



"If you don't know who Orianthi is, you should find out" - Carlos Santana



ORIANTHI PANAGARIS

THE blonde guitarist who featured in the final video of Michael Jackson rehearsing before his death has been revealed as an Adelaide girl of Greek origin.



Michael Jackson's Greek Guitarist



Orianthi Panagaris or Orianthi (Born January 22 1985) is a female of Greek origin. Born in Adelaide, this Australian singer has made a mark of herself when she came onstage performing with Carrie Underwood.



She is also a known name among the popular guitarists namely, Steve Vai, Carlos Santana, Paul Reed Smith, Eric Clapton with whom she has worked as well. She has impressed the viewers at NAMM which is a major music product trade show in the world. She has not only gone on a tour with Steve Vai but have also collaborated with him while writing songs. Not only that, she moved to Los Angeles to work with Howard Benson who is producing her debut album.

section promoting Eco-friendly acoustic guitars. She has also appeared at the 51st annual Grammy's, Underwood invited Orianthi to become a member of her band. As a member of Michael Jackson's band she was to replace who had performed with Jackson for almost a decade. Orianthi has recorded the album "Violent Journey".

Remembering about the few days she worked with Jackson, Orianthi was quoted saying,

She learned to play the at six, started electric when she was eleven and left school at 15 to focus on writing songs and performing. She has been playing in different bands since she was 14 around Adelaide and her first support show was for when she was 15. Orianthi had the opportunity to meet and jam with when she was 18 in her hometown. He invited Orianthi to get up and jam with him at then later asked if she would join him on stage that night to jam. Orianthi signed with , and is living in and making a new record. Orianthi has played with , toured with , made a video clip for Panasonic HD, had a song on the movie, played at the and appeared in the business



"He had this wonderful aura about him, a wonderful spirit. It's been a surreal time, working with him and it's been devastating what happened."

The Adelaide-born musician sang *We Are the World* during the service, said to have been seen by more than 31 million viewers in the US alone.

"It was a real honour to do that," she said. During the two-hour tribute at Los Angeles' Staples Centre on Wednesday, Panagaris, 24, joined Stevie Wonder, Mariah Carey and Usher. "It was great to see everybody again, just not in these circumstances," she said. "We thought we'd be playing the show, not his memorial."

Panagaris, who sang a solo, said she cried after Jennifer Hudson's rendition of *Will You Be There*.

"I started bawling - that's why I had the sunglasses on."

She said event preparations, made within a fortnight of

Jackson's death, had been intense. She'd had only two hours' sleep before the show.

Panagaris was to play with Jackson on tour. She saw him the night before he died, at a rehearsal.

"He was so ready to go - he was so excited and happy. He wanted to do it all for the fans," she said.

Jackson chose Panagaris to play lead guitar after a choreographer said to audition.

"I'm just glad I can say I had that amazing, surreal opportunity."

Orianthi's mother, Sue Panagaris, told the Sunday Mail her daughter was very upset by Jackson's death.

"She's very sad at the moment," she said.

"It's not that she is disappointed that she won't get to play with him, she's just so sad that he has died."

"She said he was such a wonderful person and she wishes

the world had gotten to know the same person she had come to know over the three months they had been working together.

"She said it was the best experience of her life and she's just so very sad that the world didn't see what the band saw every day.

"The world has missed out." Mrs Panagaris said she flew to the US to visit Orianthi in May and the family had been planning to travel to London to watch her perform with Jackson.

"She's spending time with friends and the band and she has her sister there to support her. "She's very young but all we can do is be here to support her. She's just a quiet person but she works so incredibly hard.

"I think that's why she has gotten so far. But she has never been one to blow her own trumpet."

Jackson, 50, was said to have been rehearsing up to three hours a day before his death.

Fishy Affair

The newest culinary attraction at Kingsford's Souths Juniors is Fishy Affair Seafood Restaurant.

Transplanted from Bondi Beach after a successful 32 years in the fiercely competitive area, this restaurant is flourishing in the south-east with its fresh, mouth-watering selection of all the usual suspects.

Select your crunchy crustacean from the tank or play it safe with the seafood platter for two.

With a focus on affordability and simplicity, Fishy Affair should prove popular with families and connoisseurs alike.

Patrons will find the restaurant comfortable and accommodating with the added option of eating outside on the club's balcony.

The restaurant can also cater for functions with up to 100 guests.

Chef of 20 years, Costa Skamnidis said the hot and cold seafood is the most popular dish on the menu. It includes freshly shucked oysters, lobster and king prawns.



Fishy Affair Seafood Restaurant is on the first floor of the South Sydney Junior Rugby League Club, 558a Anzac Parade, Kingsford. Lunch and dinner from Wednesday to Sunday.

Sydney WATER

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