

## Recording with The Doors

### "STRANGE DAYS"

#### INTRODUCTION

Many people have asked me what it was like to record with The Doors, so I thought I'd take you back and paint a word picture of the studio environment — what it was like in April of 1967... BEFORE they hit it big. There were only seven of us: me, The Doors, producer Paul Rothchild and engineer Bruce Botnick. No groupies hanging around outside. No pressure from overloaded schedules and high expectations. No media frenzy. No girlfriends. No hangers-on. It was just seven guys making great music and having a helluva great time doing it. We were recording "Strange Days," which in 2003 was selected by Rolling Stone as one of the "500 Greatest Albums of All Time."

Here is what a typical day in the studio was like:

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#### SUNSET SOUND

The building isn't much to look at. It's a nondescript, cinder block building at 6650 Sunset Boulevard — a former car repair shop. It's about eight blocks southwest of the famous Hollywood and Vine intersection — the heart of Hollywood — and about a mile east of the club-packed Sunset Strip. This is where we will be recording "Strange Days."

Between the studio and the Strip is an intersection I know well — La Cienega and Sunset. Just one year earlier I was broke and sleeping in the bushes there. I had been discovered in Aspen by Mama Cass, who encouraged me to take my dreams to California and fly to L.A. with her. I did, but I wound up spending a lot of nights curled up in the La Cienega bushes while waiting for my dreams-to-reality thing to happen. Meanwhile, a month or so after our flight, Cass hit it big with the Mamas and the Papas and "California Dreamin'."