

Women's Audio Mission: Providing Training For Women in Audio Production

By Alice Bergen



Photo courtesy of WAM

Terri Winston, founder of Women's Audio Mission (WAM), didn't originally set out to be on the production side of the music industry. Just out of college, she got a record deal and started her professional career as a recording artist. Due in part to her degree in electrical engineering, however, Winston became more comfortable on the other side of the mic. "It became obvious to me," she says, "that the combination of engineering and musical chops worked really well for me in studio production."

Unfortunately, this kismet combination of opportunity and skill is pretty rare for most women. In fact, women make up less than 5% of the music production community. "I think girls are not socialized around technology in our culture," Terri says. "You have to be really

comfortable with technology in a studio and learn to lead people in this technical environment. I don't think there's as much of an immersion in tools, technology, and fixing things for girls."

In 2003, Winston founded Women's Audio Mission to help remedy this gender imbalance. With an online community of 850 members across the globe, WAM's brick and mortar studio in San Francisco serves as headquarters for on-site training, educational programs and recording sessions run entirely by women for women. With the recent addition of Sound Channel, an online training curriculum developed by and for WAM members, the non-profit has reached over 6,000 people in 105 countries. WAM is the only organization in the world that is providing this kind of specialized training for women, and is

recognized widely for setting standards in music recording arts. With such far-reaching resources – and with a membership fee of only \$40 – women can now easily and affordably take advantage of world-class training and professional know-how right in the Bay Area.

www.womensaudiomission.org



Kimo's on Polk Street, a long-time rock music venue in the Bay Area, will be shutting its doors as ownership changes hands this month. After 34 years serving San Francisco's music community, the venue's new owners have no immediate plan to keep the joint rocking. "My gut feeling is that they're going to make it into a cocktail lounge," says owner Tony Malson. With a crackdown on no new liquor licenses in

the area, Malson was left with few other options than to sell.

Kimo's has been host to countless local, regional, and national acts over the years, including a surprise appearance in 2002 by Metallica. Prior to its rock and roll glory days, the space served as a local gay bar and transitioned into hosting more rock shows as the AIDS epidemic moved

the LGBT scene towards the Castro.

"From the tranny sitting at the end of the bar, to a hustler on the corner, to rock 'n' roll playing upstairs, for me that was a big definition of San Francisco," Malson says.

**A true San Francisco icon,
Kimo's will be missed.**