of theatrical performances playing on Broadway in New York City or the West End in London. For the year ended December 31, 2005, our global theater business generated approximately \$317.0 million, or 11%, of our total revenues. In 2005, we presented or produced over 14,000 theatrical performances of productions such as *The Producers, The Lion King, Mamma Mia!, Hairspray, Movin Out, Phantom of the Opera* and *Chicago*. We pre-sell tickets for our touring shows in approximately 46 touring markets through *Broadway Across America*, one of the largest subscription series in the United States and Canada. While our global theater business operates year-round, we

experience higher revenues during September through April, which coincides with the theatrical touring season.

Other. We believe we are one of the largest promoters and producers of specialized motor sports events, primarily in North America. In 2005, we held over 500 events in stadiums, arenas and other venues including monster truck shows, supercross races, motocross races, freestyle motocross events, motorcycle road racing

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and dirt track motorcycle racing. In addition, we own numerous trademarked properties, including monster trucks such as *Grave Digger*tm and *Blue Thunder*tm, which generate additional licensing revenues. While our specialized motor sports business operates year-round, we experience higher revenues during January through March, which is the period when a larger number of specialized motor sports events occur.

We also provide integrated sports marketing and management services, primarily for professional athletes. Our marketing and management services generally involve our negotiation of player contracts with professional sports teams and of endorsement contracts with major brands. As of December 31, 2005, we had approximately 600 clients, including Kobe Bryant (basketball), David Ortiz (baseball), Tom Lehman (golf), Andy Roddick (tennis), Roy E. Williams (football) and Steven Gerrard (soccer).

We also promote and produce other live entertainment events, including family shows, such as *Dora the Explorer* and *Blue s Clues*. In addition, we distribute television shows and DVDs, including *Motley Crue: Carnival of Sins* and *Ozzfest: 10th Year Anniversary Tour*.

For the year ended December 31, 2005, businesses included under other generated approximately \$298.5 million, or 10%, of our total revenues.

Our Business Activities

We principally act in the following capacities, performing one, some or all of these roles in connection with our events and tours:

Venue Operation. As a venue operator, we contract with promoters to rent our venues for events and provide related services such as concessions, merchandising, parking, security, ushering and ticket-taking. We generate revenues primarily from rental income, ticket service charges, premium seating and venue sponsorships, as well as sharing in percentages of concessions, merchandise and parking. Revenues generated from venue operations typically have a higher margin than promotion or production revenues and therefore typically have a more direct relationship to operating income.

Sponsorships and Advertising. We actively pursue the sale of national and local sponsorships and placement of advertising, including signage, promotional programs, naming of subscription series and tour sponsorships. Many of our venues also have name-in-title sponsorship programs. We believe national sponsorships allow us to maximize our network of venues and to arrange multi-venue branding opportunities for advertisers. Our national sponsorship programs have included companies such as American Express, Anheuser Busch and Coca-Cola. Our local and venue-focused sponsorships include venue signage, promotional programs, on-site activation, hospitality and tickets, and are derived from a variety of companies across various industry categories. Revenues generated from sponsorships and advertising typically have a higher margin than promotion or production revenues and therefore typically have a more direct relationship to operating income.

Promotion. As a promoter, we typically book performers, arrange performances and tours, secure venues, provide for third-party production services, sell tickets and advertise events to attract audiences. We earn revenues primarily from the sale of tickets and pay performers under one of several formulas, including a fixed guaranteed amount and/or a percentage of ticket sales. For each event, we either use a venue we own or operate, or rent a third-party venue. In our global theater business, we generally refer to promotion as presentation. Revenues related to promotion activities represent the majority of our consolidated and combined revenues. These revenues are generally related to the volume of ticket sales and ticket prices. Event costs, included in divisional operating expenses, such as artist and production service expenses are typically substantial in relation to the revenues. As a result, significant increases or decreases in promotion revenue do not typically result in comparable changes to operating income.

Production. As a producer, we generally develop event content, hire directors and artistic talent, develop sets and costumes, and coordinate the actual performances of the events. We produce tours on a global, national and regional basis. We generate revenues from fixed production fees and by sharing in a percentage of event or tour profits primarily related to the sale of tickets, merchandise and event and tour sponsorships. These production revenues are generally related to the size and profitability of the

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production. Production costs, included in divisional operating expenses, are typically substantial in relation to the revenues. As a result, significant increases or decreases in production revenue do not typically result in comparable changes to operating income.

Operating Segments

Global Music

Within our global music segment, we are engaged in owning and operating concert venues, selling sponsorships and advertising and promoting and presenting music events and tours. Our global music business principally involves the promotion and production of live music performances and tours by music artists in venues owned and operated by us and in third-party venues rented by us.

The musical venues we operate consist primarily of amphitheaters and music theaters. We typically receive higher music profits from events in venues we own due to our ability to share in a greater percentage of revenues received from concession and merchandise sales as well as the opportunity to sell sponsorships for venue naming rights and other display advertising.

In the live music industry, concert venues generally consist of:

Stadiums Stadiums are multi-purpose facilities, often housing local sports teams. Stadiums typically have 30,000 or more seats. Although they are the largest venues available for live music, they are not specifically designed for live music. At December 31, 2005, we did not own or lease any stadiums, although on occasion we may rent them for certain music events.

Amphitheaters Amphitheaters are generally outdoor venues with between 5,000 and 30,000 seats that are used primarily in the summer season. We believe they are popular because they are designed specifically for concert events, with premium seat packages and better lines of sight and acoustics. At December 31, 2005, we owned 14 and leased 23 amphitheaters.

Arenas Arenas are indoor venues that are used as multi-purpose facilities, often housing local sports teams. Arenas typically have between 5,000 and 20,000 seats. Because they are indoors, they are able to offer amenities other similar-sized outdoor venues cannot such as luxury suites and premium club memberships. As a result, we believe they have become increasingly popular for higher-priced concerts aimed at audiences willing to pay for these amenities. At December 31, 2005, we owned one and leased two arenas.

Theaters Theaters are indoor venues that are built specifically for musical and theatrical events, but in some cases with minimal aesthetic and acoustic consideration. These venues typically have less than 5,000 seats. Because of their small size, they do not offer as much economic upside on a per show basis but as they can be used year-round, unlike an amphitheater, they can generate profits similar to an amphitheater. Theaters represent less risk to concert promoters because they have lower fixed costs associated with hosting a concert and may provide a more appropriately sized venue for developing artists. At December 31, 2005, we owned six and leased 17 theaters.

Clubs are indoor venues that are built specifically for musical events, but in some cases with minimal aesthetic and acoustic consideration. These venues typically have less than 1,000 seats and often without full fixed seating. Because of their small size, they do not offer as much economic upside, but they also represent less of a risk to a concert promoter because they have lower fixed costs associated with hosting a concert and also may provide a more appropriate size venue for developing artists. Clubs can also be used year-round and

can therefore generate higher profits for the year, even though per show profits are lower. At December 31, 2005, we owned three and leased 11 clubs.

Festival Sites Festival sites are outdoor locations used primarily in the summer season to stage day-long or multi-day concert events featuring several performers. Depending on the location, festival site capacities can range from 10,000 to 120,000. We believe they are popular because of the value provided to the fan by packaging several performers for a day-long or multi-day event. While festival sites only host a few events each year, they can provide higher operating income because they have

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lower costs associated with producing the event and maintaining the site. At December 31, 2005, we owned two festival sites.

We own or operate domestic and international music venues in the following locations:

North American Music Venues:

	DMA® Region		Type	of Venue		Festival
City, State	Rank*	Amphitheater	Theater	Club		Site
New York, NY	1					
Holmdel, NJ	1					
Wantagh, NY	1					
Westbury, NY	1					
Los Angeles, CA	2					
Devore, CA	2					
Irvine, CA	2					
Chicago, IL	3					
Tinley Park, IL	3					
Philadelphia, PA	4					
Camden, NJ	4					
Upper Darby, PA	4					
Boston, MA	5					
Mansfield, MA	5					
San Francisco, CA	6		(2)	(2)	
Concord, CA	6					
Mountain View, CA	6					
Bristow, VA	8					
Atlanta, GA	9					
Houston, TX	10					
Detroit, MI	11					
Tampa Bay, FL	12					
Auburn, WA	13					
Phoenix, AZ	14					
Cleveland, OH	16					
Denver, CO	18					
Sacramento, CA	19					
Marysville, CA	19					
St. Louis, MO	21					
Pittsburgh, PA	22					
Burgettstown, PA	22					
Indianapolis, IN	25					
Noblesville, IN	25					
Charlotte, NC	27					
Hartford, CT	28					
Wallingford, CT	28					

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Raleigh, NC	29
Nashville, TN	30

 $\begin{array}{cccc} DMA^{\circledast} & & & \\ Region & & Type \ of \ Venue \\ City, State & & & & \\ \end{array}$