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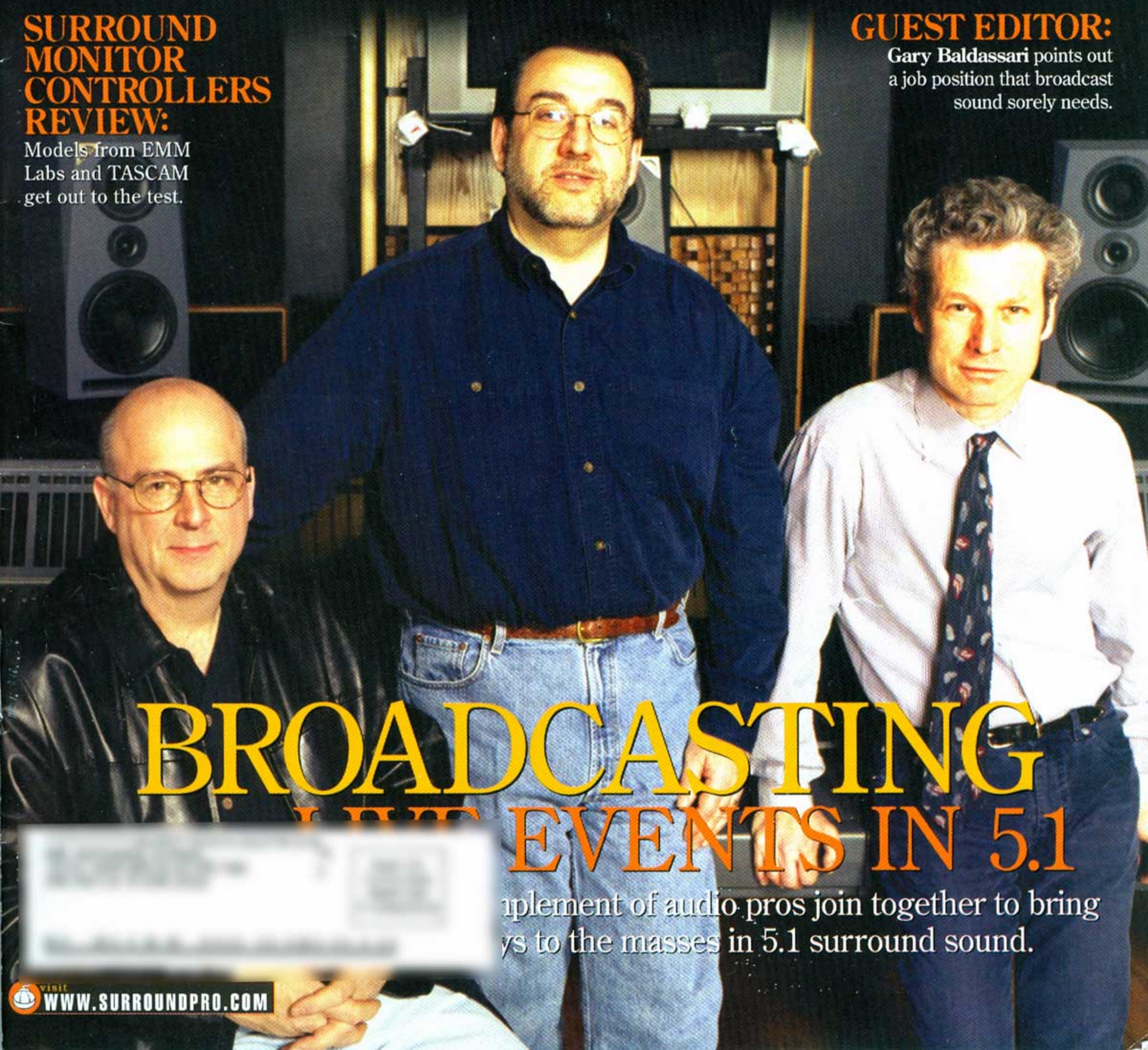
surround professional

SURROUND MONITOR CONTROLLERS REVIEW:

Models from EMM Labs and TASCAM get out to the test.

GUEST EDITOR:

Gary Baldassari points out a job position that broadcast sound sorely needs.



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One side effect of enhanced resolution is the fact that some recording warts that were once masked are now a lot more apparent, as you'll hear breaths, grunts, string squeaks, and kick drum pedal noises that you didn't hear before, for better or worse. Aside from that, the only bummer for me is that the SACD layer is stereo only and not surround. That being said, the sonic superiority of the format has made this title one of my favorites all over again. —*Bobby Owsinski*

Got Swing!

Erich Kunzel Cincinnati Pops Orchestra

Telarc

Dual Layer Multichannel SACD

Got Swing! features interpretations of classic swing tunes by the previously credited Cincinnati Pops

Orchestra as well as guest stars that include The Manhattan Transfer, John Pizzarelli, and Janis Siegel. The recording is right on par with what one would expect from Telarc — clean, distinct, and accurate. The songs were recorded at the Cincinnati Music Hall last year, and the liner notes give a list of the gear used so you can figure out how the Telarc team did it.

The surround mix opts to place you in a mid-sized hall as opposed to the center of the orchestra, which is fine, but it may have been fun to get caught up in the middle of the Manhattan Transfer's harmonies, or feel the musicians taking solos from all around you as opposed to the stage. Different strokes, different folks....

What is on the disc is pretty cool, though. The front soundstage does most of the work here, with the front

left and right channels pumping out the tunes and the center channel adding some light reverb. The result is a well-established phantom center — I thought the soloed instruments were actually coming directly from the center channel, when a walk to the front of the room revealed the ruse.

The rear channels are pretty much relegated to ambience here, and the results work. The room fills up nicely, and if you close your eyes you can set the scene of a smokey, dark jazz hall — and you're at the center table right near the stage.

Some notable tracks include the song "Avalon," which in addition to very smooth guitar playing, features a slightly more aggressive surround mix, with the percussion playing a larger, more dominant role the rears. The whole mix really makes the solo instruments stand out — and there a bunch of them. I dare you not to bob your head to this one!

Got Swing! was produced by Robert Woods and engineered by Michael Bishop. Engineering assistants were Robert Friedrich, James Yates, and Todd Brown. —*Anthony Savona*

The Wraith Shangri-La

Insane Clown Posse

DTS Entertainment

Multichannel DVD-A

For those of you that like your surround sound adventurous and right in your face, have I got a disc for you. Pop *The Wraith...* in, and the first sound you hear comes from behind you; kind of fuzzy, blown-speaker bursts. Then the Insane Clown Posse (ICP) chime in all around you. The effect is interesting, but...well...kind of cheesy, too.

But wait, you can't judge a disc by its intro, and if you stick around you

will be treated to one of the coolest surround mixes I've heard yet. I wouldn't have thought that ICP would've lent itself so well to surround, but fortunately DTS Entertainment and producers Nathaniel Kunkel and Mike Puwal knew better.

The assortment of sounds you get on each track is tough to explain, but here goes. The main lyric provided by one of the gravely voiced duo *usually* comes through the center speaker, with the second Clown chiming in from the left or right speaker. On the track "Get Your Wicked On," the boys answer each other, one from the center channel and the other responding from the rears. Very cool.

The percussion goes all around you — as do the other instruments. You never know what the next track will bring. The choruses get spread around the front and back channels, with the lead vocalist shouting through them from the center channel.

"Juggalo Homies" is clearly the intended single from *The Wraith...* (a video for the single is included here). On the track, an answering machine beeps to life in the rears, while a nice, clean guitar riff comes in through the fronts. Then the guitar is answered by another in the rears, which is joined by percussion. Cue the center channel rapping. Then the chorus gets started behind you by one Clown, with grunts from the other in the center, then a musical

chant of "homies" goes all around. Again, very cool.

If you've never heard ICP before — either on disc or on the Howard Stern radio show — know this: they intend to offend you. Their lyrics are

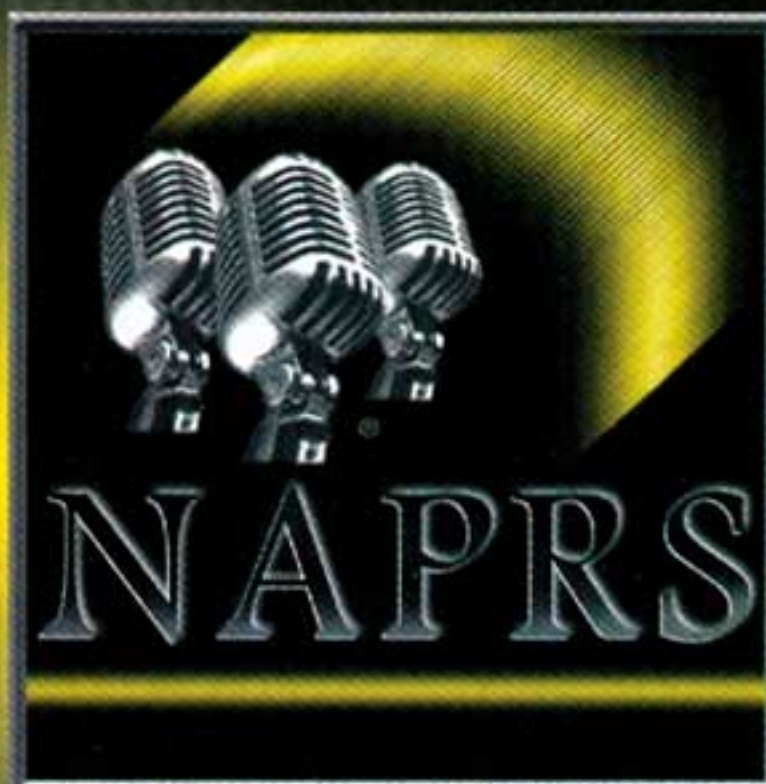
laden with four-letter words and many of the songs have violent themes. If you can work past that, you will be treated to an awesome surround experience.

—Anthony Savona



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