



Ads here

## MUSIC

More Music...

### Brat Pack Radio to Pack Playmaker's House of Rock

By Ana N. Rusness-Petersen  
Contributing Writer

The pulsating colored lights, filmmatic images of movies from the eighties, bright costumes, crazy wigs and highly danceable music will turn the House of Rock into an energetic SUPERSHOW this Friday when '80s cover band Brat Pack Radio takes the stage at 9:30 p.m.



"We've had them here several times before. They have a really good show and totally dress the part. The dance floor is full all night..." Kerry Fernholz, general manager of Playmakers said.

Brat Pack Radio was developed four years ago by husband-and-wife team Ryan Lance (Gilbert Downey Jr.) and Heidi Jo Langseth (Holly Ringwald) to provide colorful, danceable '80s music. The group also allows them to have fun, perform together and make a living in the performing arts. "[Our kids] think it's cool. All they know is that mom and dad are rock stars," Lance said. "It's my chance to be everything I'm not in the Blenders. I can say things I can't say with the Blenders. I get to be a rock star."

In addition to Lance and Langseth, who both have established musical careers individually and as a part of The Blenders and Pie respectively, Brat Pack Radio also showcases the talent of other regionally-based musicians, including Andrew Hale, J.J. Benson and Jack Mansk. The group performs two to three nights a week, and attempts to perform each song as close as possible to the original '80s radio version. This allows them to cash in on what Lance calls the, "oh, yeah!" factor.

"There's always the, 'Oh, yeah!' factor where people say, 'oh, yeah, I remember that song!'" Featuring songs like "Billie Jean," "One Way or Another," "I Want You to Want Me" and "Tainted Love" on their set-list, the group feels it reaches out to a diverse audience. "We really try to hit every genre and age group and develop audience participation," Lance said. "We've had people come up to us and say, 'I hate the '80s, but I love you guys.' The music translates to all ages, since it is colorful, fun and entertaining."

The core members of Brat Pack Radio grew up in and were shaped by the 1980s, and while their show is what they describe as "totally tongue-in-cheek," one can sense a certain respect for the music they perform. "The music itself has to be right before you can parody it, make fun of it," Lance stated. "I don't have a favorite song, but I also don't have any that I hate. They all have their place."

So while for some, the concert Friday night will expose them to a lesser known era, for others, Brat Pack

Radio will bring back illuminating memories. "I remember when MTV first hit the airwaves in Fargo," Lance reflected. "The next day, we all were asking each other, 'Hey, did you see that?' At that time, MTV was on, one of the high numbered fuzzy channels, and there were about ten videos that just kept rotating. But we all thought it was the coolest thing," Lance said. "Now, I'm living out my high school dreams of being a rock star."

WHO: Brat Pack Radio  
WHEN: Friday, March 30, @ 8, Show @ 9:30  
WHERE: The House of Rock  
COST: \$5

