

Recording in luxury at Jukasa Studios

By Jim Windle

SIX NATIONS - One of the finest state-of-the-art multimedia recording studios in Canada is not in Toronto, Vancouver or Montreal, but rather at the intersection of Sixth Line Road and Cayuga Road on the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory Reserve.

For lead engineer Darren Magierowski, landing this job was like winning the lottery. He gets to work in a brand new, multi-media studio with only the best equipment the industry has to offer for not only musical recordings, but also soundtrack work for TV and the biggest blockbuster movies out of Hollywood.

Owner Kenneth Hill has a bittersweet connection to the creation and naming of Jukasa Studios. He named it in memory of his three nieces, Justine, Karen and Sarah, who all died tragically in traffic-related accidents.

But out of the tragedy, a reachable goal for First Nations artists to be recorded and presented in a highly professional manner in a world-class facility was born.

"It is definitely on par with anything you would find in New York or Nashville," says Magierowski.

But Jukasa isn't just for the fledgling Native artist. It is becoming one of the most talked about destination studios for some very well known mainstream artists as well.

The cornerstone of



Jukasa Studios features a state of the art film suite with precisely calibrated 39.2 surround sound which is one of few in the world. High profile clients from Hollywood are becoming interested in using this suite to privately screen unreleased footage. PHOTO BY DAVID LAFORCE

the multi-million dollar audio recording facility is its heavily modified Abbey Road SSL 8072G+ console with Ultimotion and Total Recall. To the uninitiated, these are just names and numbers, but for anyone inside the industry, this is one impressive piece of equipment straight out of Abby Road Studios in England.

"I simply believe there is an incredible depth of talented musicians in our country and I am proud to invite artists to Jukasa to experience not only the recording process, but also to be a part of our community," says Hill.

Dozens of award-winning Aboriginal recording artists have either launched or enhanced their careers with recordings made at Jukasa.

There is no denying

Jukasa Media Group offers far more than a state of the art recording experience. Everything, including lodging and a quiet rural atmosphere is available for artists to enjoy while at Jukasa.

There are other advantages to recording at Jukasa as well.

"Everything is tax-free," says Magierowski. "It's tax-free. That is an immediate 13% savings. On top of that, California has instituted an entertainment tax on studios in and around Hollywood, plus, with the American dollar being so high, it makes even more sense for U.S.-based movie studios or recording artists to consider Jukasa."

A stay at Jukasa also gives an artist or engineer lots of quality down time. Features include

a well-equipped lounge area, top-flight gym, and a golf course to unwind on. All this, and only an hour from the Toronto airport and a half hour from Hamilton.

The most recent addition is maybe its most exciting. Jukasa is now equipped to mix the world's biggest ticket

movie soundtracks in a new and beautifully designed, fully equipped Dolby Atmos surround sound post-production facility, complete with a multi-seat mini-theatre.

This new technology produces surround sound generated from multiple sources around the room as well as from above.

This makes the standard 5.1 or 7.1 surround sound system obsolete, according to movie insiders.

"That would make our room 39.2 station surround sound, which blockbuster movies like The Avengers, The Hobbit, Transformers and many others are now using," says Magierowski.

Add to that a recording basics school for newcomers into the industry to learn the ropes of the recording business and sound engineering, and you've got a world-class recording studio for amateurs and professionals alike.

It has been slow, but the word about the Jukasa studios at Six Nations is beginning to be the talk of the industry with stars like Steven Segal, Hulk Hogan and Emmanuel Lewis dropping by to see the facility.

"We have everything we need. It's now all about getting the word out," says Magierowski.