

Nalajok Players
Amos Comenius Memorial School
Hopedale, Labrador

presents

UP THE BASE

Written by: The Students of Amos Comenius Memorial School

Chesley Piercey
Sandra Flowers
Patty Dicker
William Hunter
George Abel
Barbara Pijogge
William Nochasak
David Millie

Directed by: Marion Cheeks
Jim Shea

SCENE I

Mom - Patty Dicker
Dad - Chesley Piercey
Anansiak - David Millie
George - George Abel
Jessie - Sandra Flowers

SCENE II

Jessie - Sandra Flowers
Mom - Patty Dicker
Anansiak - David Millie
Dad - Chesley Piercey
Kitty - Barbara Pijogge
George - George Abel

SCENE III

3 Americans - Chesley Piercey
- William Hunter
- William Nochasak
Drunk Woman - David Millie
Jessie - Sandra Flowers
Kitty - Barbara Pijogge

SCENE IV

Dad - Chesley Piercey
Mom - Patty Dicker
Jessie - Sandra Flowers
George - George Abel
Yank - David Millie

SCENE V

Man #1 - Chesley Piercey
Man #2 - William Hunter

SCENE I

THE ONALIK KITCHEN IN HEBRON

The scene begins with Mom sweeping the floor muttering to herself about the dirt and how her daughter Jessie doesn't help--Enter Anansiak walking very slowly across the stage to sit beside the kitchen table in her rocking chair.

Mom: How's you today Anansiak? Your cold any better?
 (Anansiak makes no response.)

That Tom isn't back yet, out all day and never gets a thing to eat. Hunter, huh! Gee, George will be home in a minute screamin' his head off, complaining about nothing to eat again. That Tom makes me boil, sometimes I wonder if he goes out to hunt or just to stay away all day.

Dad enters:

Dad: Out all day and never got many partridges. Tired of it. Hopedale will be better I suppose. I'll be able to get a job at the American Base.

Mom: Stop talking about Hopedale, you know I don't want to go. Anansiak doesn't want to go. What's wrong with hunting? Ever since the Government said they were movin' us you never seem to be any good at huntin' anymore.

Dad: It's no good to depend on hunting when we can have something secure like a job to depend on. At least there'll be food on the table.

Mom: What about Anansiak? You knows she don't wanta go. She was born here and she wants to die here and so do I.

Dad: There's hardly anyone left. You gonna die here all alone or wha? Almost everyone has left and gone to Nain or Hopedale. There's no sense in staying or wanting to. The Government says it'll be better and more convenient for us to live there.

Mom: Don't we have a say in where we live. I don't care what the Government says. (Grabs Anansiak) you don't want to go do you, Anansiak?

Jessie enters:

Jessie: Hopedale? Did someone say Hopedale? You mean, we're finally leaving.

SCENE I Cont'd

Dad Yes Together
Mom: No

Jessie: Bowling, Bingo, Booze, Movie, MEN, Oh, I can't wait.

Mom: Is that all you thinks about. Just think how poor old Anansiak feels. She'll be heart-broken, (Moves toward Anansiak) You don't want to go to Hopedale, do you?

Jessie: She's old anyway, she's gonna die soon.

George enters:

George: What's for supper?

Mom: Oh shut up-he only got two partridges and I haven't had time to pick 'em yet.

George: You shoulda took me hunting with you. We woulda got more.

Dad: You gotta go to school.

Jessie: George, we're goin' to Hopedale.

George: What fer? I don't wanna go to Hopedale.

Dad: There'll be a bigger school there, more kids for you to play with.

George: Bigger school! EEE how sick.

Jessie: Aw, come on George boy, there's bowling.

George: Waste of time.

Jessie: Booze.

George: Too young fer that.

Jessie: Bingo!

George: What's dat?

Jessie: Men

George: Only good fer you.

Jessie: Movies.

George: Movies? Let's go!

Scene I cont'd

Mom: Is that all you think of is fun? Just think how poor Anansiak feels. And you know I don't want to go.

Dad: Look at this house--it's a shack, in Hopedale you'll get a new house fer nothin' bigger and better than this.

Mom: A new house, how good (eyes light up).

Dad: And a new vacuum, so you don't have to sweep.

Jessie: Maybe you'll shut up about the dirt!

Dad: What about Anansiak, how are we gonna move her?

Pause, everyone looks at each other then at Anansiak. Everyone moves towards her and carries her off the stage. Anansiak shakes her head and repeatedly say Oka, Oka, Oka,

End of Scene I

SCENE II

This scene opens with Jessie in her bedroom, sitting in front of phone. She dials the number.

Jessie: Hello! Is Kitty there? Hello Kit, what's you doing? Goin' up the base or wha? Got my Avon in today, all kinds ole junk, lipstick, rouge, eyeshadow, the works, red, green, blue. All kinsa colours! You see that cute little fella, Sexy! You know the one about 6'3", blonde, deep blue eyes! wears tight green uniform. Gonna get him tonight. O.K.! Hurry up! See ya in an hour! bye.

Jessie begins to put make-up on as though the audience were her mirror. Music accompanies her scene. Meanwhile in the living room:

Dad: I'm sick of it, work, work, work, no chance to go partridge hunting anymore.

Mom: Yeah! If I don't get a taste of partridge meat soon, I'll forget what it tastes like. That stuff down store is no good to eat. Too expensive to buy anyway.

George: When you gonna take me partridge hunting?

Dad: You gotta go school, boy.

George: Ah! I'm sick of it.

SCENE II Cont'd:

Mom: Do you homework yet?

George: Hah! Never even brought my books home.

Dad: Never brought your books home? How do you expect to get a job without education?

George: Rather go hunting, never goes hunting anymore.

Dad: But I never had the chance you have, you can't make a living hunting these days.

Kitty enters:

Kitty: Hi everybody!

Dad: Hello, Kitty.

Mom: Hi, where you going tonight?

Kitty: Up the base.

Mom: Wha you go do up there?

Kitty: Dance.

George: Who with?

Kitty: Yanks!

George: Ah, they're no good.

Kitty: Better than you.

George: Too good for us now or wha?

Kitty: Ah! Shut up you.

Dad: I hope that's all you're doin' is dancing, I hope you're not drinkin' any of that booze up there.

Kitty: Oh no! We'wouldn't do that.

Dad: I hope not, if I find out you are, I'm gonna give you a lickin'. And you know those yanks, they're only out for one thing.

George snickers and teases Kitty.

Kitty: Jessie, ready yet or wha?

Mom: I dunno, she's upstairs putting something on her face. She said something about make-up.

Kitty: Oh yeah! She got her Avon in today.

SCENE II cont'd:

Jessie comes down the stairs, family is taken aback.

Dad: Oh my God, your face!

End of Scene

SCENE III

Bar scene. Three yanks are present, sitting on bar stools, conversing. Drunk woman is also present, trying to get the yank's attention.

Yankee 1: Ah wonda waht I'd be doin now if ah waz in New York city.

Yankee 2: Shoot man, I'd be doin' more than this.

Yankee 3: What would you be doin' now if you were in New York City Boy?

Yankee 2: Eatin Pizza, drivin' mah hot rod, watchin' the yankees play baseball.

Yankee 1: Ain't nothin' do round heah.

Yankee 3: Ain't no chickies in these heah parts.

Yankee 1: Look at that thing, who's gonna have her tonight?

Yankee 3: You can have her, you always take yo chickies when they're drunk.

Yankee 1: I had her last nite. (To Yankee #2, it's your turn to have her.)

Yankee 3 to Yankee 2: Yeah! It's year turn to have her.

Jessie and Kitty Saunter across stage. Yanks whistle and nudge each other, at the same time trying to ignore the drunk woman.

Yankee 3: Oh man, lookey tha. Don't get much like that round here. I'm gettin' the tall one.

Yankee 2: I'm gettin, the short one.

Yankee 1: I'm gettin

Yankee 3: Well, ahm gettin' one before any of you two do.

Yankee 2: Me, too!

Yankee 1: Bert but.....

Yanks saunter over to chickies. Meanwhile Yankee 1 is tryin' to ignore drunk woman, who is trying to get his attention.

Yankee 3 to Tall Girl: Were you been all my life, Chickie?

SCENE III Cont'd:

Tall Girl: Hebron.

Yankee 3: Hebron? When did you move down to Hopedale?

Tall Girl: Last Week

Tall girl and short girl are all the time nudging each other and giggling.

Yankee 3: You like it here?

Tall Girl: Yes.

Yankee 3: You know how to dance?

Tall Girl: (Giggles and nudges short girl) Yes.

Yankee 3: You wanna dance, chickie? (Tall girl giggles and nudges short girl again) You wanna dance Chickie?

Tall Girl: Yes

Yankee 3: Come on then!

During this conversation, yankee 2 and short girl are carrying on in an unheard conversation and 'necking'.

The one couple advances to the dance floor and begins to dance. Meanwhile the drunk woman is trying to get Yankee 1's attention, who continues to ignore her. Drunk woman staggers out of chair and shouts to Yankee 1.

Drunk Woman: Hey you ay, you wanna dance you ay?

(Stumbles over and grabs yank out to dance floor. They start to dance. They stumble and fall.)

End of Scene III

SCENE IV

This scene takes place in a kitchen, Hopedale.

Jessie and Mom sitting at table.

George: (slams his glass down on the table) Kablunak, Damn White Man, your ol husband, no good fer nothing. Went up the dam three times last week, fell in twice.

Mom: Give him time, he'll get used to it.

Jessie: Yeh, look at all them books he reads.

Mom: Can't eat books though.

George: Dad took him seal huntin' this morning. Trying to make a man out of him. I suppose he's froze by now.

Scene IV cont'd

Dad and Yank enter: Yank goes over to the stove, shaking.

Dad: Should have seen the seal we got. Must have been about 375 pounds. It took out almost an hour to cut through the blubber.

Yank feeling sick.

Dad: And the heart was about this big. The blood was just drippin out of it. (Yank feelin' really sick now.)

Dad: Whats fer supper?

Yank: Heh!, I'm plobbered starved to death. Never had a bite to eat all day.

Mom: Boiled porcupine in fat pork.

Yank: (Giving a sicking sound) Have any of you people around here heard of T-bone steak.

Everyone: Ah, shut up.

Yank: While back home.....

Everyone: Ah, shut up.....

Mom: Around here is kill or be killed. Can't sit around and watch T.V. or read them books.

Dad: Yeh! look at him some lazy, hey.

Mom: It's your turn to.....

Dad: Oh no, Uncle Sam it's your turn to dump the pail.

Yank: (Jumping from the chair and dropping his book.) "Shoot, ain't tourcehin' that. Come on honey bunch, let's go back to the good ole living in the U.S. of America."

END OF SCENE

SCENE V

Two men at the base looking for firewood. One man is picking up firewood, one man walks in with empty komatik.

Man #1: Come up the base for some firewood too or wha?

Man #2: Yup, you been up here long?

Man #1: Coupla hours only, gotta scrounge for the wood now. Hey look an old bingo card, remember the games?

Man #2: Oh yeah, I remember. Got kinda lucky once, won the jackpot, \$200.00.

Man #1: Yah, them ole yanks, some sucks, easy money, lots of jobs, lots of jackpots, good thing I got six kids or I'd be starvin' now.

Man #2: Oh, got 20 bucks I want to buy some beer, ain't had some in awhile now.

Man #1: Naw boy, my cheque ain't here yet. Family allowance is late too.

Man #2: Gotta a dollar for yeast for some home brew.

Man #1: No boy, haven't got a cent. Good times up the base remember? Look we're in the club now. (Picks up a beer bottle-broken)

Man #2: Good ole times, boy.
(Picks up a pair of pantyhose.) (Both start to laugh)

Man #1: (Shakes his head) Ya, some times (Begin to pick up wood and put on Komatik).

Man #2: Just firewood now.

Man #1: (Sits back, looks directly at audience.) Ya, at least them ole yanks left us something even if it is just firewood.

THE END