

# BEST 24-HOUR LOCKOUT

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## **Gemini Studios**

500 E. DYER RD., SANTA ANA

(714) 545-2289

[WWW.GEMINISTUDIOS.NET](http://WWW.GEMINISTUDIOS.NET)

Courtesy of the  
OC WEEKLY

Let's just say—and why not?—that as younger person, you were in a seven-piece rock band: two guitars, bass, drums, vocals and a horn line, all amplified, all played at high volume. After being kicked out of every member's garage by either an angry mother, or a cop at the behest of an angry neighbor, you ended up finding a home in the garage of your drummer, where the seven of you, gear included, packed into a cluttered, cold, wet space that you shared with a washer and dryer, as well as a broken-down, rusted-out 1973 Buick. Oh, how you pined for a decent practice space.

Too bad you didn't know about Gemini Studios. It's a 24-hour lockout—musician lingo for a building where you can practice whenever the hell you want to—owned and operated by Cal State Fullerton grad Luke Allen. Musicians will need to jump through the usual rental hoops—contract, security deposit, basic rules and regs—but once the business stuff is out of the way, it's time to get down to the business of rockin' out! Three studio sizes are available: 200 square feet will cost you \$595 per month (just 85 bucks apiece, if there's seven of you!), 150 square feet is \$525, and 100 will cost you \$445—all with AC, the freedom to decorate, insurance, free DSL and, most important, 24-hour access. Look, practicing in a leaky garage sucks, especially when it smells like laundry and motor oil. Get some money together and go legit.

## IN THE NEWS

▶ On the heels of their U.S. tour with the Detroit Cobras, Anaheim's **Willowz** will set out on the road again this month with Electric Six. The tour kicks off on November 13 at The Kyhber in Philadelphia, Penn., and will make its way down the East Coast, through the South and back up to Cleveland Heights, Ohio where it will wrap on December 8 at the Grog Shop. The garage rock band is touring in continued support of their Dim Mak release *Chautauqua*.

[www.thewillowz.com](http://www.thewillowz.com)

▶ On November 6, Costa Mesa's **Ubiquity Records** will release the new album from Shawn Lee's Ping Pong Orchestra. *A Very Ping Pong Christmas* offers a psychedelic/funk take on Christmas tunes from the singer and multi-instrumentalist Shawn Lee.

[www.ubiquityrecords.com](http://www.ubiquityrecords.com)

▶ **The Dear & Departed** will return home this month after their extensive U.S. tour with Saosin, Norma Jean and Alexisonfire. Based in Orange County, the band is made up of Australian, New Zealand and Welsh transplants, and recently filmed a new video for the track "Tonight's the Night" off its latest Science Records release *Something Quite Peculiar*. The video, which just debuted on MTVU, was directed by Kevin Estrada.

[www.thedearanddeparted.com](http://www.thedearanddeparted.com)

▶ The O.C.'s guitar maestro **Ronny North** will be performing at the Zachary Johnson Charity Concert on November 3rd. North has also been gearing up to perform at Winter NAMM 2008 in January where he will play for Laney Amplifiers, Presonus Electronics, Light Pick, and others. In the meantime, North has a Christmas song of his own on the way titled "A Day in the Moment," which was slated for a November release at press time.

[www.ronnynorth.com](http://www.ronnynorth.com)

▶ Local folk singer/songwriter **Lauren Mulderrig** has completed her work on *Planes, Trains, and Clean Getaways* and is set to release the album in late November or early December. The followup to 2005's *Stability*, the new album finds Mulderrig with a full band and is the artist's first release on new Orange County label **Proline Music Group, Inc.** At press time, plans were in the works for a nationwide December tour for Mulderrig and the band in support of the new album.

[www.laurenmulderrig.com](http://www.laurenmulderrig.com)

## REPORT

## Orange County's Musician Training Ground

Currently the largest 24-hour monthly practice facility in Orange County, Gemini Studios was opened in July 2001 by two active young musicians who recognized the need for a safe place to practice in the area. Now with three facilities in the heart of Orange County, right off the 5, 55, and 405 freeways, Gemini has successfully answered that need.

Sick of fights breaking out, worrying about the car still being there after practice and the studio manager trying to sell them drugs, the final impetus for launching Gemini was when "we realized that all these rooms are filled at a place that isn't really that great — so they'd probably be filled at a place that is," says Gemini owner/founder Luke Allen, who had just turned 20 at the time he opened Gemini with 19-year-old business partner Adam Fogel. It was their aim to create a place that was not only safe, but clean and professional as well.

All three facilities are located in a business park within a square block of each other. Allen takes preventative measures like having 24-hour video surveillance in place and being aware of who he signs up for a room. "It starts when you interview," Allen says. Local bands such as Thrice, Atreyu, A Static Lullaby, Beautiful Mistake and Hello Goodbye have all practiced there — but big or small, Allen takes the time to get to know them all. "I am a fan of all our bands and I still wear the shirt of the first band to ever sign up for a studio, Fairview," he says.



**SIZE OPTIONS/RATES:** 200 square feet: \$595/month; 150 square feet: \$525/month; 100 square feet: \$445/month. Studios with a private bathroom are also available for an additional \$50, and discounts are given to bands who book out blocks in advance.

**SOUND PROOFING:** There is a dense sandwich of wall between each studio — soundboard, drywall, studs with installation, drywall, soundboard. The studio is also located in a fully lit industrial complex, so there are no residential noise ordinances to deal with.

**ADDITIONAL FEATURES:** Free DSL Wi-Fi internet connection, air conditioning, fire alarm, 24-hour video surveillance.

**BOOKING:** Studios can be booked online or by calling (714) 545-2289.

**WEBSITE:** [www.gemini studios.net](http://www.gemini studios.net)

## VENUE PROFILE

## Plush Café

Plush Café in Downtown Fullerton is one of Orange County's best kept indie music secrets. An internet café/lounge that doubles as a live music venue, Plush Café has been actively supporting Orange County's independent music community for the past three years by providing bands with a unique place to play. Plush usually books live music four nights a week, and all of its shows are all ages, though there is a lounge for the 21 and up crowd that serves beer and wine.

**CAPACITY:** 150

**COVER:** \$5 on the weekdays; \$8 on the weekends

**STAGE DIMENSIONS:** 12' x 12'

**GENRES:** Singer/songwriter, indie rock, pop, avant-garde, experimental and DJs.

**BOOKING:** Send a music link along with band name, contact info, where you're based, and what your draw is like in Fullerton, along with desired dates. This should be sent at least a month in advance.

**PROMO:** Bands with upcoming shows at Plush can email a Jpeg of their show flier to [info@plushcafe.com](mailto:info@plushcafe.com) with "Put us on the web" in the subject line, and Plush will post it on their homepage.

**BOOKING CONTACT:** Online form or [booking@plushcafe.com](mailto:booking@plushcafe.com); attn: Ann

**VENUE ADDRESS:** 207 N. Harbor Boulevard, Fullerton, CA 92832

**PHONE:** (714) 738-5100

**WEBSITE:** [www.plushcafe.com](http://www.plushcafe.com)