

STRONG ISLAND STUDIO SMITHTOWN, NY

By Jeff Touzeau

Prior to becoming the owner of Long Island, NY-based Strong Island Studio, Peter Kalafatis had been an active participant of the 1980s New York City punk hardcore scene — a life which he vividly recalls in his debut book out on All and None Press, *A Rebel Life: Murder by the Rich*. After his days as a punk rocker following bands like Warzone, Cro-Mags, Agnostic Front, and many others, Kalafatis settled down to Long Island's north shore roughly a decade ago where he joined the family business as a restaurateur. Most recently, with expert assist from GC Pro, Kalafatis has opened Strong Island Studio, a high-end recording facility.

Strong Island Studio is an economically sized, super high-end facility located within a strip mall in Smithtown, NY. The 2000-square-foot facility, designed by Guitar Center Professional (GC Pro)



There's a number of guitars and amps to choose from at Strong Island.

Affiliate program member Malvicino Design Group, boasts state-of-the-art acoustic design. Strong Island also boasts the same state-of-the-art equipment that

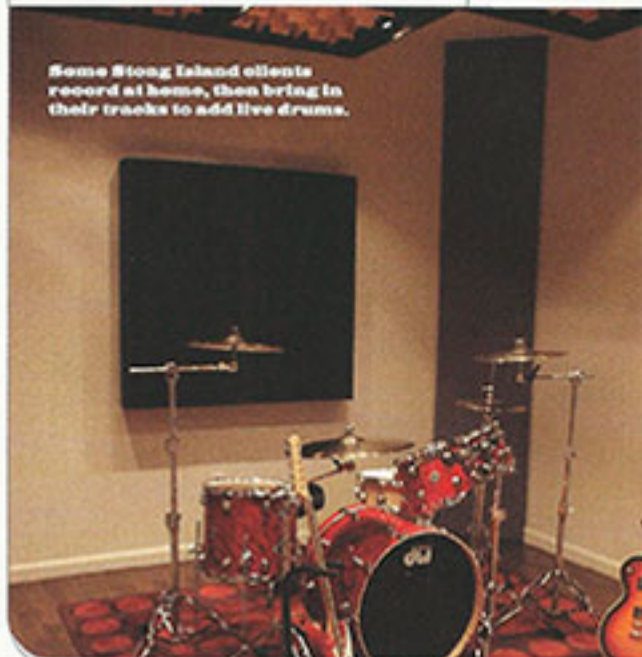
ate a recording environment that would be truly collaborative, where his many friends could explore their musical ideas and work on their own independent projects: "My

"Kalafatis' vision for Strong Island was to create a recording environment that would be truly collaborative, where his many friends could explore their musical ideas and work on their own independent projects."

you might find in other, highly successful commercial facilities such as first rate monitoring systems, console and controller, converters, rack gear, and everything in between, from manufacturers such as ADAM, API, Apogee, Avid, Neve, and SSL. Since Kalafatis is a musician at heart, there are plenty of guitars and amps to choose from for the most discriminating guitarist.

Kalafatis' vision for Strong Island was to cre-

main purpose was really just to get my son and my friends into music and recording, and then think about the business aspect," says Kalafatis. From an equipment and integration perspective, engaging GC Pro turned out to be a pivotal decision in helping Kalafatis realize his vision. A longtime customer of Guitar Center's Carle Place retail location, Kalafatis worked closely with GC Pro account manager Michael Yorky, who guided him through the entire process of setting up Strong Island to make sure it got off on the right foot. "When I sat down with Mike, he told me that he could help me from A to Z. He helped me choose the right equipment for what I was doing. I wanted to do something new, and it had to be a digital



Some Strong Island clients record at home, then bring in their tracks to add live drums.