

BRANNIGAN'S WAKE

by John Judy

(Dedicated to Gregg Lopez, August 30th 2004)

(Lights up on ADAM ANT and BILLY IDOL standing underneath a large picture of the late LAURA BRANNIGAN. "Gloria", her one hit, plays softly on the organ.)

BILLY: I just can't believe she's gone.

ADAM: Yeah, first Rick James, now Laura... It's like ...

BILLY: "Hey, little sister, shotgun."

ADAM: It's fucked up, man.

(A Laura FAN walks by, staring.)

BILLY: Hey. Billy Idol.

ADAM: Adam Ant. Hey.

(FAN keeps moving.)

BILLY: Nice, Ant-Man. Ya creeped her out.

ADAM: You creeped her out. She was diggin' me.

BILLY: Whatever.

ADAM: She was diggin' "The Ant."

BILLY: Dude, she was born after your last comeback.

ADAM: Shut up. It's cool the YMCA gave us this space.

BILLY: It's cool everybody made it.

ADAM: Certain people did not make it.

BILLY: Well, obviously, but see over there?

ADAM: What, next to Dream Academy?

BILLY: Yeah, right behind Jay Geils. See? The Pet Shop Boys.

ADAM: Yeah?

BILLY: Yeah. And guess what. They run a pet shop together.

ADAM: Whoa.

BILLY: Yeah, it's good. Tropical fish.

ADAM: Huh. Hey man, be cool, it's Falco.

(GARY NUMAN walks by.)

BILLY & ADAM: Hey Falco. "Amadeus! Amadeus! Amadeus!"

(NUMAN stares.)

BILLY: Billy Idol.

ADAM: Adam Ant. I opened for you in Fort Worth.

GARY: Falco died in 98. I'm Gary Numan. (Beat) "Cars?"

(BILLY and ADAM stare.)

GARY: Assholes.

(NUMAN exits.)

BILLY: "Hey man, be cool, it's Falco!"

ADAM: Shut up. We're here for Laura.

(CYNDI LAUPER enters.)

CYNDI: Oh my God. Billy Idol and Adam Ant, my two favorite people! I'm so glad you're alive!

BILLY & ADAM: Hey, Cyndi.

CYNDI: I am so sad about Laura. Did you hear it was a brain aneurism and she was only 47? That's like a child.

BILLY: Yeah, really.

(BOY GEORGE enters)

ADAM: Oh, what is he doing here?

CYNDI: The eulogy.

ADAM & BILLY: No!

BILLY: They hated each other.

CYNDI: No, they got close after she broke up with Rick Springfield.

ADAM: I thought he was with that guy from Spandau Ballet.

CYNDI: So did he.

BILLY: Hey, he's starting.

(Everyone takes their places)

BOY GEORGE: Dearly beloved, We are gathered here today 2 get through this thing called life
Electric word life It means forever and that's a mighty long time But I'm here 2 tell u There's something else:
The afterworld...

ADAM: No, no, no!!!!

BILLY & CYNDI: Adam, no!

ADAM: That's not even your song! That's Prince! "Let's Go Crazy." Off of "Purple Rain!"

BOY GEORGE: Well, Laura liked it!

ADAM: So did I! When Prince did it! You called him a dwarf dipped in pubic hair and now you're stealing his shit?!

BOY GEORGE: You know, Mister Ant, this is why I don't tour with you people anymore!

ADAM: Oh, and the auto-shows just aren't same without you, Georgie!

CYNDI: Everybody stop it! What would Laura Brannigan say if she wasn't dead?!

BILLY: Yeah, really guys. I mean, come on, we're all eighties pop stars...

CYNDI: Yeah, we're like black people: We all know each other.

ADAM: Oh yeah? Well if we're all one big family why are some people mysteriously absent? Y'know, I see Echo but no Bunnymen. I see a Thompson Twin. I see maybe one Tear for Fear. I mean, she was Laura Brannigan for god's sake! Attention must be paid!

(MADONNA pokes her head in.)

MADONNA: Um, excuse me?

ALL: GASP! Madonna! You came!

CYNDI: Laura would be so pleased.

MADONNA: Great... Listen, we're having our Kaballah group upstairs so if you guys could just

(She makes the sign for "Zip It" and leaves.)

BILLY: God, we suck.

(BLACKOUT.)