

# Greek-Australian Artist Orianthi in "This Is It"

With the recent release of Michael Jackson's *This Is It*, fans of his will be reminiscing about his last few months and the fortunate ones who got to spend time at his side.

One of these grateful beings is Orianthi Panagaris, MJ's lead guitarist that comes from Adelaide and is of Greek origin.

Right after her performance with Carrie Underwood at the Grammy awards in February, she received a message through her MySpace page inviting her to audition for MJ. She auditioned for Jackson in April on a Burbank soundstage. "I was so nervous and he

was staring right at me," she said. "Afterwards, he was really happy and he grabbed my arm. We started walking up and down the stage area, and he asked me if I could play the solo while walking with a real fast pace with him."

When she proved her ability to perform on that level, she spent the next three months rehearsing with him and the rest of the band.

"He was a big kid who wanted to have fun, but he was so serious about his music," Orianthi said. "He was a perfectionist and wanted to make sure it came across really well for his

fans. He wanted to put on the ultimate show for them."

Orianthi herself is being compared to the likes of Lita Ford or even the female version of Carlos Santana and Slash.

Her debut album "Believe" was originally due later in the fall but Geffen Records moved up the release date to October 26 to take advantage of the hype from the screening of MJ's documentary *This Is It*.

Her album is of pop quality containing strong guitar solos with songs like "According to You" & "God only knows" predicted to have a greater resonance to audiences.



## Brighton-Le-Sands dentist fails in bid to have interim suspension lifted



The NSW Dental Tribunal has refused an application to lift an interim suspension on Brighton-Le-Sands dentist George Pegios.

The tribunal had previously found Dr Pegios guilty of unsatisfactory professional conduct and professional misconduct and imposed the suspension as a temporary measure.

Dr Pegios, who had been a registered dentist since 1984, was brought before the tribunal to answer complaints lodged by the Health Care Complaints Commission in relation to his treatment of seven patients.

One of those patients, who cannot be named for legal reasons, died two days after his blood oxygen levels fell sharply under anesthetic during an operation to implant a prosthesis in 2002.

Dr Pegios was cleared of a charge of manslaughter in relation to the death in Sydney District Court in June last year.

The commission detailed six other cases of alleged unsatisfactory conduct and misconduct in which it claimed Dr Pegios had failed to provide patients with enough information about the risks of certain procedures and failed to maintain adequate records of those procedures.

The Tribunal is now scheduled to meet on November 27, then in early December to hear submissions from the parties involved.

Dr Pegios suspension will apply until the tribunal delivers its final decision which it expects to do before Christmas.

## Stavros Flatley launch Enfield Relay for Life

CHUBBY dancing sensation Stavros Flatley will appear at Southgate College to launch a cancer charity fundraiser later this month.

The Greek Irish dancers are supporting the Enfield and Barnet "Relay for Life" event, which raises money for Cancer Research UK.

The launch party, on November 19, is an attempt to

rally volunteers for the 5km race itself, which takes place next July.

Everyone at the event, in Southgate College's Gladys Child Theatre, will be entered into a free prize draw to win a date with the father and son duo.

Demetri "Stavros" Flatley said: "Cancer is something that affects all of us at some time,

and whilst our goal will be to help raise funds by supporting the team, we also want to make sure that everyone taking part will have a good time, and we're good at that.

Pani Theodorou, chairman of Enfield and Barnet Relay For Life, said: "Relay For Life is the world's largest fundraising event and there's one taking place on your doorstep.

"Come and join in the fun."

She added: "Relay For Life isn't just a walk or a fundraising event, it's much more than that. It's an all-night festival and a time for personal remembrance." To make the event work, organisers need a willing band of volunteers to sign up and help them reach their £100,000 target.

(source: independent)



## Greeks Leave Greece Because they Can't Afford it

If you spend time with Greeks in Alexandria, you realize there is a common trend among many of them. Many of the Greeks in Egypt were born there, had moved back to Greece, and now had returned to live permanently in Egypt. The reason is the high cost of living in Greece. Most of the people we talked with went back to Athens and to other cities in Greece in the 70's. They stayed there, made families and eventually retired. The cost of living in Greece has changed so much the last decade that these people could not afford to live anymore there so they decided to go back to Alexandria and Cairo, the places that were born. Egypt has gotten a lot more expensive recently, but compared to Greece remains extremely cheap. Mrs. Irene Konidi is one of the Greeks that were born in Alexandria. She went to Greece in the 70's and last year came back to the city she was born.

"I cannot afford anymore the economic situation in Greece, everything it is very expensive. Here I have my friends from my childhood and the cost of life is 6 times less". With my pension from Greece I can live well here. There is no way I could afford to live in Greece."

And now Alexandria is only two hours away from Greece considering that there are direct flights. "My son told me I should come and live here and he was right. It is not far and, either I visit them in Greece or they visit me here."

Mrs. Irini is not the only one. She said that she knows at least ten people that have done the same thing, go back to where they were born because they could not afford Greece any more.

The same trend can be seen with Greeks that were born in Turkey, and in other countries of Asia and Africa that the cost of life is cheaper than Greece.



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