

## L.A. GRAPEVINE

by Maureen Droney

Hollywood Boulevard was typically crazy. At Mann's Chinese, tourists gawked over movie star footprints, a man with an antenna on his head held court among the souvenir sellers and everybody was snapping photos. Across the street, in the lobby of a converted Masonic Temple in the El Capitan Entertainment Center, *Jimmy Kimmel Live's* crew was setting up for Slipknot's soundcheck. Through doors that opened onto the street, you could glimpse the action, but I went around back, checked in

patched into the console from the drummer's perspective—the opposite from how you see them looking at your TV screen.

"They use a lot of ear monitors," says Chiato. "It was more efficient to let the band use their own dialed-in monitor console. Slipknot's monitor engineer works from the drummer's perspective and didn't want to re-patch, so we moved things to fit our template. We don't have a patchbay, so it was extra work. But when you're mixing to picture, if everything is camera left to right,

PHOTO: MAUREEN DRONEY



*Jimmy Kimmel Live's* veteran music mixer and multitasker, Bart Chiato

with the guard and was shown to the lair of *JKL's* veteran music mixer, Bart Chiato.

Chiato mixes the house band and musical guest feeds for the broadcast mix, which is manned by production mixer Mark King. He's a master multitasker; when I arrived, he was watching the news, chatting on the phone with an equipment dealer and arranging 38 band inputs—including 16 for drums—all the while keeping an ear tuned to the backstage intercom chatter. It was an engineer's nightmare: a drum kit enhanced with two kick drums, two marching snares and two of Slipknot's signature beer keg toms. And the drum mics were

what you're reaching for is automatic. If it's not, it can get very interesting."

Set up comfortably to deal with the chaos, Chiato's neat control room, designed with the help of Bruce Maddox of *Cups 'N Strings* (L.A.), is decorated with Navajo rugs, an Ionic Breeze air purifier and framed Japanese *katji*. Modular furniture by Bob Merritt houses a sound system designed by Paul Sandweiss.

The main Sandweiss package comprises three cascading Yamaha 02R consoles configured so that both house and guest bands are mixed from the same console.

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