



and
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present



The 2009 Laura Branigan
Spirit Of Love
Memorial Gathering
Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of
Self Control

Long Island, NY
August 14-16, 2009

Event Itinerary

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14th

2:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Registration & Greeting
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Laura video footage
4:00 PM - 4:15 PM	Beach Memorial Travel Instructions
4:15 PM - 5:45 PM	Dinner on your own
5:45 PM - 6:00 PM	Meet in Hotel lot for trip to beach
6:00 PM	Leave hotel for beach (FIRM)
6:45 PM	Arrive at beach
7:00 PM - 7:45 PM	Beach Memorial / Private reflection on beach
7:45 PM	Return trip to hotel
9:00 PM - 11:30 PM	Meadowlands show, 1998 Music Videos, Social time

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15th

prior to 9:30 AM	Breakfast on your own
9:30 AM - 11:00 PM	Memorabilia Display
11:00 AM - 12:15 PM	Laura Trivia Contest with Video
12:15 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch on your own
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Laura video footage Final band performance, Mohegan Sun, January 2004
4:00 PM - 5:45 PM	Dinner on your own
6:00 PM - 6:30 PM	Candlelight Memorial
6:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Group/Individual Photo Session
7:00 PM - 8:15 PM	Self Control 25th Anniversary Celebration
8:15 PM - 9:00 PM	Laura Q & A Session "Fan Forum": share your thoughts on Laura
8:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Viewing of 1984 Lake Tahoe concert
10:00 PM - 11:30 PM	LB TV and Social time

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16th

prior to 9:00 AM	Breakfast on your own
9:00 AM	Gather in lobby for casual Sunday outing; Planned activity locations: Westhampton Beach, East Quogue, Southampton, and Montauk

NOTE: Events and times on schedule subject to revision prior to event.

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Remembering Laura

By Richie Fontana

I was privileged to be Laura's drummer during some of the highest points of her career, which made for many thrilling shows on the road. The "Self-Control" tour of 1984 was amazing. After the success of "Gloria" and "Solitaire," having to now perform "How Am I Supposed To Live Without You" and "Self-Control" among other LB favorites, made for an exciting time for Laura and band.

We used to hope that people got more than they bargained for when they came to an LB show. Laura's music was often categorized in the "dance" genre, however as many of you know, the shows really rocked.

One of the more memorable shows on the "Self-Control" tour was at the Universal Amphitheater in New Orleans, LA. This show happened to be a live national broadcast on the Westwood One Radio Network. That night, after we performed "Self-Control," the response from the audience was sooo loud, sooo long and sooo thunderous, that Laura turned and looked at me with a sort of wide-eyed look as if to say 'OH MY GOD! We couldn't believe it, the building was literally shaking! It was both wonderful, and for a moment a bit scary.



We had more fun that year than anyone should be allowed to. Laura was a delight to work with, and lots of fun too. Often times you had to be on your guard around her, because you never knew when you might get hit with a water balloon, or find one of your sneakers missing when you came out of the hotel swimming pool. She was always up to something which was all in good fun. One time, Ahmet Ertegun, CEO of Atlantic Records, came out to see one of the shows in Indiana. After the show he took us all to dinner, then retreated to his suite in the hotel. Laura then persuaded me to come with her up to Ahmet's room. I agreed and sheepishly went along. Ahmet let us in but was busy meeting with people in the other room. Then Laura started with the shenanigans. The next thing I knew was BAM, I got hit with a water balloon. She must have had one in her pocket and filled it up when I wasn't looking, so of course I retaliated getting water from the tap. Before we knew it the room was soaked from throwing water all over the place. Eventually Ahmet came out of the

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room, saw what was going on, and threw us out, it was hysterical. Well, at least it was for us, maybe not for Ahmet, lol. That has always been a fond fun memory for me, among others from that tour.

To know Laura Branigan was to love her. She was beautiful both inside and out, and she will always be in my heart, as she will in yours.

Love, Richie Fontana



Think of Laura

words and music by Christopher Cross

Every once in a while I'd see her smile
And she'd turn my day around
A girl with those eyes could stare through the lies
And see what your heart was saying
Think of Laura but laugh don't cry
I know she'd want it that way
When you think of Laura laugh don't cry
I know she'd want it that way
A friend of a friend a friend to the end
That's the kind of girl she was
Taken away so young taken away without a warning
I know you and you're here in every day we live
I know her and she's here I can feel her when I sing
Hey Laura, where are you now
Are you far away from here
I don't think so, I think you're here
Taking our tears away

Moving Forward...

By Vince & Kathy Golik

Five years ago around this time, things were getting very busy around our house. Besides working on some school shopping for our daughter who was about to start kindergarten, we'd just started ramping up for Other Half Entertainment, our management/production collaboration project with Laura Branigan, moving beyond working for her as official webmasters and assistants. If someone had told me years ago that I'd have an opportunity to become actual close friends with a bona fide celebrity, I'd have told them they were crazy. But Kathy knew for years that there was something she needed to do for Laura, beyond buying tickets for shows. She had the fortitude to stick with the years of wondering if and when she'd ever get the chance, and when doors started opening, she stepped through them, willingly taking me with her.

That period of working to show a positive, uplifting image of Laura Branigan to the general public via the Web was, I think, a period of testing. For



Laura, I believe it was a time for her to see that we were truly trustworthy and able to come through for her. For us, we knew that it was something we needed to do -- too many fans had lost track of Laura over the "silent years" prior to her gradual return to the business, and they and

others around the world needed to know that Laura was still there, still cared about what people knew and felt about her, still loved her fans as her "other half", and still wanted to sing for them.

All this was beginning to reach a crescendo in the summer of 2004 with the formation of Other Half Entertainment, Laura becoming much more excited about utilizing the company to book more shows in a greater variety of locations, creating an online store to sell her music and a line of branded merchandise, working on the manuscript for a unique style of cookbook, and continuing work on the long-awaited return album. She'd found a renewed sense of fulfillment in her work, our friendship with her was growing closer, and she found love again in her personal life. We were all excited to be working together, and our house was getting very busy... when the tragic news came that she'd suddenly passed away.

Those first dark days after Other Half Entertainment sadly publicized the

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news of Laura's passing was the beginning of a turning point for many people. It was a time to mourn, to reflect on what would have been if her life hadn't suddenly been taken from us all, to celebrate what we did have remaining with us, the legacy of an incredible talent. Perhaps it was inevitable, however, that five years on we'd have seen a number of people who considered themselves "biggest fans" in the days prior to and for some time after her passing, turn aside, and either quietly or vocally say to other fans "I'm moving on" as if there's nothing left to do for Laura, nothing left to celebrate, nothing more to say.

But thanks to the caring, the love, and the dedication of Laura's close friends and a multitude of fans around the world, fortunately her passing wasn't just the end of the story, wasn't just a phase after which we'd all have to say "let's leave it and move on." We're moving forward, together, for Laura and her legacy. Though our work for Laura may have changed in nature, it hasn't ever stopped. In the last five years, we've seen new compilations and reissues of Laura's music released. LB's Boutique, the official online store, is the success that Laura envisioned it to be, shipping Laura Branigan CDs and other products worldwide. Special video productions have been created and other audio and visual projects are being worked on independently. With the advent of social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook, we've seen additional venues for her legacy and incredible story to be told across the world. We continue to receive and fulfill requests for various interview and discussion opportunities via the mass media, most recently including radio and print media. And though certain folks may have, either purposefully or otherwise, chosen to step aside from being an active voice for Laura's legacy, many others have stayed steady and determined, and we've seen other, fresh new faces keen with interest for Laura's life, her artistry, her down-to-earth simplicity, especially among our young generation.

Laura may not physically be here with us today, but it's no cliché to say she's here in spirit. The spirit of her music, her talent, her incredible life story lived with humility, simplicity, and deep love, all remain with us. And there will always be people around the world ready to pick up that spirit and run with it, ready to share the music with others, and take time to pause, wherever they may find themselves, and remember whether with a tear, a smile, a raised glass in toast, or a prayer, that special life that touched us all in unique ways, and continues five years on to move us forward.



Self Control Reflections...

By Tommy Bayiokos

Laura once impressed upon me her four biggest hits which were of course "Self Control", "Gloria", "How Am I Supposed To Live Without You", and "Solitaire". To my surprise, LB told me later on that the video for the tune "Self Control" was based on a real life actual event. So on this five year mark, we may remember all those gracious times that we all uniquely shared, and to celebrate a mega tune that defined her brilliant career and exemplified her musical virtuosity. I recall "Self Control" being performed and



segued at the end of each show. I remember how Laura wanted space in the chorus sections and wanted "Con Gusto", meaning flavor in the verses while focusing on a "Lento" (slow) tempo of groove, while holding back. Words alone are not enough to describe how much I miss her, the times in East Quogue, the cooking, the fun drama, and her wonderful mom, Kathleen. The "Spirit of Love" serves as a sanctuary of honor for the LB legacy and her loyal Other Half as she sang for all of you with all her heart. God speed, and I thank you for all your sincere love for our dearest Laura and her eternal memory.



Thanks to all for making this Gathering a special time to remember Laura!

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Special Thanks

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All of Laura's faithful fans around the world who join with us to carry forth her legacy...