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POST-REALITY:

"The Ultimate Love Test" winner **Heather Ballentine** says the reality show proved to be "a real test" that her relationship almost didn't survive. "I really didn't anticipate that at all," says the lead singer of the rock group Ballentine. Initially, she admits, she and her boyfriend, bandmate **Frank Primorac**, "were just interested in winning the money. We were struggling musicians at the time. I never expected the show to affect me." However, being put through an emotional wringer with a good-looking fellow contestant - while Frank, far away, viewed video of Heather's potentially amorous adventures - turned out to be serious indeed.

"They cut you off from all communication, no TV, no radio and put you into these intense situations. It was extreme dates like bungee jumping that made you a lot closer to the other person ... a lot of feelings started to surface. Once I got in the situation it was real. I had to go with my feelings and explore the relationship." Ballentine says she didn't know until halfway through that her boyfriend was seeing every move she was making - and every move being made on her. "At first it was like, 'Oh, that sucks.' But I thought, 'Maybe this will be a wakeup call for him.'" She says their relationship was already precarious before the show began. "He'd been crashing at my house for two years, but wasn't technically living there. All I wanted was a commitment ... I wasn't asking for marriage."

As viewers saw Wednesday night, the "Ultimate Love Test" ended with Frank popping the question and Heather saying yes. It's been almost a year since they shot the show, and she says they're still happily ever after, but wedding plans have been delayed. The group Ballentine was signed by OME Records right after the show wrapped, and its debut CD is called "4U." Now she says, "The label is about to send us out on tour for the next six to eight months."