

Drummer tot joins world of reality TV

By NATALIE LOMBARDO
Of The Oakland Press

"Little drummer baby"
Julian Pavone is set to star in a reality television show in search of gifted young musicians to play with.

And the 2½-year-old's dark curls, dimpled smile, natural talent for jamming on the drums and constant media attention have inspired a cartoon that will run parallel with the reality show.

"It's exciting and really intriguing to see so much interest in my son at the ripe old age of 2½," said Bernadino Pavone of Bloomfield Hills. "It inspires parents and opens their minds to give your kids a little bit more of an opportunity and don't think that a 2-year-old can't try it, whatever it may be."

Harmonie Network is producing the show inspired by the tot, whom renowned musicians have called a prodigy.

At 36 inches tall, Julian is



Oakland Press file photo/CHARLIE CORTEZ

Julian Pavone, 2, of Bloomfield Hills stands with his drums in November. The boy is involved in a reality show based on finding bandmates for him.

hardly visible behind his full set of drums and cymbals. So he stands and stomps on the base drum pedal with his tiny foot.

He can execute triplets, turnarounds, drum rolls and double kicks and loves pounding out improvisational jazz fusion with legendary bassist Ralphe Armstrong, who will host the show. Armstrong recently recorded an album, "Go Baby" with Julian.

There's an open audition process in which children

nationwide can submit videos of their talents. Executive producers will review the initial footage and choose semifinalists. Then the public will vote online to choose the finalists.

Pavone said producers aim to choose a band by February. Then compilation of the 13-episode series will begin. After the band is chosen, a single will be produced.

Harmonie Network CEO Brian Pastoria is negotiating with networks. He said family

channels such as Nickelodeon, Lifetime or The Learning Channel would be a good fit.

Illustrator Layron DeJarnette will create the cartoon with artist Dan D'Addario. DeJarnette's clients include Warner Bros. Animation, PBS Kids, Lions Gate Films, Wayans Bros. Entertainment and others.

The cartoon is also about finding Julian a band and will incorporate learning tools for children.

Auditions Saturday

■ Auditions for "Finding Julian's Band" are 10 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday at Harmonie Network Productions, 1407 Randolph, Suite 211 in Detroit.

■ Registration begins at 9 a.m.

■ Producers are looking for musicians 10 years old and younger.

■ Though the drummer is secured, vocalists and all instruments are welcome.

For more information

■ For more information about the planned reality television show starring drumming prodigy Julian Pavone and auditions, visit www.harmonienetwork.com.

■ For more information about Julian, visit www.littledrummerbaby.com.