

## Seal Hunt

Presented by John Christian Erhardt Memorial School Makkovik.

Grades five and six in Makkovik are featuring a play about the controversial Seal Hunt and what happens when they come up against Green Peace.

Director: Joan Andersen

The Company: Harold Winters  
Hugh Andersen  
Ola Andersen  
Doreen Winters  
Maggie Tuglavina  
Gladys Andersen  
Peggy Ford  
Del Ford  
Rose Ford

### Ideas for Presentation

The possibilities for a presentation of an activity Native to Labrador - without words - are tremendous. The importance of this play, is in what miming actions take place. The use of sound effects made by the students to accompany the play, or the use of the audience as part of the set can add to the production. Other possibilities along this type of very effective presentations are a) skidoo trip and breakdown b) lost in the woods c) fishing and a storm comes up d) climbing a mountain and someone gets hurt e) a wedding where guns are shot off.

Re - Enacting the Seal Hunt

Characters:           2 Seal Hunters  
                  4 Dogs  
                  2 Green Peace Officers  
                  1 seal

Scene:   A bellicater (large lump of ice) hides the seal at one end of stage.  
          Some white material (snow) covers a stuffed seal near front center stage.  
          Dogs lie asleep at one end of stage.

As the scene opens, the two seal hunters come out of their houses, dressed to go off over the ice. They rouse the dogs and begin harnessing them to cardboard komatiks. One (Harold) has a spear, the other (Hugh) a gun and tuluk (a blind).

Harold:       Where're you goin today?

Hugh:         Out ootookin'. How about you?

Harold:       I might go as far as the shina.

Hugh:         It's a fine day for it.

Off they go, driving their dogs with these commands.

|          |     |              |
|----------|-----|--------------|
| Hert     | --- | go ahead     |
| Ouk      | --- | to the left  |
| Heredter | --- | to the right |
| Aaaa     | --- | stop         |

Hugh drives off stage. Harold stops at far stage and unhitches his two dogs.

Harold:   Go find me a seal, now. Go on. (The dogs sniff the ice all around and finally stop at the white spot of snow covering the stuffed seal and begin to snort, sniff and growl, etc.)

Harold:   Go lie down.

The dogs go off to the side. Harold takes aim with his spear and thrusts it through the snow. He pulls up a seal, puts it on the komatik, and hitches up the dogs. He then drives them homeward using the same commands.

Hugh now comes on stage from the opposite side driving his team of two dogs.

Hugh: Aaaa

The dogs stop. He takes out his binoculars and spies around. A seal pokes up from behind the bellicater. Hugh spots it, quickly sets up his tuluk, and proceeds slowly toward the seal. When in range, he takes aim and fires. The seal's head falls. Hugh drops tuluk and rushes to pull seal away from the ice-hole. Then he puts it onto komatik and drives home, where Harold is outside feeding his dogs some seal meat.

Hugh: How many did you get?

Harold: One The dogs found it.

Hugh: Did you spear it.

Harold: Yes. How far out did you go?

Hugh: Out around Iron Bound Island.

Harold: Lots of seals?

Hugh: I only saw this one.

Suddenly, two Green Peace Officers carrying placards appear on the scene. They spot the seals.

Ola: .Oh, look there!

Doreen: Oh, the poor seal! (She rushes to the dead animal on the komatik, kneels beside it, and strokes it despairingly).

Ola: How could you? What has this creature ever done to you? It's never hurt you! It's so helpless. You're worst than animals. Where's your humanity? Have you no compassion? (she speaks on and on)

Harold: Want a seal flipper?

Ola: (caught off-guard, her mouth waters, she rubs her stomach, looks around guiltily). Ah, gee, well,... after all day campaigning on the ice, it sure makes a body hungry. I could use a good meal. Ah, yes I will.

THE END