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Celebrity News! Gossipy tongues! You read it here first!

Posted by Rose Quintiliano on Sep 1, 2003, 23:11

Posted by Rose Quintiliano on Aug 24, 2003, 09:14

Bon Jovi performed for a crowd of 60,000 at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey on August 7. Having been a long-time, die-hard Bon Jovi fan, I was delighted that David Bryan's mom invited me to the show. I found myself that evening in a black stretch limo headed for the concert with my long time buddies, Flo Rashbaum, (David Bryan's mom), Michele (David's sister), Edna Sasso, Elaine Lubas, Karen and Eric. Security was tight; they even had the dog sniffing around the limo as we entered the back stage entrance. After the splash at Giants Stadium, it concluded the end of the Bounce tour. Yes, even in the rain, the band was fantastic! The band still performs "You Give Love a Bad Name," in concert, which I remember from their Atlantic City Expressway days, when I used to tag along to their gigs. Indeed, the band is busy, as they prep an acoustic collection for release in November.

Laura Branigan is back! She will be appearing in concert at the Turning Stone Casino Resort in Verona (Syracuse area), NY on September 20, 2003. Laura's first big appearance on pop radio was with the single "Gloria," which became a huge #1 hit and the staple song



Laura Branigan is back in the studio.

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of her career. The track came from Laura's debut LP, *Branigan* released in '82. Although "Gloria" took several weeks to become a hit, once it did, the song remained on the charts for several months. Another track from the LP, "All Night With Me" was a minor hit before "Gloria" hit big. Laura received a Grammy nomination for Best Pop Vocal Performance Female ("Gloria").

Laura was a former backing vocalist with Leonard Cohen in the late '70s and toured with him throughout Europe. By 1977, Laura had determination to become a solo artist, and two years later was signed with Atlantic Records. A change in managers resulted in a breach-of-contract lawsuit, but it didn't deter Laura from becoming one of the biggest female pop artists of the decade. Laura released *Branigan 2* and had two more Top 10 hits with "Solitaire" (in May) and "How Am I Supposed To Live Without You?" (hitting the Top 40 in August). Laura could also be heard on the *Flashdance* soundtrack with "Imagination." Laura released *Self Control* and got as high as # 2 with "Self Control." Laura also had hits with "The Lucky One" and "Ti Amo." *Hold Me* was released with the Top 40 hit "Spanish Eddie" and hits "I Found Someone" and "Hold Me." In 1994, Laura could be heard dueting with actor David Hasselhoff on the Baywatch soundtrack with "I Believe." Laura's acting credits have included guest shots on television's CHiPs and the films *Mugsy's Girl* (1984) and *Backstage* (1988). Laura also appeared on German television in *An American Girl In Berlin* (1981). Laura returned to the public eye in 2002, earning rave reviews with her portrayal of Janis Joplin in the hit New York City musical *Love, Janis*. I spoke with Joan Di Tursi a few weeks ago on the phone, and she told me that Laura is really busy in the studio recording. A special thanks to Kathy and her husband Vince for the wonderful website they provide all the fans.

Check out it out! <http://www.laurabraniganonline.com/>

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Dear Lily

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Anna may be moving her forehand to Hollywood.

Anna Kournikova, the sexy sportswoman is already preparing for life after tennis by making a bid for Hollywood. The ravishing Russian is famous not only for her success on the tennis court, but also for her stunning looks. So the 22-year-old is making plans for the big screen. She said, "Someday I'd like to act - but not as my main thing. I did a small part as myself in the movie *Me, Myself And Irene*. It was a lot of hard work." And where is Enrique these days?

Speaking of Russians, from the unlikely town of Obninsk, Russia, comes the mainstream country sextet known as **Bering Strait**. Bering Strait present a détente between Russian folk and country swing that defines a

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buoyant treatment of the traditional "Porushka-Paranya." The trick pony in the group is lead vocalist Natasha Borzilova, who puts across the songs (almost all supplied by Nashville pros) with palpable feeling and idiomatic precision. She has a bit of Lee Ann Womack in her voice when she goes into belting mode -- as she does most effectively on a roaring, deeply felt, pop-styled celebration of obsession, "What Is It About You" -- and a bit of young Wynona's blues bent in her sultry, longing pose on the mid-tempo torch of "Tell Me Tonight" and in her sensuous pleading on "I Could Be Persuaded."

Thalia is a sexy Latin pop star, a TV soap queen, and a businesswoman — and now, Thalia has her sights set on conquering the U.S. with her self-titled English debut album and her own apparel line. It seems that music mogul Tommy Mottola's wife is certainly busy. Tommy now has a two floor advantage over Clive Davis. Mottola just signed a deal to sublease from Hermes at 745 Fifth Ave. It is here that Mottola intends to preside over his entertainment companies and meet the criteria to rake in the \$50 million from the deal he cut with Doug Morris at Universal. His wife Thalia, 31, has now set her sights on the U.S. pop charts with her self-titled English debut album. "It's going to be great!" said Thalia, whose accented English — she began studying it four years ago — fails to dampen her bubbly enthusiasm. "Before, I wasn't too confident in my English. Now I feel like so happy. I feel perfect." Inspired by her actress sister Laura Zapata, these days she shares homes in Miami Beach and Manhattan with Mottola, 55, whose five-year marriage to Mariah Carey ended in divorce in 1998. But Thalia's idyllic life turned nightmarish last year when Zapata and another sister were kidnapped and held for ransom in Mexico City. They were later freed unharmed, and three suspects believed connected to the kidnapping were arrested in April. "I'm very thankful," Thalia said of the ordeal's bloodless resolution. "Millions of people prayed for us." Now, as she prepares a world tour to promote her new album, Thalia says it's time to pay back fans for all the success she's enjoyed. "So many people have opened their hearts for me, now I want to make them dance, be happy and have a good time."

Reese Witherspoon's recent credits have leaned toward lightweight comedy, but the *Legally Blonde 2* star is moving back to drama for *Mother to Mother*, based on the true events surrounding the death of 26-year-old Stanford student Amy Biehl, who was killed during riots in South Africa in 1993. No director has been announced for the project, scheduled for 2005.

James Cameron, it's been six years since he has

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directed a film from a script (and we all know what that 1997 flick was, don't we?), so it's high time he picked a new project. And once again, he's diving below the surface — this one is a biopic of Francisco Ferreras and his wife, Audrey Mestre, world-record-setting "freedivers." Mestre died last year while trying to break her record of 557.7 feet — the extreme sport involves diving as deep as possible on one lungful of air. Again, Cameron will reportedly focus on the romance rather than the action.

Dr. Maryanne Galvin is a psychologist who specializes in forensic evaluations for the Massachusetts courts and prisons and is also a producer and independent filmmaker. Her previous film *Thanatos Rx: The Death Penalty Debate in America* has been broadcast and distributed nationally and internationally. Her second documentary *Amuse Bouche: A Chef's Tale* screened at festivals in the USA and abroad, garnering the Best Domestic Documentary Award at the 17th Wine Country Film Festival, Sonoma CA. She is currently working on a non-fiction piece concerning the interface of law enforcement and the mentally ill.

Walt Willey, a.k.a. Jackson Montgomery on *All My Children*, chatted with me before he left for Sarasota, Florida. He is quite busy these days between taping shows for AMC and doing his comedy



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act. He Spend the night with Walt Willey!
co-hosted *Live with Regis and Kelly* a few months ago.

I spent the night with Walt Willey! I'm kidding! That's what's on the infamous T-shirt, that you can purchase through his website, <http://www.willeyworld.com/>. Check out his website for his September dates, or if you want to stay at his charming B&B in Sante Fe, all the info is there.

Matchbox Twenty is returning to the North American concert circuit this fall for a major cross-continental tour. Slated to open on September 24th in Tallahassee, Florida, the dates will keep the band on the road through the end of the year. The first two weeks of shows have been announced, with shows being added daily. Meanwhile "Bright Lights," the third single off *MORE THAN YOU THINK YOU ARE* is shining strong as the #1 most-added song for two weeks in a row at Top 40 Adult.

Robert De Niro will next star in the thriller *Hide & Seek* for director Albert Hughes (half of the Hughes Brothers). De Niro stars as a father who learns his daughter is dealing with the death of her mother in a strange and terrifying way.

Sighting: Guess who was running after her little girl backstage at the Bon Jovi concert? Yes, it was Heather Locklear! She was there.

Rose's Scoop: Jeffery Deaver is the author of 18 novels, two of which are *The Stone Monkey* in paperback and *The Vanished Man* in trade paperback. Jeffery is also a gourmet cook and an expert on Californian wines. He is divorced, has no children, just one "very large" German Shepherd dog. He lives in Virginia and California. And so, here you have it!

If competition was tough enough with Cindy Adams, Liz Smith, Victoria Gotti, who writes for the *Star*, now I have Stephen King. Yes, the same Steven King, who has written over 50 books. The king of Horror! Steven, now has his own column in *Entertainment Weekly*. Congratulations, Steven!

A special happy birthday to my daughter Kelly Olszuk, who turns 11 on September 8th. Kelly shares the day with Pink! Wishing everyone a very happy and safe Labor Day weekend!

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This month's column is dedicated to the memory of a very Special Friend of mine, Denise Helfrich. You will always be a star in my eyes! You will be missed!

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