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GREEK-CANADIAN guitarist and composer Pavlo performs in the PBS-TV special *Mediterranean Nights*, which premiered

March 8. He performs in concert at Sagebrush Theatre March 30.

# Pavlo on top of his form

## Greek-Canadian guitarist brings world tour to Kamloops

By MIKE YOUNDS

Daily News Staff Reporter

Always upbeat, much like the fiery spirit of his Mediterranean-style music, Pavlo seemed more on top of the world than ever Tuesday.

He has good reason to be jubilant. His TV special, *Pavlo: Mediterranean Nights*, premiered for a PBS pledge night March 8 in Detroit. It was the precursor to a network-wide airing in June and a perfect prelude to a world tour that brings him to Kamloops on March 30.

Over the next two years the tour will encircle the globe, taking in 200 performances.

"Oh my God, it's been a whirlwind, let me tell you," the Greek-Canadian composer and guitarist said. "To be honest with you, I was in Miami yesterday, today I'm in Winnipeg. You should see my tan, and in Manitoba, boy, it stands out."

More than ever, the TV special helps him realize his lifelong goal of exposing his music to as many people as possible.

"It was great, basically one of the highlights of my career so far," he said of taping the show in January. "I've been doing this for a long time — touring, touring, touring

— and for the first time I have a show that people in America will see in one shot."

His parents bought him his first guitar at age 10 and he took to it as though it were his best friend. As a young rock artist he was performing at Toronto clubs before he was old enough to get in the front door.

While travelling in Greece, a melody came to him that sparked not only a song, *Santorini Sunset*, but a new direction that he vigorously pursued. It is that style — a fusion of Greek, flamenco and Latin guitar styles enriched by the bouzouki, the long-necked lute of European folk tradition — that remains his signature.

As his father, who managed his early career, told him: "Have the courage to do what you love and the drive to do it well."

When Pavlo first contacted *The Daily News* five years ago, he was frantically arranging a last-minute tour stop at Chapters bookstore. He still remembers that performance, which drew an estimated crowd of 200.

"I'll never forget it. The audiences in Kamloops are always fantastic, even at that first gathering at Chapters. I can't wait to come back."

The PBS special was produced by George Veras, Emmy-winning producer of the 2004 Athens Olympics for CTV as well as projects for Yanni, Nana Maskouri, Ray Charles, Bob Dylan and Taj Mahal.

"This guy is one of the biggest music producers in the world. How I landed him, I don't know."

He'd pursued a PBS TV possibility for some time because the network's demographics match his own.

"They were getting very close to starting the deal and somehow George Veras' name came up. It was one of those classic stories. He gave me a call the next day and said, 'I love your music.'"

Taped with 16 performers, including dancers, and recorded for a DVD/CD release still in the works, it was his dream concert, he said.

Now he's looking forward to a more modest soft-seat tour of the country, backed by six musicians.

"It's going to be fantastic. There's also a much more intimate contact that happens with a smaller audience."

### INCONCERT

**WHO:** Pavlo  
**WHEN:** Sunday, March 30, 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Sagebrush Theatre  
**TICKETS:** Kamloops Live! Box Office, 374-LIVE