



Todd Pyke, Dec. 23, Moonlight Music in Encinitas.

Todd's Big Adventure

The year started out with a

bang for multi-styled guitarist Todd Pyke. Through a full-page ad in "BAM Magazine," the San Marcos guitarist heard about a contest that would find the "hottest guitarist in L.A." Pyke's hard rock/flamenco fusion (a la Yngwie Malmsteen) won the young guitarist first place over some 150 other contestants. His prize: a guitar by contest sponsor Washburn Guitars, and the chance to record the music bed for a :30 second commercial that would air on MTV's Headbanger's Ball for four weeks.

Only one problem. Washburn never sent him the guitar, and the commercial — which has been produced — has yet to air.

Pyke is still fielding the "it's coming, it's coming" telephone responses. But while he waits, he gives classical- and rock-guitar lessons, plays solo "casuals" in a tuxedo, and adds his guitar licks to local plays. "Reunion," a Big Chill-style play that runs Wednesday through Sunday through Jan. 2, plays at the Lyceum in Horton Plaza (235-8025). The hit "Boomers," a "Happy Days"-style musical reopens in February.

Local video directors have also tapped into his high-energy, fluid stylings. At a Carlsbad studio he has recorded a music bed for an Airwalk TV commercial, and laid tracks for the upcoming surf film "Search II" with Tom Curren, and a new

jet-ski movie.

"I knew since I was six years old I was going to do this," he said. "I heard 'Led Zeppelin 2' when I was 10 and that's when I started begging my parents for my first guitar and lessons."

Pyke, who has played in a number of different rock bands and says he may yet join another, spent a year of personal growth in Wyoming. A crushed relationship encouraged him to

return to San Diego County.

"When I came back, I was planning to live on the beach, grow a beard and swim out a half-mile and catch my own seaweed. That kind of fell through. Seaweed really isn't really all that tasty."

Pyke performs two free-admission concerts 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 23 and 30 at Moonlight Music in Encinitas. Phone 753-6683.

S

O

U

N

D