



Future bright for TV chef Neven as his sunny recipes conquer world

By **Lorna Nolan**

CELEBRITY chef **Neven Maguire** is set to become a household name after landing a spot on a British TV channel.

The Cavan native was this week delighted when he learned that the rights to his new RTE series Neven's Food from the Sun had been sold to a number of foreign broadcasters.

After just one week on the air here in Ireland, the chef's new programme was snapped up by UK TV Food as well as a station based in New Zealand.

According to Neven: "I couldn't believe it when I heard the news, naturally I'm absolutely thrilled. The first episode had only just aired on RTE when I got the call to confirm that it was going to go out abroad."

GIMMICKS

"I think what makes it unique is that there are no gimmicks or messing around, it's just about the cooking which is the way I like it," he added.

And despite joining the ranks of superchefs Gordon Ramsay and Jamie Oliver, who have both enjoyed enormous success with shows on the British cooking channel, Neven is adamant he won't become too big for his boots.

"I'd like to think that my show is very natural, nothing is rehearsed," the MacNean's chef said. "My series is nothing like Hell's Kitchen. I think Gordon Ramsay is a brilliant chef but I wouldn't have that type of temperament or that desire for fame. I'm very lucky in that I'm a chef who happens to be on television but for me it's all about the cooking."

"I love what I do and even when we were filming the series I was always back in the restaurant for part of the week, nothing keeps me away from the kitchen," he laughed.

FLAVOURS

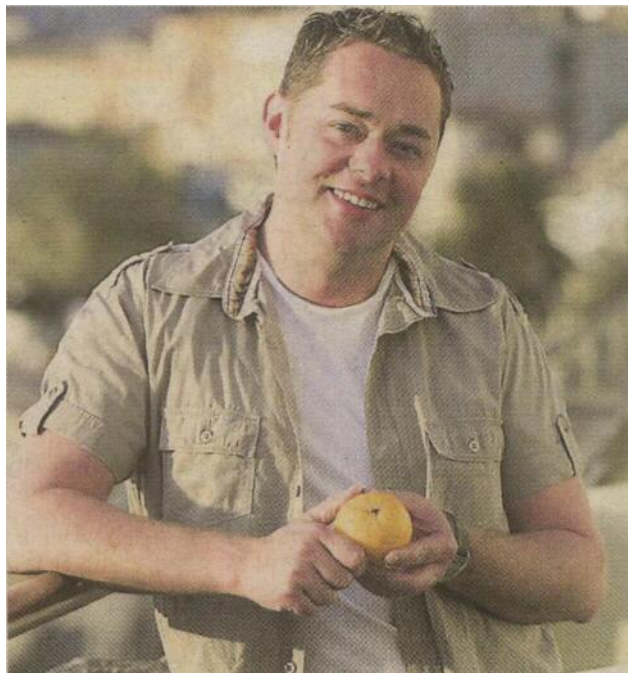
Neven's new RTE show is based on his hit series of books also called Neven's Food from the Sun. Filming was done in the sun-kissed surroundings of Majorca and, in part, in Neven's Cavan restaurant. Now that he's conquered the Spanish market the down-to-earth cook hasn't ruled out filming further seasons from further afield.

"There are so many places out there with so many unique recipes and flavours and cultures that you'd never be finished exploring them all."

"Every time I go away it's kind of like a working holiday for me because it kind of always revolves around the food."

"I'm constantly learning and as long as that is the case then I'll keep teaching," he said.

lnolan@herald.ie



SUCCESS: Neven in his new show Food from the Sun