

Lofty guest at Ganho do Som

PORTUGAL: "I'm alive and well working in Lisbon at the best sounding mix facility in the world!" Strong words indeed. But when they come from James Lock, you can't help but sit-up and listen.

Lock is the former Decca chief engineer and two-time Grammy award winner (with ten nominations), and is legendary in the recording industry having worked with names such as Pavarotti, Sir Georg Solti and Karajan amongst others.

Lock is currently spending a few seasons in Portugal's flagship studio O Ganho do Som as resident sound chief engineer and international business consultant. "Lisbon is such a warm and sunny capital and the introductory post-production costs at this studio are way below anything you can get anywhere in the world for the same high-end quality," he says. "Besides, if I had a dream for the ultimate listening experience, this facility would be it. I had never heard my recordings sounding so damn good!"

Housed inside a residential loft in Lisbon, O Ganho do Som recently went through a state-of-the-art acoustic facelift by a Portuguese firm called **AudioDesigner**. The major concern of the studio was to make sure the sound engineer could listen to everything exactly as recorded, with no negative influence from the room or the monitoring chain.

The studio is based around six B&W 801D Nautilus speakers, powered by six audiophile Electrocompaniet Nemo monoblock amplifiers, capable of delivering 1,200 watts/4 ohms each.

Recording, editing and mixing is supported by a Pro Tools system, with 196 tracks and 24 physical faders on a D-Command mixing desk. Audio resolution is up to 24 bits and 192kHz, with Apogee A-D/D-A 16X digital converters and Apogee Big Ben digital clock. A HD Dreamvision 1080p DLP video projector supports film and opera mixes.

Lock is planning some 5.1 remasterings of late '70s recordings, as this facility is up to any form of analogue transfers and multi-channel remastering. There are also plans for O Ganho do Som and Lock to go on the road recording international classical music events with a set up of several Schoeps

omni microphones and the Decca Tree technique. "The industry's craft lost this delicate balance between the performance space and the performers. Now everything is so up close and dry, or boomy. With this amazing technology we have nowadays and the right craft, we can recreate the performance and venue in peoples' homes like never before. At O Ganho do Som we will fight for that. We have the tools and the human factor," Lock concludes. ▣

ANTHONY LORD

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James Lock, contemplating his next master(ing) stroke

Reproduced Sound 23

will take place at The Sage in Gateshead on November 29th and 30th. In addition to the usual format of papers, more demonstrations and interactive sessions have been added to the conference, which are expected to inform and challenge even the most experienced audio professional, while being easy to understand by newcomers. A voting system will bring audience interactivity to many sessions, and will provide an immediate indication of audience opinion during listening tests and demonstrations. Papers will cover a wide range of topics, with an emphasis on issues relating to live music.

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O Ganho do Som main room