

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

Mary's Harbour

presents

"The Labrador Coast"

or

"Good Times & Hard Times"

CAST:

Mary Yvonne Rumbolt
John Kim Coish
Pete Jeanette Rumbolt
Soos Connie Acreman
Walt Sherry Rumbolt
Jane Angela Rumbolt

This play looks at a young couple on the coast and ^otrav[^]es their relationship with each other and their friends. There are two major age changes of 30 years each.

It reflects the struggle and triumphs on the coast and portrays a positive outlook on life through rough and demanding times.



THE LABRADOR COAST
or
GOOD TIMES & HARD TIMES

Mary's Harbour

CAST:

Yvonne Rumbolt	Mary
Kim Coish	John
Jeanette Rumbolt	Pete
Connie Acreman	Soos
Sherry Rumbolt	Walt
Angela Rumbolt	Jane

SCENE I

Mary and Soos are on a hill talking. It is in the afternoon shortly before supper in early June.

Mary: (slightly depressed) Soos maid, it's June now and only another three months and I'll have to go away. I don't want to go, but I suppose I'll have to. Daddy wants me to go and I guess he's right in a way.

Soos: I don't want you to go! You're my best friend, but think of all the wonderful things you can do out there and the friends you will make.

Mary: I don't really want to go Soos, but I suppose there's nothing here to keep me here now. John probably doesn't even know that I exist. Anyway it's not up to me anymore, it's up to Dad. What am I gonna do?

Soos: John do like you Mary! Why don't you just come up to the hill and I'll show you. He's there every night.

Mary: You know I can't go up there. You know what my Daddy's like. Anyway if I get involved with Johnny now, then I'll have to breakit off, and it'll hurt me even more. It's better if we just leave things like it is.

Soos: But your Daddy won't know; you'll be outdoors and he won't know. You can sneak up to the hill. Besides, if you get married you won't have to go.

Mary: Hey! That's an idea, but I wonder if Johnny really do love me. (Voice heard off-stage calling Mary to supper) Well anyway I got to go now, I'll see ya up on the hill. I suppose - if I can get away. (Mary exists)

Soos: I wish I could help Mary stay. I don't know what I would do if I lost her. She's the best friend I ever had. Hey! There's Pete, Johnny's best friend. (singing out) Pete! Pete! Come here I want you Pete.

Pete: You talkin to me.

Soos: You know Mary's leavin don't you?

Pete: Yah! She's leavin in September. Everybody knows that. Mainland - bad place to go.

Soos: Mary don't really want to go you know. You know that she likes John don't you? But she don't think Johnny likes her.

Pete: Sure John likes here too. More than he likes his fishin berth maid.

Soos: Well that's news to me. We got to keep Mary from goin. Think you can do anything about it?

Pete: I know John likes her. You get Mary up here tonight away from her father and I'll fix everything else up. I don't think she'll ever go away.

Soos: What do you mean?

Pete: From what John tells me, I think he's in love with her. He don't want her to go and I'm sure if he had his way he wouldn't let her leave either.

Soos: Me and Mary plan on going up to the hill tonight.

Pete: Well I can tell John that Mary will be up on the hill tonight and I'll see to it that he'll be there.

Soos: Well I'm gonna go home to supper and get spruced up. I'm starvin. See ya(exits).

Pete: Me old buddy John is finally gonna get his chance to court Mary. I know they'll be happy. I just

knows it. (Walking off stage) I must get back to me
flake before it gets too dark. (EXISTS)

Enter Mary, Jane and Soos walking down the
lane towards the hill.

Mary: I'm having second thoughts about going up
on the hill tonight. If Dad finds out, I'll
be gone for more than a summer. I'll never
come back.

Soos: Go on maid, how is your father goin to find
out?

Mary: You know how things get spread on the hill.

Jane: I don't care as long as Walt is up there.

Mary: Yes Jane, I hope I was like you. You so lucky.

Jane: It's the best life maid.

Mary: Soos, your sure he's gonna be there?

Soos: Sure I'm sure. I got it all fixed up with
Pete and he said he'd get John up there for
sure. He's up there every other night why
not tonight?

Jane: I don't care as long as Walt is up there. (Fade)
Focus on other lane going up to the hill where
Three guys are entering, John, Pete, and Walt

Pete: If that Soos goes back on her word that'll
be the end of her.

John: I don't know if I should go up. I know Mary
don't want to go out with me.

Pete: Yes she do boy, Soos told me. Look at Walt
here. He wanted Jane and he went and got her.

Walt: I say. And I'm a lucky feller too. Jane is
a hard worker, and she's a good hand at making
bread. There might be handsomer women, but
there's nothin like my Janie.

John: Pete boy, your my best friend. If you fixes
us up I'll never forget you for it.

Pete: What are friends for boy?

The boys arrive at the hill.

Walt: Boys, I sees Jane over there, I'll see you later.

Pete: There's Mary. Go on over.

John: Na! You go over for me Pete and ask her to go for a walk with me. (Walt & June Exit) Pete goes over and comes back.

Pete: She says she's afraid someone will see her. Tell you what. I'll take Soos aside and then you two will be alone. (HE walks over to the two girls)

Pete: Soos, come here I want you. (she follows him off-stage)

John and Mary are left alone on stage. A feeling darkness dominates the atmosphere of the stage as the two shyly approach each other in an attempt to break the ice. They both go to speak to each other at the same time.

John: Mary
Together

Mary: John

John: I
Together

Mary: I

(They both laugh)

John: Go ahead Mary.

Mary: No John, I want you to have your say first

John: Well, I've been thinkin a lot about you leavin lately Mary.

Mary: Yes John.

John: Well, I don't want you to go Mary,. I like you a lot and, well, I'd like to get to know you better.

Mary: I like you a lot too John.

John: To tell you the truth, I can't even sleep; I've been thinking about you goin so much. The thought of it scares me deep down inside.

Mary: John, I think I'll miss you most of all. I don't want to go, but there's really nothing to keep me here.

John: You have something to keep you here now Mary. I-I-I think I love you Mary!

Mary: Oh John! I hoped you'd say that but I thought you never would.

John: I'm pretty settled you know. I've got a good fishin berth and I could provide for a family.

Mary: Oh John! (Falls into his arms) Fade out Lights go up & down signifying the passing of the seasons. Pete enters stage as a middle aged man out fishing in boat.

SCENE II

Pete: Well, it's been 30 years now since John and Mary got married. Boy, there was a few rough times since then. One summer with no fish and the winter when Uncle Ben almost froze in the snowstorm. John and Mary are doin good though. Na! No fish again today worth talking about. Think I'll go up and see how they're gettin on.

(He exits)

The curtains open to John's and Mary's kitchen. Mary is sitting at the table knitting and looking worried. Pete enters; Mary rises and goes to Pete very distressed.

Mary: Oh Pete! I'm so worried. Walt and John went out in boat last week and they said they'd be back last night at the latest. It's not like John. He's always back when he says he'll be. There's no sign of them.

Pete: Calm down now Mary. Calm down. Maybe he ran outa gas, or went to visit someone, or maybe the fishin is so good there they decided to stay a bit longer.

Mary: I got a funny feeling something is wrong. I saw a crow perched on the wood shed when I was out to get a yaffle.

Pete: Don't be so superstitious.

Mary: Ever since I was born I was superstitious. I believes in all them old sayings Pete.

Pete: Don't worry.

Mary: I know. I suppose he'll be back any time at all. The youngsters are startin go worry too and I got to keep them calm. We're runnin low on grub and we got no milk...

Pete: Don't worry about stuff like that maid, you..

Mary: I know people would help me out, but I depend on Johnny to get water, and the wood and to keep the food on the table and the roof over our heads.

Pete: If they're not back by dark I'll get a search party to go after em in the morning O.K.? Bye now.

Mary: I wonder how Jane is getting on? She must be worried sick as much as I am. I think I'll go and see her.

Jane enters (Mary continues speaking) Oh Jane! I was just going to visit you. I'm some glad you came over.

Jane: Oh Mary! What are we going to do?

Mary: Well, Pete says he'll go after 'em in the morning if they're not back by then.

Jane: That's good. I don't know how I could survive without Walt.

Mary: I know how you feel Jane, cause John means everything to me.

Jane: Where would I be without Walt? I got four youngsters to feed and I don't think I could make a go of it without him. Walt is one of the best providers on the whole coast and we'd have to go on the doe if he's, if he's drowned (Sobs, breaks down)

Mary: (Comforting Jane) There there Jane. It's all right. Ther gonna be all right. There there

Fade out!

SCENE III

Walt and John are in a boat rowing at sea.

John: That blasted motor. I thought for sure she was workin good.

Walt: We're in serious trouble John. By the look of those clouds and your motor gone and we miles from nowhere. This is the worst spot I've ever been in.

John: This is the worst time I ever seen it. To make the best of it, there's so many things I'd like to have said to Mary that I never did say.

Walt: Like what?

John: Well, little things really. Things I never noticed before. Like roarin the kids, cleanin the fish, cookin the meals, she always had a meal ready for me. Nights she's be spreadin fish till way after dark, and then up in the mornin before the sun with my breakfast on the table. She knit and darn socks for me. She's an angel Walt. That's what she is, a pure angel.

Walt: Yes boy! The same with my Jane. If ever we get out of this mess I'll tell her just how much she means to me and how much I appreciate what she does for me all the time.

John: Listen! I hear somethin, you? (silence)

Walt: Yes, I think I do.

John: Look over there. Ahoy!

Walt: I think it's Pete and them. Ahoy!

Pete: (Off stage) Ahoy! Ahoy John and Walt Thank God we found 'em.

SCENE IV

Pete comes down a lane as an old man now.

Pete: Yep! John and Walt thought they were goners that day. Nice few years since then now. A good many hard ol'knocks after that too; like the time John fell over the stage head and broke his arm and that time Walt was in on the trapline and got his foot caught in the bear trap.
Well, now poor ol' John has passed away. Twas nice he went peaceful like that in his sleep. He lived a good life. He had a wife that loved him dear, wonderful kids and good friends. He had a hard life like us all, but he certainly enjoyed it to the fullest.

He arrives at Mary's kitchen and enters where the others are. Soos goes over to Pete and takes his arm. They go over to Mary, who is sitting by the stove - staring blankly at the floor. Pete goes and places his hand on her shoulder and she reaches up and clasps it.

Pete: I don't know what to say Mary.

Mary: There's nothin to say Pete. Tis in the Lord's will.

Soos: He was a fine man. He loved you a lot Mary. I'd like to see him again if it's o.k.

Women leave to go to other room.

Walt: How do you think Mary is takin Pete?

Pete: She's a strong woman Walt. She'll be all right. She's be all right. She got her friends and family with her.

They too walk slowly toward the room where John is.