

MUD LAKE ELEMENTARY

Mud Lake, Labrador
presents

BE PREPARED

Cast

Samantha	Robin Broomfield
Joey	Edward Winters
Debbie.....	Amy Rose
Darlene.....	Janice Hope
Matthew.....	Joe Winters
Jamie.....	Jamie Rose
Roxanne.....	Glenys Best
Miss Rose.....	Tracy Rose
Mrs. Broomfield	Robin Broomfield
Mr. Best.....	Michael Best
Dr. Prescott.....	Michael Best

Teachers

Sandra Flowers
Roxanne Wells

Charlene Michelin
Lake Melville School

Pauline Pokue
Peenamun McKenzie



SCENE I

Setting - (A school dance. When scene opens students are dancing to fast music. Joey at canteen table towards back-middle stage. Chaperone sat to the left).

(Music Stops)

Samantha: (Walks to canteen table) Can I have a pop?

Joey: Sure, one dollar please.

Samantha: You making much money, Joey?

Joey: Quite a bit.

Roxanne: I love your earrings, Darlene.

Darlene: Thank you, Roxanne.

Roxanne: Where did you get them?

Darlene: At the Bay!

Roxanne: I saw some real nice acid-washed jeans at the Bay- only \$35.95.

Darlene: You getting a pair?

Roxanne: Yah, I think Mom's going to give me the money for them next week.

Darlene: Lucky you! When they get too small for you can I have them?

Roxanne: I guess so.

Matthew: Acid-washed jeans! That's all the girls talk about.

Jamie: Yah and they wear them so tight! Foolish eh?

Debbie: Hey Darlene, want to go get a Pepsi?

Darlene: Sure, I'd love a pop!

Matthew: I'll buy you one, Darlene.

Jamie: No, I'll buy you one.

Matthew: I said it first, Jamie.

Darlene: No thanks, guys! I can buy my own.

Jamie: I wish she'd let me buy her a drink. (Moves to side of the room).

Debbie: Do the guys always fight over you like that?

Darlene: Yah.

(Darlene and Debbie walk to canteen)

Samantha: Hi Darlene! Hi Debbie!

Debbie: Hi Samantha!

Darlene: Hi!

Samantha: Are you having a good time at the dance, Darlene?

Darlene: Yes, I love dancing.

Samantha: Me, too. Who are you going to waltz with?

Darlene: I don't know yet.

Debbie: I hate waltzing!

Samantha: I wish we could have more dances in Mud Lake.

Miss Rose: Now, Samantha. you should consider yourself lucky having this dance. You know there's not many people in Mud Lake and it hardly seems worth having a dance for just a few students.

Samantha: I know that Miss Rose and I am glad we finally had a dance but I still keep wishing we could have more. Well, I must go over and speak to Roxanne. See you after.

Darlene: Yah. (She and Debbie go to buy pop).

Jamie: I wish they'd hurry up and start the music. This is boring.

Matthew: Yah. I want to dance with Darlene.

Jamie: I want the chance to dance with her this time. You already had 3 or 4 dances with her.

Jamie: She likes my style, boy!

Roxanne: Hey, Jamie, come here!

Jamie: Wooo-oo-oo-oo! She wants me!

Roxanne: Doubt it!

Samantha: We just wanted to know if Mark is coming down from the Valley?

Jamie: Why, you interested or what?

Samantha: No, I'm just asking for Roxanne.

Jamie: You always do her flunky work?

Samantha: No, what do you think?

Jamie: Miss Rose - when is the music going to start again?

Miss Rose: In a minute now, Jamie. (Turns to chaperone)
You know, Mr. Best, these students don't realize how hard it is to organize a dance.

Mr. Best: No, with only 8 or 9 students it hardly seems worth the time and trouble to get the stereo set up and rent the hall.

Miss Rose: But not only that, even though we only have a dance every year or two, its hard to get chaperones.

Mr. Best: Yes, Matthew said nobody else was available and since I wasn't working tonight, I thought I'd give you a hand chaperoning.

Miss Rose: Well, you see there's only a few different families here and between people working shift work and no babysitters since all the older students are here - it can cause problems.

Mr. Best: Matthew was so glad that I wasn't working - he was really looking forward to the dance.

Miss Rose: Well, I guess I better go put another tape on.
(Moves to the side of the room. Soft music starts)

Matthew: (Rushing to Darlene) Can I have this dance?

Darlene: Alright.

Jamie: Darlene, what about me?

Matthew: Beat you to it, Jamie. Go ask one othe other girls.

Jamie: Want to dance, Samantha?

Samantha: No, thanks. I wouldn't dance with you if you were the last guy on earth.

Jamie: How about you, Roxanne?

Roxanne: Sure!

(Music fades. Dancers freeze.)

Mr. Best: They sure dance different from when I went to school.

Miss Rose: They sure do.

Mr. Best: And did you notice those guys - fighting over who would dance with Darlene?

Miss Rose: Yes, she seems to be in popular demand. She's been on the dance floor every dance.

Mr. Best: She must be a very popular girl.

Miss Rose: Oh yes - she's very popular. She's in all the school clubs, student council, computer club, school newspaper....

Mr. Best: Seems like she's into everything. Is she smart in school, too?

Miss Rose: Oh yes, she gets good marks in school even though she's sick a lot.

Mr. Best: Sick a lot?

Miss Rose: Yes, ever since she started school, she's been one of those students who always picks up colds, flu - whatever is going around. But just the same - she still gets good grades.

Mr. Best: No wonder Matthew is so impressed with her. Look at them dancing together. Well, Miss Rose, I guess it's time you and I had a dance together.

Miss Rose: Well, thank you Mr. Best.

(They move to dance floor as music plays and scene ends)

SCENE II

(In front of classroom)

Enter Jamie and Matthew at the left.

Jamie: Brr - cold coming to school this morning.

Matthew: Yah, just like winter. Think they'd cancel school on a cold morning like this.

Jamie: Yah, I wish they would have. (Sits on steps)
Did you have a good weekend?

Matthew: Not too bad, I suppose.

Jamie: Did you go up the Valley?

Matthew: No, it's getting too cold in boat. Dad says it'll soon freeze up.

Jamie: Yah, we'll probably be using ski-doo next week.

Matthew: I hope to get a ski-doo helmet for Christmas.

Jamie: I want an electric guitar. (mimes playing a guitar)

Matthew: I guess we'll have to draw names to buy Xmas presents in school again this year.

Jamie: I hate that. Last year I picked Debbie's name and everyone teased me about her - Yuck!

Matthew: I wish we could do something else instead - like have a dance or something.

Jamie: A dance - yah, that would be great - a Christmas dance.

Matthew: Do you think Miss Rose would let us have a dance?

Jamie: She did last year.

Matthew: That's right. My dad was the chaperone last year.

Jamie: I bet my mom could be the chaperone this year - she's off work.

Matthew: That would be good.

Jamie: I'll ask Miss Rose after, okay?

(Enters Debbie and Joey)

Joey: Hey, guys, what were you talking about?

Jamie: I'm going to ask Miss Rose if we can have a dance for Christmas.

Joey: I bet you just want to dance with Darlene again and I'll get stuck in the canteen again like last year.

Matthew: Dance with darlene. No way - she's sick all the time.

Jamie: She's hardly even in school anymore.

Debbie: She's only been in school 2days since September.

Jamie: Anyone sick like that must be full of germs. I'm not dancing with her.

Matthew: Dad said he heard she got a real bad sickness.

Jamie: What do you mean?

Matthew: He said she might have the kissing disease or AIDS or soemthing.

Debbie: You guys are crazy! (Walks away)

Joey: You know she don't have that.

Jamie: She might you know.

Matthew: I'm not taking any chances - Dad told me not to hang around with her anymore.

Jamie: I'm not going too close to her myself.

Matthew: My chair is right next to hers. I better go in and move it.

Joey: Don't be so foolish - she probably won't be in school today anyway.

Jamie: Joey's probably right. You guys going in anyway?

(They enter classroom)

(Darlene walks slowly to class - stops for rest on step)

Darlene: Oh! Am I ever tired!

Roxanne: Hi, Darlene.

Darlene: Oh, hi, Roxanne.

Roxanne: Boy, it's good to see you back to school.

Darlene: Yah, I've only been here once or twice all year.

Roxanne: We better go in - need some help? I'll carry your books.

Darlene: Thanks!

(They head for classroom - enters debbie and Miss Rose)

Miss Rose: Good morning, class.

Students: Good morning Miss Rose!

Miss Rose: Cou!d everyone sit down now please?

(Matthew moves his chair over by Jamie)

Miss Rose: What's going on Matthew?

Matthew: I'm sitting right next to Jamie, Miss.

Miss Rose: I can see that Matthew. But you're supposed to sit in the middle.

Matthew: But Miss Rose, I can't sit there.

Miss Rose: Move your seat over at once, Matthew.

Matthew: I can't sit next to her - I might get her germs.

Roxanne: How mean Matthew!

(Darlene turns back on and cries)

Jamie: Matthew's right Roxanne - Darlene might have the kissing disease.

Matthew: Yes Miss - I don't want to catch that.

Miss Rose: What are you two boys talking about. Don't worry Darlene, I'll straighten this out. You two boys come out here with me. We'll talk this over in private. (Looks back at class) The rest of you can go get your library books and be quiet.

(They exit to the left. Debbie and Joey go to side of room)

Roxanne: Don't cry Darlene - those two guys are just being mean. Miss Rose won't be long telling them off and everything will be back to normal again.

Darlene: Normal? Normal? Nothing's ever going to be normal again.

Roxanne: Yes, it will. It's just that you've had the flu so much lately and they're afraid you're contagious.

Darlene: Contagious? What I have is not contagious.

(She starts to walk across room then turns back)

Roxanne, I might as well tell you. I had a test last month - for AIDS.

Roxanne: AIDS! I never even thought that you might have AIDS.

Darlene: Well, I do - my test came back positive.

Roxanne: Oh no! I'm so sorry. You and your parents must be so upset. (She comforts Darlene)

Darlene: I thought you'd be afraid if I told you. Arent' you afraid to be around me?

Roxanne: No, Darlene. I'm not afraid of you - I've read a lot about AIDS and I know I can't catch it just by being around you - it takes much closer contact than that.

Darlene: Not many people know that though. I guess that's why they're all afraid of me.

Roxanne: If only they knew some of the facts, they would realize there's nothing to worry about.

Darlene: No, they've got nothing to worry about - I can't pass it on to them. If only I hadn't had that blood transfusion.

Roxanne: Oh, that's how you caught it - a blood transfusion. I was wondering.

Darlene: Yes, remember just before I started school I was in that car accident. They rushed me to the hospital for an operation and I had a blood transfusion. Then - it saved my life.

Roxanne: How ironic! - it saved your life then - but no one knew the blood was infected with AIDS!

Darlene: No, we never even thought about it and I was so sick all the time that Dr. Roberts said it was best for me to get an AIDS test. Well, at least now I know.

Roxanne: They might find a cure, you know.

Darlene: I hope so! shhhh- The others are coming back.
(Others enter)

Miss Rose: Joey!

Joey: Yes, miss?

Miss Rose: You change places with Matthew please.

Joey: Sure, miss.

Miss Rose: Now we can finally settle down to work.

Jamie: Miss Rose! Miss Rose! Can we have a Christmas dance this year?

Miss Rose: Well, I really had'nt thought of having one - but it might be possible.

Debbie: I'll make the decorations, Miss.

Matthew: I'll help with the stereo and the records.

- Jamie: I'll ask Mom if she'll be chaperone.
- Miss Rose: I'll see about getting the hall(knock interrupts her) Now who could that be?
(Walks to door) Mrs. Broomfield, how nice to see you. It's not very often we get parents coming to school Please come in.

(They enter classroom) What can I do for you ?
- Mrs. Broomfield: May I see my daughter please? Debbie, you're coming home with me. I will not be having you come to school - this classroom is VERY unhealthy.
- Mr. Best: I want my son Matthew to come home with me too. I don't want him in school with someone who has that - ah - ah that sickness. (Darlene turns back on).
- Miss Rose: I'm sure whatever Darlene has - it's not contagious. Please let them stay till the end of classes.
- Mrs. Broomfield: No Debbie can't stay here another minute. I'm shocked that you're even letting people like her come to school.
- Mr. Best: We better go now.
- Roxanne: Shhh- Darlene - don't mind them.
- Mrs. Broomfield: Roxanne, you're mother and father must be crazy letting you come here - and even touching her - next things you'll have it too.
- Roxanne: (Shaking her head) Boy, oh, boy.

(Parents exit)
- Miss rose: I think you two are making a big mistake.
- Mr. Best: No, Miss Rose - you're the one who's making the mistake - keeping her in school. I heard from a reliable source that Darlene has AIDS.
- Mrs. Broomfield: And we don't want our children catching that.
- Mr. Best: You can be sure the School Board will be hearing from us.

Left side of stage - Dr. Prescott addresses the audience -

Dr. Prescott: Hello, ladies and gentlemen - I am Dr. Prescott from the Ontario AIDS Research Centre. You may be wondering why I'm here in Mud lake tonight. Dr. Roberts invited me here to talk about some of the facts about AIDS. She told me that some of you people had the wrong information about AIDS and this has caused some problems for Darlene - a young AIDS victim here. First of all, AIDS can only be transmitted through very close contact. For example, you can only get AIDS by sharing contaminated needles, blood transfusions, sexual contacts, and through birth if the mother is infected with AIDS. But at any rate, AIDS is not an easy disease to get.

Jamie: Are you sure, Dr. Prescott, that we students can't catch it from being in the same classroom?

Dr. Prescott: No young man, you can't get AIDS from being in the same classroom as an AIDS victim. As a matter of fact, some parents from here were worried about the same thing - it seems their daughter Roxanne had been spending a lot of time with Darlene. So we arranged an AIDS test for Roxanne I have the results here - negative - though she spent a lot of time with the young AIDS victim.

Jamie: So you mean we can't catch it just by being around Darlene?

Dr. Prescott: No, no worries at all. You need really close contact before you get AIDS.

On the right side of the stage - Miss Rose and Roxanne enter - Hymn plays quietly in the background).

Miss Rose: Why don't we sit here Roxanne?

Roxanne: Oh, Miss Rose. Funerals make me so sad.

Miss Rose: Yes, it really is sad isn't it. Darlene was such a nice girl.

Roxanne: And so young Miss Rose. It isn't fair!

Miss Rose: Life is seldom fair, Roxanne.

Roxanne: But she was so young and so popular - well, at least until she got AIDS - then everyone turned against her.

- Miss Rose: It's not that they turned against her, Roxanne - they were just afraid they'd get AIDS themselves.
- (Mrs. Broomfield is walking out) Hello, Mrs. Broomfield - nice funeral wasn't it?
- Mrs. Broomfield: Yes, and so many turned out for it.
(Looks at Roxanne) Roxanne, I've been thinking about you dear. Such a shame to lose your friend.
- Roxanne: Yes, Mrs. Broomfield. I'll really miss Darlene. She was such a sweet person.
- Mrs. Broomfield: Yes, she was. and to think some of use were so mean to her when we first found out she had AIDS.
- Roxanne: That's alright, Mrs. Broomfield. Darlene told me she understood why you acted like that. You were only trying to protect your children.
- Mrs. Broomfield: Yes. You see we thought it was contagious- until we got the facts. After Dr. Roberts got Dr. Prescott down to Mud Lake to talk about AIDS - well we all realized how silly we were.
- Miss Rose: Not silly - I guess - just over cautious.
- Mrs. Broomfield: Well, once Dr. Prescott explained the ways you catch AIDS - I knew I had nothing to worry about and I let Debbie go visit Darlene all the time.
- Miss Rose: That must have been a real comfort to Darlene, having her classmates around her those last few days.
- Roxanne: Yes and wasn't it nice having our Christmas party at Darlene's house.
- Mrs. Broomfield: Yes. Darlene loved the Christmas cake I made.
- Miss Rose: And what a lovely idea. Matthew came up with - instead of picking names for Christmas presents the students put all their money together to buy Darlene a present.
- Mrs. Broomfield: It was such a beautiful present - curtains and a matching bedspread. I'm sure Darlene loved it.
- Roxanne: Oh, she did, Mrs. Broomfield. Blue was her favourite colour.
- Mrs. Broomfield: My only regret is that we didn't know more about AIDS right from the beginning. I mean I heard them talking about AIDS on TV but I never listened I didn't think it really had any bearing on us people from Mud Lake - it seemed so far from us.

Miss Rose: That's true. we thought because we were such a small community no one from our town could get AIDS.

Roxanne: And then when Darlene got AIDS - I guess we weren't really prepared for it.

Mrs. Broomfield: That's why we all panicked and Darlene had such a hard time - until everyone got the facts straight.

Miss RoseL Well, I hope that others will learn from our mistakes - that they'll take the time to find out about AIDS before it strikes.

ROxanne: Won't you take the time to learn about AIDS today!