

## Sound Spectrum opens recording and mix facility in Andheri West

**INDIA:** Nimish Chheda has become one of the latest sound designers to build a studio in Mumbai's northern suburbs, currently attracting a wave of filmmakers and technicians priced out of the city's central locations.

'Having a one-stop facility is much more convenient than hopping around from studio to studio, as I used to,' explained Mr Chheda, owner of the new Sound Spectrum audio post facility in Andheri West. 'It is really important for a sound designer or a mix engineer to work in a studio which translates accurately when the soundtrack is taken from his room to a mix stage or a theatre. Since returning from Vancouver film school I have been looking for the perfect studio and finally I've built my own.'

Pondicherry-based acoustic consultancy Sound Wizard worked with the available space to provide Mr Chheda with a 9 sq-m pre-mix stage, a 7 sq-m control room and an 8 sq-m recording area, plus 14 sq-m of office and lounge space. 'When we received the plans from Nimish along with his wish list, our first reaction was, not possible!' recalled Kumbha Young Grenier, CEO of Sound Wizard. 'But after some discussions, removing a few areas and reshuffling his initial layout we came to the beginnings of a workable solution.'

'The biggest challenge was to provide enough soundproofing without eating up too much space for bass trapping. We overcame this with a layout of more sensitive and less

sensitive sound spaces along with various floating layers of mass and damping materials. Nimish was very hands-on and involved in the building process, and we were able to save every inch by making complicated

surround system of CMS 65s and a Meyer Sound UMS-1P subwoofer. Room EQ and speaker calibration is handled by a QSC DSP 322ua processor. 'I like to keep everything in the box and that makes sense in



**Nimish Chheda inside Sound Spectrum**



**Nimish Chheda with his Avid Icon D-Control ES**

compact floating rubber joints knowing that with his supervision, it would be done correctly.'

Sound Spectrum's pre-mix room is based around an Avid Icon D-Control ES console, a Focal Twin 6 BE LCR monitoring system, a

such a small room' said Mr Chheda of his choice of console. 'I prefer using software plug-ins for all of my processing. It makes it easier when moving sessions to another studio and gives you the freedom to tweak till the last minute.'

'Sound Wizard has done a great job with the acoustics of the facility. Given the size of the pre-mix room, many people are surprised with its output. The room sounds cinematic, the bass sounds tight and the HD projector completes the experience. Some of my clients have even rented out the room for their private Blu-Ray screenings.'

Equipment in the ADR studio includes a Toft Audio ATB08 mixer, an 8-channel Presonus ACP88 compressor, Focal 5.1 CMS65 monitoring with CMS subs and Neumann U87i and MKH 416 microphones.

Mr Chheda is contracted to provide the complete audio soundtrack for a film right through to the final mix stage. This includes all location recording, which is handled by either he or his colleague, Christopher Robleto-Harvey. 'After location recording we get the picture lock and start with the dialogue edit, sound design, sound effects, Foley and everything up to the pre-mix,' Mr Chheda explained. When the pair, who habitually juggle several film projects at a time, are both working outside Sound Spectrum, the facility is available for commercial rent.

Mr Chheda described himself as pleased with his new studio and its location. 'There are many beautiful facilities coming up now, and even though they are compact due to the price of real estate, if they sound good, the clients are happy. This is the main area to be; in this square kilometre you'll find more than 50 studios.'

Mr Chheda and Mr Robleto-Harvey have worked on many award-winning films and recently won a Maharashtra State Film Award for *Shala*, a Marathi film which was tracked at the new facility.

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## LA MESA PROVIDES SOUND FOR KERONCONG IBUKOTA CONCERT

**INDONESIA:** La Mesa was recently called upon to handle the sound system and the recording of the Keroncong Ibukota music concert held in the Schouwburg Weltevreden art building in central Java.

As there were approximately 48 channel mic inputs in use for the multiple performances, La Mesa decided that using a digital console was 'a must', and supplied an Innovason Eclipse internal 64-track recorder to record the two-hour concert.

'Some performers brought in their own monitor engineer, but thanks to the 80-channel Innovason Eclipse console, the learning curve was easy,' said a La Mesa spokesperson. 'After using the console for the morning sound check the engineer complimented how fast and flexible the Eclipse console was.'

Eight separate monitor sends



**The Keroncong Ibukota concert**

were utilised, and variety of microphones from DPA, Shure, Mipro, Sennheiser, Sanken Microphones and CAD Audio were also used for the performances. All signals were split through a 48-way conquest mic splitter in order to ensure correct impedance. An

Avid Venue D-Show console was used for FOH, which was linked to the house PA system comprising a centre cluster and two delay speakers.

'The two hour full house concert was captured without a glitch,' enthused the La Mesa



**The soundcheck for the concert**



**Mixing monitors**

spokesperson. 'Everyone was happy with the concert, and it is now a yearly event.'

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