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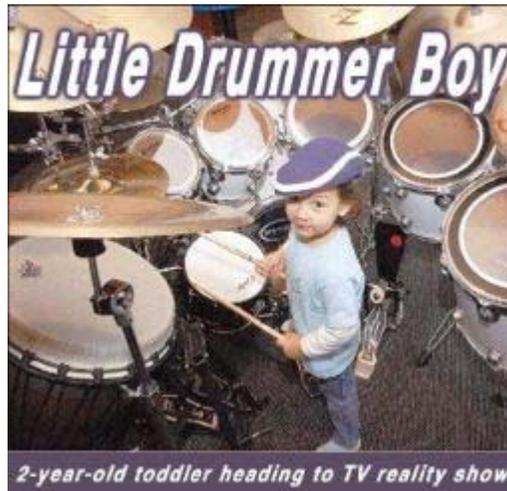
Two-year-old drummer will be featured on reality show

By NATALIE LOMBARDO
Of The Oakland Press

Most drummers would revel in such high-intensity publicity - a new CD, a barrage of media coverage and now a reality television show.

But Julian Pavone doesn't even realize he's a star. The 2 1/2-year-old - whom renowned musicians have called a musical prodigy - lives a life of leisure: swimming, napping, dancing and, his favorite, drumming.

"When you see Julian initially, you think he's this adorable kid. But when he's behind the drums, he's like an old soul, with unbelievable talent and amazing energy," said Mike Powell, managing partner of Detroit-based Harmonie Network, which is producing the show inspired by the tot.



Julian Pavone, 2, of Bloomfield Hills stands by his drum set. Julian is said to be a musical prodigy and will be in a 13-



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Powell is a four-time Grammy award-winning producer, and has worked with Nancy Wilson, Patti LaBelle, Anita Baker and Gladys Knight.

episode reality TV show based on finding a band of children to join him and produce a record. [To purchase a copy of this photo.](#)
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At 36 inches tall, Julian is hardly visible behind his full set of drums and cymbals, a DW Collector Series. So he stands, his tiny foot stomping on the base drum pedal. When jamming to "Rosanna" by Toto, he executed triplets, turnarounds, drum rolls and double kicks to the beat of the band, like a seasoned professional. And while pounding out improvisational jazz fusion with legendary bassist Ralphie Armstrong, the wide-eyed brunet boy halfsmiled, a dab of chocolate on his lips.

The show, "Finding Julian's Band," is seeking musicians ages 10 and under. There's currently an open audition process where children across the country can submit video footage of their talents for executive producers to review. The producers will screen the initial footage and choose a group of semifinalists, who will have the opportunity to visit Harmonie Network to audition live. Then the public will choose the finalists by voting online.

Armstrong will host the show. He's played with famous artists such as violinist Jean-Luc Ponty, soul singer Aretha Franklin, vocalist Al Martino, guitarists Carlos Santana and Frank Zappa, and blues legend B.B. King. He recently recorded an album, "Go Baby" with Julian.

"I get a chill when I play with Julian. I feel he's the reincarnation of people I played with, like Buddy Rich or Tony Williams," Armstrong said. "It seems the harder the arrangements, the better he plays." Julian possesses mathematical phrasing and can play seven beats to a measure, while drummers normally stick to four counts, he said.

Dad Bernadino Pavone said the producers aim to choose a band by February, including a vocalist, violinist, guitarist, pianist, saxophonist and bassist. Then compilation of the 13-episode series will begin. Footage from audition tapes, as well as from auditions in major cities, will be used.

"We want to show children displaying their talent and show parents that it's OK to let kids bang on pots and pans or the piano. That can be their outlet for creativity," said Pavone, 41-year-old CEO of Detroit-based National Business Development.

After the band has been chosen, a single will be produced. Harmonie Network CEO Brian Pastoria is negotiating with television networks. He said family-oriented channels such as Nickelodeon, Lifetime or The Learning Channel would be a good fit for the show.

Still, Julian has been shocking the public with his talents all his life. He's appeared on television shows such as "Martha Stewart," "Good Morning America" and "Inside Edition." He's received accolades in newspaper and magazine articles around the world and performed live for the National Basketball Association's Cleveland Cavaliers and Detroit Pistons. Julian has pending offers for a small part in a movie and local commercials.

Bernadino Pavone, a drummer since the second grade, discovered his then-3-monthold son's natural talent when he was practicing.

He'd hold Julian in a harness, wrap his hands around the baby's and they would play together.

Mom Lisa Pavone, 30 and a physician at Troy Beaumont Hospital, says Julian practices about two hours a day. But he's not required to.

"Our philosophy is to expose our children to many things so they can find their passion and talents," she said, noting that her son doesn't take formal musical lessons. Julian's sister is 9-

month-old Annalisa.

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