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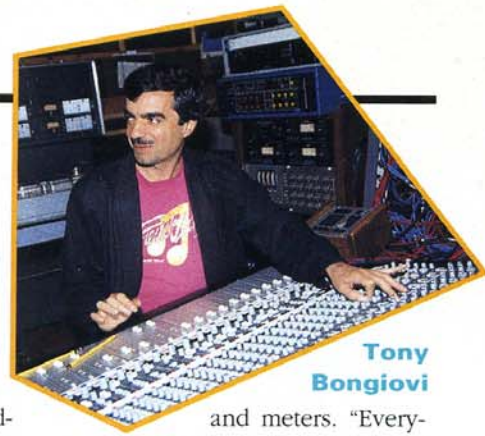
## Behind the Beat: A Night at Power Station

The night the *Currents Crew* went to Power Station — one of the top recording studios in the country — we walked right by the entrance. After all, we thought the place where  **Madonna** recorded "Like A Virgin", where  **Jon Bon Jovi** developed into a songwriter, and  **Bruce Springsteen** made "The River" would be a glamorous place. This place looked like a warehouse. There wasn't even a sign.

Well, it all begins to make sense when we meet Tony Bongiovi, designer and owner of Power Station. When Tony started Power Station in 1977, it was radically different from other studios. "They had rugs on the walls, ceilings, and floors," says Tony. "Musicians complained, 'It's too dead. I can't hear. I can't play in tune.' So I studied physics, and Wallace Sabine, the father of acoustics, and I designed the studios for musicians."

And the musicians still come. At Power Station, they can be basic. They work and record, and leave their MTV personas behind. The night the *Currents Crew* was there, Eric Clapton was working. We met record producer Phil Ramone while he mixed sound, and even bumped into Chaka Khan.

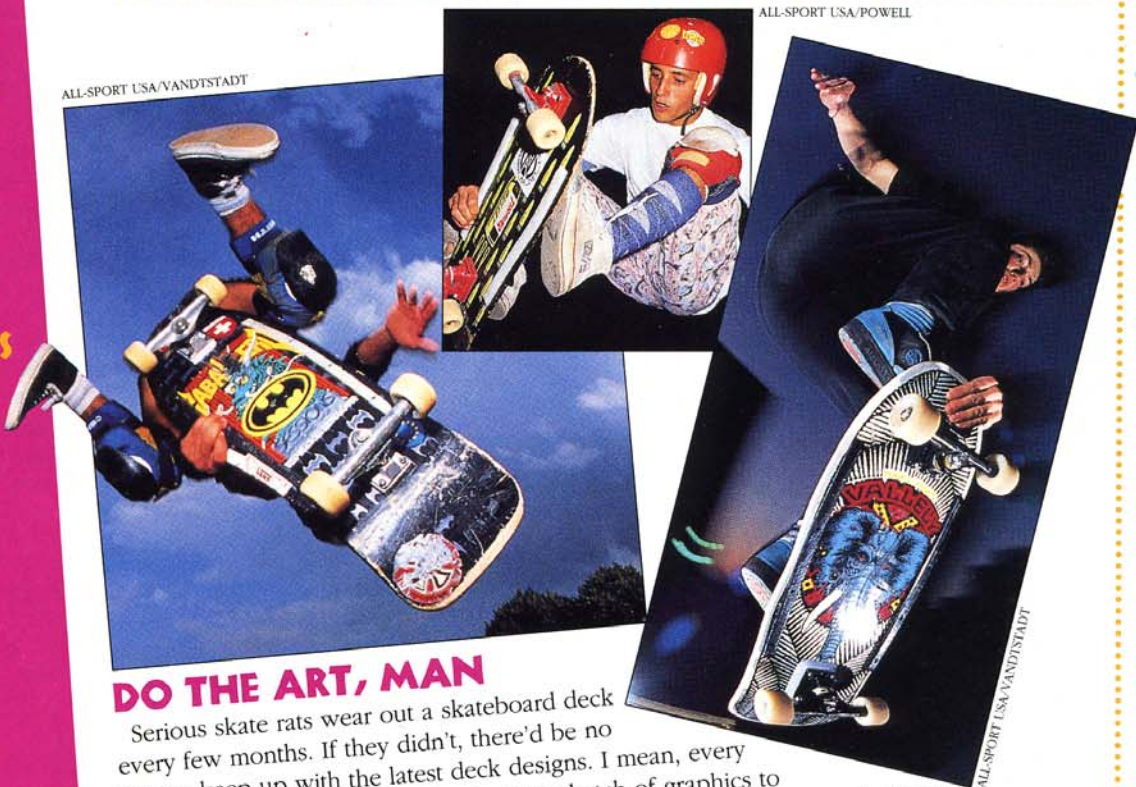
Then we checked out Studio A. It's a large, open space with an arched ceiling, sliding glass doors and — of course — a control room with a console of levers, buttons,



**Tony Bongiovi**

and meters. "Everything in this room is built for a technical reason," Tony explains. "The walls are made of pine and burlap, and the wood on the floor is from K mart. It comes in strips and you glue it down."

What's impressive about Power Station isn't the interior decorating. It's the sound achieved through Tony's technical design. "After three days, beauty goes away and you're there working," says Tony. "Most studios are like plush Learjets. But Power Station is like a fighter plane. You've got to know how to fly it, but boy, can you shoot down Learjets!"  
—by *Francelia Sevin*



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### DO THE ART, MAN

Serious skate rats wear out a skateboard deck every few months. If they didn't, there'd be no way to keep up with the latest deck designs. I mean, every time you ollie, it seems like there's a new batch of graphics to choose from. So next time, why not buy a blank and do your own art? If you do, send us a photo of your totally bio board.

### REELY COOL

Get out your hankies. *The Man in the Moon* hits the big screen this month. And it's a real tear-jerker.

The friendship of two teenage sisters (Reese Witherspoon, Gail Strickland) is threatened when they both fall in love with the 17-year-old hunk (Jason London) who moves in next door.

Then the heart-wrenching, tragic twist happens, but we won't tell.

**Write! Currents, Scholastic Inc., 730 Broadway, New York, NY 10003. Include name, address, and age.**

MADONNA: LORRAINE DAY; SPRINGSTEEN: ANNIE LEIBOVITZ; BON JOVI: SYGMA; TONY BONGIOVI: COURTESY OF POWER STATION