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Art, music slated tomorrow for downtown Northville's First Friday event

STAFF WRITER • SEPTEMBER 4, 2008

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By Pam Fleming

Tomorrow's First Friday Art & Fashion Walk will feature everything from a the world's youngest drummer to photography and memorable artwork.

At Sherrus Gallery of Fine Art at 133 W. Main St. in Northville Square, 4-year-old Julian Pavone of Bloomfield Hills will perform with multi-media artist Rocky Seprino.

The young musician, who will appear on a rebroadcasted segment of "The Oprah Winfrey Show" at 4 p.m. today, will perform from about 7:15-8 p.m. during the 6-9 p.m. event at Sherrus. Seprino will also offer video and paint live at the gallery.

YOUNG DRUMMER CONNECTED TO NOVI ENTERTAINMENT FIRM

By Pam Fleming

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Billed as "the world's youngest drummer" at the age of 4, Julian Pavone of Bloomfield Hills, is also connected to the Novi community.

He inspired a national entertainment company, Harmonie Network, headquartered in Novi.

His father, Bernadino, is one of the managing partners.

"We've actually taken all of these well-known musicians and artists and brought them to the people," Bernadino said.

Julian's mother, Lisa, said her son even enjoyed music while in the womb.

"When we played music, he would really move around," she said. "He especially liked the Beatles."

She's so proud of her child prodigy.

"He's unbelievable," she said. "Even though he's my child, he

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During this unique display of performance art, guests will be able to enjoy wine provided by the Stonefire Bistro in Brighton and sample an array of cheese and crackers.

Seprino, of West Bloomfield, who graduated from Divine Child High School in Dearborn, is best known in the Detroit production community for his film and video work during his career as a producer and director.

Been Involved Since A Boy

While a second-grader, he remembers a drawing that hung in his school when he lived in Indiana for about six months featuring a nun in white socks and tennis shoes. "That's my earliest connection of doing something creative," Seprino said.

He has developed a unique brand of pop art reminiscent of Andy Warhol and Peter Max. A large collection of Seprino's work will be featured at this event, which will also showcase a series of paintings inspired by Pavone, with whom he forged a bond while creating the television pilot "Finding Julian's Band," with photos from industry photographer Daniel Lippitt.

The vibrant colors and energetic brush strokes of Seprino's art will demonstrate his affinity for the pop culture of the baby boomers.

"I wanted to make art more than something you quietly stand and stare at," Seprino said. "Getting my little buddy Julian involved should make it fun for the whole family."

One painting will be unveiled during Friday's event to commemorate Pavone's recent appearance on "The Oprah Winfrey Show." The painting will be sent as a gift to Winfrey at the conclusion of the exhibit.

Pavone, who has made headlines around the world, has appeared on 29 television shows, including "Good Morning America," "Martha Stewart," "Inside Edition," "MSNBC," "WGN," "FOX News Dayside," "Good

Company" and Japan's number-one television show, "Amazing Stories."

shocks and amazes me every day."

He may play at Disney World in Orlando, Fla., and could appear on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno.

But his parents try to keep him grounded.

"I want him to grow up like a normal 4-year-old child, and he pretty much drives that himself," said his mother. "He's like any other 4-year-old in every other aspect of his life."

"Playing drums, guitar and keyboard are my favorite things," Julian said. "But I also like going outside."

He has fun riding on the tour bus, and his favorite cereal is Corn Chex.

Julian's currently the youngest recorded drummer and the youngest endorsee of Vic Firth Drumsticks, the largest drumstick manufacturer in the world. He's Also youngest endorsee with Sabian Cymbals and is an unofficial endorsee with Remo Drumheads. He also has a private labeling a company called Julian Drums manufactured by Innovation Drum Company.

One of Julian's instructors, Steve Badalment, said Firth was taken with him when he met the young drummer.

"He's talented, and he's a uniquely Detroit story," Badalment said.

"He's not just a pretty face. He's an old soul, he communicates well, and he just baffles me. We're just pointing him in the right direction. He's integrating it all."

Badalment said Julian came onto the music and entertainment scene at the right time.

"There's a shift in entertainment to the young, such as American Idol," Badalment said.

The Julian Pavone Music Program for Gifted Children is also in the works.

One of the things Julian possesses, according to Badalment, is what drummers call "separation" — the ability to use both hands and feet simultaneously. "It's like having four independent instruments," he explained.

Julian's getting calls from people in Hollywood and New York.

"It's really coming together," Badalment said.

Julian's Band includes Anthony Fondale, 12, on keyboard; Vincent Fondale, 8, lead vocals; Alexis Shook, 11, bass guitar;

Pavone Stars In TV Pilot

He has also starred in the television pilot, "Finding Julian's Band" and was featured in a Korean documentary produced by Seoul Broadcasting Systems in 2007. Pavone has performed live on numerous radio stations and for many concert venues including the House of Blues. He has performed for the Detroit Pistons, the Detroit Tigers, the Cleveland Cavaliers, the Cleveland Indians and the Chicago Cubs VIP Season Opener Party. Pavone was also featured with the United Drumline at the opening ceremonies of the 2006 Cleveland Grand Prix.

In addition to full artist endorsements from Innovation Drum, Sabian Cymbal and Vic Firth drumstick companies, he has inspired a series of children's books, as well as the formation of Harmonie Network (a national entertainment company).

He was featured in "Ripley's Believe it or Not," was honored at the Hard Rock Cleveland with the "The 2007 Rock and Roll Lifetime Achievement Award," received a Special Declaration of Tribute from the State of Michigan presented by Sen. John Pappageorge (R-Troy) and has received worldwide media coverage, with more than 6,000 newspaper and magazine articles written about him.

He is currently working on his second CD with four-time-Grammy Award winning producer, Michael J. Powell.

"This is going to be an amazing event for the gallery," said Sherri Mewha, owner. "Rocky brings so many artistic elements together to create a total sensory experience for the viewer. Having the young drumming sensation Julian Pavone perform will truly make this event an exceptional treat." Sponsors of the event also include Stonefire Bistro and Harmonie Network of Novi. Drum instructor Steve Badalament will also display a drum he built for former Beatles drummer Ringo Starr.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday through Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday; noon to 4 p.m. Sunday; and by appointment only Monday.

Northville Art House

Photography from members of the Northville Camera Club will be presented at the Northville Art House's First Friday opening exhibit from 6-9 p.m. The gallery is located at 215 W. Cady St. in downtown Northville.

Club members will be on hand to discuss their work, which will be showcased through Sept. 28 during Art House Gallery hours (1-5 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 6-9 p.m. the first Friday of each month.). During

Alex Raz, 11, lead guitar; and Julian, of course, on drums.
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the Victorian Festival the Art House will have extended hours to showcase this exhibit. It will also host plein air artists who will paint models dressed in Victorian attire in the Art House Gardens. Extended gallery and store hours are Sept. 12, 1-8 p.m.; Sept. 13, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; and Sept. 14, noon-4 p.m. Artists will paint outdoors on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Stop by and see the artists at work. The Art House is a facility of the Northville Arts Commission, a city-sponsored Commission. Admission to Art House shows is always free.

Starring "The Gallery"

Located at 188 W. Main St., Starring "The Gallery" will feature two artists from 6-9 p.m. tomorrow during the First Friday event.

For years, Ann Arbor artist Mary Byers has been exploring and embracing the versatility of clay. She loves the medium because of its unlimited opportunity for creative expression. Most of her work is based on slab construction, and from there artistic energy takes over to achieve a continuing evolution of work.

Artist Karen Judnich has a degree in both graphic art and commercial art. Over the years she has painted and sold to family members and friends who have been urging her to do more with acrylics.

This medium is very versatile in the sense that acrylics can be used to look like oil paintings. Judnich's theme for this exhibit is "Tuscany," in which she demonstrates through her scenic paintings her vision of what it would be like on a visit to this beautiful section of Italy.

Come meet these two quite different artists and enjoy a glass of wine while enjoying their unique pieces tomorrow.

Gallery hours are noon-4 p.m. Sunday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday; 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Thursday and Friday; and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday.

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