

For Canadian troops

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# Mary takes her talents overseas

By Henry Bury  
The Intelligencer

Mary Paterson will sing and dance her way into the hearts of Canadian armed forces personnel in the Middle East and Germany over the next month.

The Belleville native and graduate of the Quinte Dance Centre left Ottawa this week for a Canadian-government sponsored show tour for its overseas troops.

Paterson, who now lives in Toronto, is one of 18 professional performers involved in the June 12-to-July 4 tour in Cyprus, Israel, Syria and Germany.

There will be seven, two-and-a-half hour shows — the first in Israel and the last Canada Day

(July 1) in Lahr, Germany.

Paterson, in a brief visit this week, said she's excited about the upcoming tour.

"I'm pleased to be chosen for the show. And it's nice to bring a piece of Canada to our troops," she said.

She's also thrilled with the prospect of visiting the Middle East and Germany "and seeing the different lifestyles and cultures and the history of those countries."

The 27-year-old is a singer and dancer in the tour. She's the

daughter of Mary and Chris Paterson of Belleville.

The 18 performers, who'll also play music and do comedy, were chosen for the tour by a Toronto production company. The government, though, pays all the expenses.

Paterson started dancing at the age of nine, when she joined the Quinte Dance Centre. Over the next eight years, she was under the tutelage of its artistic director, Brian Scott.

After graduating from Nicholson Catholic college in 1982, Paterson enrolled at Queen's University and completed her Bachelor of Arts degree.

She got her first "big break" in the entertainment world in the fall of 1989, when she partici-

pated in a cross-Canada tour for the musical, "Dick Whittington and His Cat". That cast also featured Bruno Gerussi of the Beachcombers fame and Gordon Thompson, a Canadian actor who appeared as Adam Carrington on the television show, Dynasty.

Since then, Paterson has lived in Toronto and been involved in small theatre productions, fashion shows and television commercials. She also teaches dance and fitness classes at various Toronto studios.

After this month's tour, Paterson plans to stay in London, England for a while. Because she has dual citizenship (her parents are British), she plans on auditioning for some theatre parts.

"As for the future, I'll see what happens," said Paterson.



Mary Paterson

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PATERSON, Mary