

Laura Branigan Bows Out Of Joplin Musical After Two Shows

After only two performances, 80s pop singer Laura Branigan has left the off-Broadway musical *Love, Janis*. Branigan's abrupt exit on June 2 follows the equally quick curtain call of TV's *Felicity* star Amy Jo Johnson, who also managed to get through only two shows.

Big Brother & the Holding Company's Sam Andrew told us recently that Johnson wasn't a good fit for the show since she simply was „not a singer.“ When it was announced that Branigan would be joining the cast, Andrew told us that he hoped she'd work out better, although he did have his doubts: „She's got her pitch and her time and her tone and everything they're all really good, you know? It's great that she's gonna come in, you know? What remains to be seen is if she has the power, you know, if she can call up that power but she used to, so...“

Branigan, the husky-voiced pop singer who exploded onto the charts in 1982 with „*Gloria*,“ reportedly left the show for „personal reasons.“ A spokesperson for the show added that Branigan's absence is „temporary,“ suggesting a possible return for her sometime in the future, notes Playbill.

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