



## Prodigal Son

Thursday, February 19, 2009

Last Saturday, I visited Centre Stage to catch friend and former colleague Guy Perticone's final appearance as Dion in *Clear Lake: The Rock 'n Roll Reunion*. His set as leader of the Belmonts concluded the first act, so I planned to arrive late, satisfy my curiosity and leave before intermission without speaking to anyone. But that was not to be. The vom where I'd hoped to observe unobserved was filled with familiar faces and the collective weight of their familiarity caused many a crack to form in the compartment where I stored the 18 months I spent among them as marketing director.

Nevertheless, rattled as I was, I resumed my original escape plan and was walking back to the parking lot when Tiffany Nave (who'd accompanied me for moral support) gestured to the stage door. Guy and Beau Phillips (another friend and former CS colleague) were standing there and Tiff was encouraging me to speak to them. Fortunately for me, I did.

It bears mentioning that Guy had joined the company during tech week on very short notice, culminating an incredible three-year journey of his own that has rendered him a model of tranquility. Both he and Beau, neither of whom I'd seen since I resigned last September, seemed genuinely glad to see me. It was one of those filmic moments one has every hundred years or so, story lines converging unexpectedly, camera pulling back to reveal the whole planet swathed in fluffy clouds, music swelling, end titles rolling. I was struck by the complexities and harmonies (and dissonances) of our lives together, but mostly by how much I missed these people and how like a family they'd become for me.

Since that night, I've been reflecting on the importance of the families we create for ourselves and I've been making an effort to reestablish ties with long lost relatives. So far, the response has been encouraging. Enlightening, even. Relationships are work - hard work sometimes - and occasionally seem like losing propositions, but the effort is never wasted, even when it results in failure. Good, bad and ugly, however we define it, however it defines us, family definitely matters.

**Length:** 3:24

**Music:** *No Time* by The Guess Who and *The Wanderer* by Dion and the Belmonts

**Writer, voice:** Tim Brosnan



Greenville actor and designer Tiffany Nave



CREATIVE HAMMER, INC. • P.O. BOX 9713 • GREENVILLE, SC 29604 • 803.256.8625