

GOOSE HIGH SCHOOL
Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Labrador

presents

I DON'T WANT THIS EDUCATION

written by Murray MacKinnon

CAST

Michelle Massey.....Kristen
Treena Bragg.....Ellen
Murray MacKinnon.....Alex
Sammy Broomfield.....Mr. Claymer
Nellie Decker.....Marc Leblanc
Colin Curl.....Taylor
Gina Johnson.....Judge
Keith Shields.....Bailiff

CREW

Elizabeth Tuff - sound
Craig Bird - Lights

OTHERS

Lisa Dyson
Karl Saunders
Harvey Maloney

TEACHER

John Hicks

Clair Mclean
Peacock Elementary

Daniel Zarpa
Amos Comenius
Memorial



GOOSE HIGH SCHOOL

Presents

I DON'T WANT THIS EDUCATION!

Written by: Murray MacKinnon

Characters:

Kirsten Phillips - A 17 year old highschool student.
Alex Rogers - Kirsten's boyfriend (A 17 year old high school student.)
Eric Claymer - A Guidance Counsellor at Monument High School.
Ellen Phillips - Kirsten's mother.
Marc LeBlanc - A lawyer.
Taylor Brooks - Alex's best friend.
Judge
Bailiff
Head Jurer
Defense Lawyer

Cast:

Kirsten - Michelle Massie
Ellen - Treena Bragg
Alex - Murray MacKinnon
Mr. Claymer - Sammy Broomfield
Marc LeBlanc - Nellie Decker
Taylor - Colin Curl
Judge - Gina Johnson
Bailiff - Keith Shields
Sound - Elizabeth Tuff
Lights - Craig Bird
Others - Lisa Dyson
- Karl Saunders
- Harvey Maloney

SCENE 1

Play opens with Kirsten and Alex in a hallway. Alex is routing through his locker as Kirsten comes over to him.

Kirsten: Y'know, this really sucks!

Alex: What are you babbling about now?

Kirsten: I just came from Hadley's office...

Alex: (Stands up.) Yeah, wh'd he want with you now? Is he hassling you again?

Kirsten: Uh-huh, ya know how he goes on his power trips about my marks.

Alex: what was he getting on about?

Kirsten: You know how he gets on, "If you don't improve your marks, we'll have to put you in remedial classes."

Alex: I can't stand when he hassles you about your marks, it really drives me. I mean, you're trying and trying, and they keep bitchin'.

Kirsten: Wait till I tell you the best part, I've got to go see Claymer this afternoon.

Alex: Like Mr. Social Worker is going to get your grades up any more than I have.

Kirsten: C'mon Alex, you know Claymer is alright, he helped a lot when we broke up a few months back.

Alex: yea, he's an asshole.

(P.A. cuts in with a few announcements before lunch.)

Alex: Anyway, I'll see you after lunch.

Kirsten: Bye, ALEX.

(Alex leans over - gives Kirsten a kiss)

* BLACKOUT.

SCENE 2

- Opens on dual set. One half is the kitchen of Kirsten's house, the other Kirsten's bedroom. Ellen is in the kitchen. * Lights on in kitchen only!

Ellen: Kirsten will be home soon, it's 12:15. I've got her lunch ready.

(Enter Kirsten)

Kirsten: (Sarcastically) Hi, mom.

Ellen: Are you hungry? I figured you would be after a long morning in school so I made you lunch.

Kirsten: No, mom, I never eat lunch and you know that.

Ellen: (Angered) Well, excuse me. I try to do something for you and all you do is get on my back. Well, listen here young lady, you wonder why I never do anything for you? Well, I'll tell you why, because of you and your attitude. And, I'll tell you another thing, since your father died, you've been nothing but trouble. Imagine 12 years old and the school phoning me, you getting suspended, being out drinking and doing drugs.

Kirsten: Yea, right Mom. (Angered) I never killed Dad, so don't you push that on em and I've been telling you I don't belong in that school. That system. I work hard I get no where. Then when I give up, they slap a suspension on me for not participating and causing a ruckus. Well, screw you and screw them.

Ellen: (Shocked) You (Pause) You don't talk to me like that and get away with it... You were never like that until.....Alex.....

Kirsten: You've got no right to say anything about Alex. He's done a lot for me in the last year.

Ellen: Like that time he dumped you that did a lot for you.

Kirsten: Y'know something. It seems like since you lost your job you've been coming down on me, blowing up. You can't handle it so you blame me. You only need the littlest thing to set you off.

Ellen: You teenagers think you know everything and the damn thing that gets me is you don't know a thing. You don't realize how hard it is raising you, and now it'll be even harder to raising you without a job. Do you realize? No, you really don't.

Kirsten: NO , mom, and frankly I could care less, and you're ~~the~~ one who doesn't understand. You don't realize what it's like for me. It's damn hard for me too, being in a school that doesn't need me and a place I can't learn in. So before you lay it down on me, try living on my side.

(Phone rings)

Ellen: Hello (Pause) Yes, just a minute, Kirsten.

(Kirsten takes the phone)

Kirsten: Hello. (Pause) Hold on OK. I'm going to get the phone in my room. (Hangs up the phone)

* Kitchen lights go down, bedroom lights go up.

(In Kirsten's room)

Kirsten: Yea, I'm back (pause) Nothing----- Alex, told you did he? -----I know!-----
It'll probably be a lecture -----Uh-huh-----
fun, eh? -----He'll probably say "But Kirsten, you're young, bright, more studying could do you wonders"-----Yea, I'll be there about 12:45..
See ya then-----OK-----Yea.-----Bye.
(Hangs up phone, turns on some music, lays back on her bed).

*(Back to kitchen lights, Ellen sitting at the table talking to herself)

Ellen: Maybe she's right, maybe I am quick tempered and hot under the collar. but it is so hard to talk to her without getting upset. I know she has a rough life, because the school is hard on her. I guess me being so flared all the time doesn't make it any easier. I guess I should be a little more encouraging instead of discouraging. (Tilts her head back, takes a deep breath, shakes her head, reaches for a cigarette).

* BLACKOUT

SCENE 3

-Opens with students mingling in a park.

Alex enters. Sits on a bench. Kirsten leaves a group of girls and goes to the bench with Alex.

Kirsten: Hi, Alex.

Alex: Hi, Kirs, so you going to see Claymer this afternoon.

Kirsten: I've got to go and besides, it keeps me out of class.

Alex: You shouldn't look at it like that. And I still think he's an asshole.

Kirsten: I guess you're entitled to your opinion. I like him. He's very understandin and helpful.

Alex: Mr. Social Worker, humph!!

Kirsten: Mom freaked out on me again today. Going on about my attitude and about how much trouble I am.

Alex: You're no trouble. It's just hard for your mom these past few years. They haven't been easy, with your father's death, and your trouble in school.

Kirsten: I know that, but she just blows up at nothin', freaks out.

Alex: You don't understand her.

Kirsten: (Angered) NO! You don't understnad me. It hasn't been easy on me either. But no one see's my side.
(Stamps off in anger)

* BLACKOUT

- Opens in Eric Claymer's office. Eric is at his desk, doing paperwork, shuffling papers.

(A knock)

Eric: Yes, come on in. (Pause) Oh, hello, Kirsten. Come in. Have a seat.

Kirsten: thanks, Mr. Claymer.

Eric: Please, don't be so formal. Call me Eric. As you know, Mr. Hadley has been talking to me and I told him I would have a talk with you.

Kirsten: Is it about my marks?

Eric: Now Kirsten, just relax. It is about marks. But first, let's just talk.

Kirsten: OK What do you want to talk about?

Eric: How about you and ALEX?

Kirsten: Alright.

Eric: How long have you been back together?

Kirsten: About a month and a half.

Eric: Has anything changed? Did you resolve what caused it in the first place?

Kirsten: Yes. Some things have changed, like we don't keep secrets or hide anything from one another. We communicate much better now, which in turn has made us that much stronger.

(Phone rings)

Eric: I'll be back with you in just a second Kirsten.
(Picks up phone) Hello, Eric Claymer, Monument Guidance Counsellor. How may I help you? (Pause) What? - Now? - You're sure, I mean positive - OK, I'll be there in a second.

(Eric hangs up phone, flusters through some papers, grabs set of keys, picks up his coat)

Kirsten: Mr. Claymer, what is it?

Eric: My wifeShe's having her baby.....she's only 7 1/2 months....premature.....too soon....
(exits quickly).

Kirsten: Good luck, Mr. Claymer. Hope he heard me. Hope everything goes well. Guess I'll stay here for awhile. Na, I'll go to class so Hadley doesn't get on my back.

* BLACKOUT

SCENE 5

- Opens with Kirsten in her room. Music is playing low. She's talking on the phone.

Kirsten: I was there for awhile (Pause) Never said much ---- no-----well he asked about me and Alex-----I said we were getting along better.

(Enter Ellen)

Well I'm going to go now ----what-----maybe later on-----no, he's got something to do for his father -- sure (Looks at watch) It's 8:30 now. How about 9:00 or so ----alright-----catch ya later.
(Hangs up)

Ellen: Mind if I come in?

Kirsten: As long as you don't freak out.

Ellen: That's exactly what I wanted to talk to you about.

Kirsten: My trip or yours?

Ellen: Well, both I guess. (Pause) I just don't know where to start.

Kirsten: Let's start with your temper. I mean Mom, it's a little difficult to come home to be bitched at.

Ellen: Yes, I understand.....

Kirsten: (Angered) No, you don't! I go through a day at school with people getting on my case about being stupid or something and then.....

Ellen: Coming home and listening to me mouth off isn't any fun.

Kirsten: (Surprised) Yeah!

Ellen: See, I understand more than you thin. (Pause) Anyway, I'll stay off your case and you stay off mine. Then we'll get along fine. It'll make it that much better. (Begins to leave. As she gets to the door, she turns to face Kirsten.) After all, we hav eto remember when it comes down to it (Pause) We're all each other really has. (Exits)

* BLACKOUT

SCENE 6

- Opens in park. Alex and Kirsten are on a bench. Alex has his arm around Kirsten.

Alex: Babe, I didn't mean to go and leave you for the whole weekend.

Kirsten: You could have called.

Alex: (Rambling on) I know. I would have but I didn't know Dad was going to take me to my grandparents' house and they lost their phone last month and.....

Kirsten: OK fool. I get the picture.

Alex: But....

Kirsten: I believe you, listen I'm going to see Mr. Claymer.

Alex: Didn't you go on Friday?

Kirsten: Yea, but he was called out, important business.

Alex: (Jokingly) Have you two got something going.

Kirsten: (Smiling as she gets up) He is kinda cute.

Alex: (Laughing) Oh yeah, (Chases her off stage)
You're pinned now, so who's cute?

Kirsten: You are my doll. (Snickers) Love ya!

Alex: See ya after.

* BLACKOUT

SCENE 7

- Opens in Claymer's office. He is going through files.

Eric: Ah, here it is. Student comparison and achievement stanard test, the well-known SCAST test. When Kirsten comes back, if she comes back, today, I'll ask her to fill it out.

(Knock)

Enter, the door's open. (Turns to notice Kirsten)
Well, speak of the devil.

Kirsten: Hi, Mr. Claymer. When you took off Friday, I expected you'd want me to come back this morning. By the way, how's the baby?

Eric: She never had the baby. It was false labour.

Kirsten: Well, I'm here. So what's up for today?

ERIC: Y'know Mr. Hadley asked me to talk to you about your marks?

Kirsten: Yea, he's always bitchin' about them.

Eric: Just brush him off. He gets on my case too.

Kirsten: Na! What does he bitch at you for?

Eric: Methods.

Kirsten: (Confused) Methods?

Eric: Back to the subject beautiful, I mean Kirsten. I'd like you to fill this out. It's just a test to evaluate your achievements and see how your score ranges against the standards.

Kirsten: (slightly angered) Why the hell should I do that?

Eric: Because it may get old man Hadley off your back.

Kirsten: I guess I'll do it, if it'll keep him off my case.

Eric: There's a table over there, you can work on. When you're finished or you jrun into trouble, let me know. I'll jsut be at my desk doing paperwork.

(Eric walks to his desk, sits down, shuffles a few pages and begins writing).

* (A few minutes pass)

Kirsten: Ah, hell. Why do I have to know where to put semi-colons anyway? This is bullshit.

(Eric quickly stands up and walks over the Kirsten)

Eric: What's the matter, Kirsten?

Kirsten: They want me to place semi-colons in these phrases and.....

ERIC: (Putting his hands on her shoulders) I know
(Massages) It can be a pain, but it has to be done.

Kirsten: That feels good, Eric.....My Claymer, but

ERIC: Relax, beautiful.

Kirsten: But....

ERIC: Do you want Hadley on your back?

Kirsten: No, but...

ERIC: RELax. I'm only trying to help (Pause) You're too tense to do this test.

Kirsten: But sir, you;re not.....

ERIC: If you;re not going to relac, then I'll have to try harder (bends to kiss her neck)

Kirsten: (Scared) Mr. Claymer, please don't.

ERIC: I can make this year hard for you! But if you co-operate with me, I'll make it easy for you.
(Tries to kiss her again)

Kirsten: (Stands up to the side) No sir. Don't do this. I respect you as a professional.

ERIC: (Pinning her against the wall) Then you shouldn't have any problems with this. I know you'll like it. Alex told me you did.

(Eric reaches out to grab her breast, Kirsten grabs his arm)

Kirsten: (Begins crying) Stop! Please!

Eric: (Pulls his arm free and turns out the light).

* Lights down to a dim.

Eric: Now, Kirsten hoeny, it'll be alright.

* Kirsten remains crying. Fade to black.

SCENE 8

- Opens in the park. Alex is on a bench and he seems a little frustrated.

Alex: (Looks at his watch, angered) Where is she? She doesn't usually do this! She better have a good excuse too, cause I'm awfully angry. (Looks to the side, calls out) Yo! Taylor!

(Enter Taylor Brooks)

Taylor: Hey Rodgers, who are you waiting for? Dumb question. Kirsten right?

Alex: Yea man. Hey Brooks, did you see her ?

Taylor: Not since early this morning.

Alex: Before classes?

Taylor: No, man, during first period seen her leaving on my way to Hadley's office.

Alex: Upset?

Taylor: Seemed to be.

Alex: Figure Hadley suspended her or what?

Taylor: Don't think so, she was upset. If she was suspended she'd have just went on. But she was really upset.

Alex: Thanks, man. (Begins to run. Stops, turns back) Hey Taylor, work on our science project later.

Taylor: Right on Rodgers, around 9?

Alex: Yea, my house.

* Alex exits quickly, Taylor exits other side.

BLACKOUT

SCENE 9

- Opens on dual set. Kitchen is lit. Kirsten is sitting at table, knees tucked in her chest. Sniffling.

Knock on door. Enter Alex.

Alex: Babe, what's up? Are you alright?

Kirsten: (Stands up. Heads for Alex and bursts into tears)
Oh, Alex.

Alex: Relax. (Gives her a hug) Calm down! Tell me what's going on. Are you suspended again?

Kirsten: (Letting go of Alex, wiping her eyes) No.

Alex: What the hell is it then?

Kirsten: (walking back to table) Claymer came after me this morning.

Alex: (Confused) But I thought you went to his office?

Kirsten: I did.

Alex: Yea, and....

Kirsten: (Signaling sexual advances) He came after me.

Alex: (Embracing her) My God!

Kirsten: (Begins crying again) It was horrible. (Pause)
I trusted him.

Alex: Don't worry baby, we'll get him (Angered, shouting)
I'll get him!

(Enter Ellen)

Ellen: Hi, Alex, Kirsten (Puzzled) What's going on? Something wrong?

(Kirsten runs offstage to bedroom)

Ellen: Alex! Do you want to tell me what exactly is going on?

Alex: Mrs. Phillips, you had better sit down for what I'm going to tell you.

Ellen: Oh, my God! What is it? The school finally expelled her indefinitely.

Alex: No, Mrs. Phillips.

Ellen: Well, I don't know what else it could be.

Alex: (Escorting her to a chair) Mrs. Phillips I really wish you'd sit down. (Pause) Mrs. Phillips I'm not sure how to tell you this. (Pause- gets a little upset) but...but the direct approach seems the best way. (Pause) Mrs. Phillips the school's guidance counsellor has sexually assaulted Kirsten....

Ellen: My baby (begins crying)

Alex: Yes, and what I gathered from Kirsten before you came in, (angered) he had his hands on her upper body.

Ellen: She told you this? or....

Alex: Yes, but then you came home and she went to her room.

Ellen: I'd better go talk to her.....

(Alex grabs Ellen)

Alex: Mrs. Phillips, wait (pause) I think I should talk to her.

Ellen: She's my daughter.....

Alex: Yes, and you two haven't been getting along lately and since we're open and honest

Ellen: I guess you're right, but....

Alex: Settled? I'll talk to her.

Ellen: Alex, please find out what happened. Then you have to let me know.

Alex: Thanks for understanding, Mrs. Phillips, it's....

Ellen: (crying) Well, go, find out what happened!

* Alex exits Blackout Lights up in bedroom

(Kirsten on her bed, fetal position)
(Enter Alex)

Alex: Kirsten (sits on bed) I have got to know what happened. (Pause) Did he rape you? (long pause) Kirsten.

Kirsten: No.

Alex: I have to know.

Kirsten: No. (Pause) But he touched (cries) he touched me. (Points out breast and crotch areas) I tried (defensively) I tried to fight him off and he forced it on me.

Alex: How did you get out?

Kirsten: I eventually forced him to leave me alone. I took off, ran.

Alex: (Angered) He'll never do this again to anyone or you! I'll make damn sure of it!

* Silence

Alex: Baby (sympathetically & sincerely) Y'know I love you. You also know I'll be behind you 100%. We'll get him. (Turns on some music, lays Kirsten down) You just stay here and rest. I have to see how your mother is and I'll talk to her. I won't be long. I'll be back I promise. (Kisses her) I love you. don't worry. (Exits)

* Blackout, then kitchen lights.

Ellen is at the table as Alex enters. She is smoking a cigarette.

Alex: Mrs. Phillips, I was talking to Kirsten.

Ellen: (Puts her cigarette out) So what happened?

Alex: She was assaulted, but not to the point of rape.

Ellen: (Cried) My God, my poor baby, my baby.

* BLACKOUT. END OF SCENE

SCENE 10

- Opens in Marc LeBlanc's office. Desk has books on it. Marc is doing paperwork.

* Knock - Marc leaves his chair, goes to the door.

Marc: Hello (pause) Would you like to come in Mrs. A....

Ellen: Phillips.

Marc: Mrs. Phillips, come in. Have a seat. (Ellen sits). What can I do for you Mrs. Phillips?

Ellen: I have a case I would like you to handle.

Marc: Mrs. Phillips, as the city's only prosecutor, I have a heavy caseload. So as a rule I don't handle personal cases.

Ellen: Mr. LeBlanc, you must understand. I need the best and you're it.

Marc: Besides it may take a few months before I even....

Ellen: For heaven's sake, Mr. LeBlanc, my daughter was sexually harassed, abused, or however you lawyers put it, and by a school guidance counsellor, and you.....

Marc: Sexual assault?

Ellen: Yes.

Marc: I'll take it, Mrs. Phillips.

Ellen: (Ecstatic) You will!!!!!!

Marc: Yes, and It's because this sort of things happens a lot, and too many of the victims get scared, and they won't come forth, therefore too many assaulters walk.

Ellen: Oh, thank you, Mr. LeBlanc. I'm so glad you'll take my case.

Marc: I must warn you though, this will become very emotional and it may be hard on your daughter, and yourself. But (pause) if you're willing, so am I.

Ellen: I definitely am. He has to be stopped before some other girls have it happen to them. (Begins to leave).

(Marc escorts her to the door)

Marc: Damn right (pauses) well listen, my schedule is booked solid the rest of the week, but I would like to see you and your daughter next week sometime. If you'll leave your number I will contact you.

Ellen: No problem, my number is.....

* BLACKOUT, FOLLOW SPOT COMES ON.

Marc enters, follow spot area.

Marc: Mrs. Phillips did eave her number that day. I arranged to see her and Kirsten that following week. We, over the next few weeks and months arranged our case against ERIC Claymer. 2 1/2 months later he was brought to court.

* BLACKOUT

SCENE 11

- Opens in a courtroom. Judge's bench, jury, defense lawyer, Eric, Kirsten, Marc, Ellen, few onlookers, Alex, bailiff, court stenographer.

Judge: Defense's closing statement ended. Prosecution, closing statement please.

Marc: (Stands up) Thank you your Honour. In closing I'd just like to say, this man Eric Claymer, also known as Robert Murphy, also known as Kevin Bard, has on 3 occasions previous to this, been suspected of sexual assault. But to save the former schools across this country of public embarrassment, handed in his resignation, uprooted and left the cities. Also, to save his own scumsucking butt.

Defense Lawyer: Objection, profanity on my client.

Judge: Let the profanity be stricken. Objection upheld. Mr. LeBlanc continue.

Marc: Thank you, your Honour. (pause) But this time he has come to our city, our schools and pulled the same stunt. And the victim came forth. This girl, Kirsten Phillips, had the guts to do it. (Pause) So I ask the court this question. Do you think this man should get away with this, now that we have the evidence against him? If the court were to ask this question to me, the answer is no. So, to the jury I say, a conviction of this man would be a move to clean up society. Please when you return to the courtroom, please bring back a verdict of guilty. Thank you. (sits down).

* FREEZE ON CHARACTERS ON STAGE.

Kirsten: The courtroom - a place I became familiar with over these four months. Evidence thrown out, new evidence brought in. A lot of tears were shed. A lot of time spent in heated courtroom arguments. And it all came down to this. (Walks back, sits down).

* UNFREEZE

Judge: Has the court's jury reached a decision?

(Head Juror stands)

Head Juror: Yes, your honour, we have.

Judge: Bailiff

(Bailiff takes verdict from head juror and gives to the judge)

Judge: Will the defendant please rise. (Pause)
We the jury have decided upon a verdict of guilty on the grounds of sexual assault. Court adjourned until morning, when I will pass sentence.

* blackout

SCENE 12

- Opens in courtroom. Enter Judge.

Bailiff: All rise, Judge Honourable Terrence King presiding.

Judge: All relax. I'd just like to say a few words before I pass sentence. (Pause) Throughout this case, which was long and drawn out from the first speech to the closing arguments, there was a lot of evidence handled. I'd like to say both sides were represented very well by Mr. LeBlanc and Mr. Asten. (Pause) Would the defense and the accused please rise. Due to the evidence produced by the prosecution and a verdict of guilty, I hereby sentence you to 5 years in the area's penitentiary but because this is your first conviction, I suspend the sentence but also, I place you under closely monitored probation for those 5 years. Under your probation you'll have to report weekly to an officer of the law, you must also give 500 hours of community service not involving children. (Pause) My Claymer, please, I have given you the chance to reform yourself. Don't let me see you here again. Court adjourned.

* BLACKOUT

* FOLLOW SPOT

(Eric enters follow spot)

ERIC: I don't know! I just don't know. Why I do this, has got to be a sickness. They caught me though. Their biggest mistake was leaving me in society.
(Exits)

* BLACK OUT

END: Curtain Call