

ST. LEWIS SCHOOL
St. Lewis, Labrador

presents

WHO WILL STOP THE RAIN?

CAST

Neil Chubbs.....	Grandpa, Tom
Irene Poole.....	Alisa, Dr. Blantz
ERICA Mangrove.....	Tammy, Stern
Dawn Mangrove.....	Callahan
Darlene Curl.....	Grandma, Hospital attendant

TEACHERS

Dave Hodder
 Kelly Holley
 Walter Pittman

The play is about the disruption of normal life in a city in the year 1998. A hydro plant in the city has created a hazardous pollution problem whereby a rare sea mineral has developed and has been released into the atmosphere, where it falls as rain. The rain has fatal effects on things eaten by humans and in this story Tom's daughter Tammy is affected and we watch as the family struggles in emotional turmoil.

Pauline Pokue
 Peenamw
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LABRADOR ARTS FESTIVAL
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WHO WILL STOP THE RAIN?Scene One

Setting - Home of a middle class family. Tom is sitting at the table.

Alisa: (entering, placing food on the table) Good morning.

Tom: Oh, good morning, what are you doing up so early?

Alisa: I have a lot of things to do today. I have to take Tammy to the dentist to get her braces and then Mom is going to take her out to the farm.

Tammy: (enters sleepily, carrying her favorite doll) I don't want to get braces Daddy, people will call me wire mouth. (Slumps in chair at the kitchen table).

Tom: But if you don't, the boys will think you're funny.

Tammy: Well, that's okay, Daddy. I don't like boys anyway, except for you and Poppy.

Tom: (Gives Tammy a little poke in the side) Well, you just wait a couple of years.

Tammy: Daddy, don't. (Pushing hand away).

Alisa: You don't have to wear them for long.

(Family begins to eat breakfast)

Tammy: Can I have some bacon? (Pause) (Tammy talks to herself) (Tom and Alisa occupy themselves with various papers) Daddy, will I be able to eat bacon and gummy bears when I get my braces?

Tom: (Laughing and tossing her hair) Yes, tammy. Now go and get dressed.

(Tammy exits talking to her doll)

Alisa: At least she'll be getting away for the first couple of days that she has her braces. Wasn't that nice of Mom to offer to take her?

Tom:

Alisa: Yes, Mum'll have her spoiled rotten.

(Grandma enters and immediately starts to clear the table).

Grandma: Oh my, oh my, Alisa. Look at the time and you don't even have the dishes off the table yet.

(Grandma runs out of the room and Tom shakes his head).

Tom: That was my cue to get to work. (Tom starts to get up and Grandma runs in and tries to give Tom a lunch. Tom eventually takes it and Grandma exits).

Alisa: Oh Tom, by the way, has the company been able to do anything about the pollution problem?

Tom: Well, we're sitting on it right now. We don't know exactly how bad it is, but there's a meeting this morning with Dr. Blantz, an expert in air and land pollution and the human anatomy.

Alisa: I hope everything goes well.

(Tom kisses his wife and leaves for work).

Scene Two

(Executive Board Room)- Stern is pacing nervously. Callahan is casually reading a paper, Blantz is working at a desk).

Tom: (Enters and begins to set up for the meeting. He glances up). What's wrong?

Stern: (Stops pacing) I'm afraid we've had news. Dr. Blantz has her results back from the air tests.

Tom: Well, what is it?

Dr. Blantz: Why don't we all sit down.

(Everyone sits around the office table. Blantz stands and starts putting up graphs.)

Dr. Blantz: As you all know, I've been taking tests for the last six months on the pollution problem associated with the electrical plant. The results I came up with yesterday are rather disturbing.

Callahan: There's nothing wrong with this plant. At least, no more than any other.

Dr. Blantz: On the contrary, Mr. Callahan, there's very much wrong with this plant. Something that can no longer be ignored.

Alright, but before I start, I must be certain that it goes no farther than this. If the media gets a hold of it, it will cause nation wide panic.

Your plant uses the sea water to make electricity for this entire city. The pollution is coming from a very raw mineral in the sea, called deformite. It is extremely explosive and lethally poisonous.

This mineral develops and grows when the iron oxide from the pipes are in constant contact with a very rare sea plant called deflora. That's why we're only experiencing the problem now. It's taken a while for it to grow. Eleven years ago, in 1987, when this plant was set up, the pipes came in contact with this plant and still is. Now there is a very large deposit of this deformite. It's starting to come up through the pipes and out into the atmosphere. This deformite is increasing at a rate of about three cubic centimeters every month.

Tom: What happens to this deformite when it gets into the atmosphere?

Blantz: All hell breaks loose. The mineral rises in gas form with the water vapor, condenses and then falls back to the earth. It doesn't directly affect the people, plants or animals by falling on them, however it takes its effect when people eat fruit, vegetables or even animals that the rain has fallen on.

Stern: What happens when it is eaten by humans?

Blantz: There is no nice way to put this so I'll just say it. It decomposes the body's organs, literally causing them to rot away.

Tom: My God, are you sure about this?

Blantz: Yes, 99% sure. I had help from two other scientists. We did tests on rabbits and rats.

Callahan: So then you're not 100% sure? You have no real proof. You only tested it on animals, the same thing may not necessarily happen to humans right?

Blantz: Wrong, Callahan. There is a 99% chance that the same effects will occur to the human body.

Tom: One percent isn't much to base the lives of millions of people on.

Callahan: Well, until I'm 100% sure, this plant will not be closed.

Stern: You're just afraid you'll lose some money.

Callahan: Not some money, Stern. Billions of dollars; billions.

Blantz: Callahan, if you don't have this place shut down in one week, I'll have every government agency in this country on your back.

Callahan: I thought loyalty was a strong policy with you, Blantz?

(A tension argument erupts)

Stern: (Standing and banging her hand on the table). People please. You're arguing is getting us nowhere. Why don't we adjourn this meeting until Friday, give all of this a chance to sink in.

Tom: But tha's three more days. That stuff may be falling back to the earth by then.

Blantz: I don't think it will happen that soon, Tom. It'll probably take two or more weeks. However, if the plant isn't shut down it's really going to build up.

Tom: So Friday is safe then?

Blantz: Yes, I believe so.

SCENE THREE

Grandma's house. Grandma is busy setting the table. She looks at her watch and then goes to the door.

Grandma: Henry, Tammy, get down from that tree and come in here to supper.

Tammy: (In the distance). In a minute Grandma. We're just going to pick one more apple.

Grandma: Well, hurry up. It's starting to rain harder, you'll catch your death of cold.

Grandpa comes in carrying Tammy piggyback style.

Grandma: (Wagging her finger). You'd better go get out of those wet clothes Tammy. You too, Henry.

Grandma and Tammy leave. Henry sits down at the table and starts to remove his hat.

Henry: In a minute. I want a cup of tea first.

Grandma re-enters, carrying tea.

Grandma: Oh my, Oh my Henry, always leavin' your wet clothes around.....worse than a kid you are.... and you were'nt eatin' them old apples again were you? You knows what they does to your stomach.

Henry: No, I was just helping Tammy pick some.

Tammy re-enters dry. She goes over to Grandpa.

Tammy: Grandpa, can we go picking more apples tommorrow?

Henry: We'll see how the rain holds out. It looks like it's going to get worse though. Right now why don't you eat a good hot meal?

Tammy: My stomach hurts, I don't want anything right now.

Grandma: That's from all those apples you ate. I hope you learned your lesson. I'll get the Pepto Bismol. That's your fault, Henry.....Tammy.....

SCENE FOUR

Executive Board Room.

Stern, Tom and Callahan are in the room. Blantz enters.

Blantz: Hello, Tom. Well, we might as well get started.

Tom: Do you have any new information?

Blantz: Just what I told you before. It'll get worse as long as the plant is open. I've talked to a few federal agencies. They're coming in Monday to inspect and close it down.

Tom: (Jumps up and starts to pace) Well, why on earth don't they come in today? By Monday it may be too late.

Blantz: They would but there's a severe storm there. Thunder, lightning, heavy rains, winds, the works. There have been a few accidents, roads are closed now.

Tom: What happens if the storm reaches here? Won't that stuff fall down?

Blantz: I don't know. there's no sure way of telling.

Tom: Is the storm heading this way?

Blantz: Yes. But I don't know if that stuff will take effect yet. That's the worst part. Not knowing.

Callahan: People, please. We're all grown ups, let's not get paranoid.

Tom: We have to do something. We can't just sit here.

Stern enters and sits down.

Blantz: Tom, there's nothing we can do. The only way for that stuff to be taken out of the atmosphere is by the rain. All we can do is pray that the rain doesn't have the same effect on us humans as it does the animals.

Tom: What about you, Stern? What do you think?

Stern: When I think of the years of loyalty I've given you Callahan.....and now to think that I've had some part in this murderous scheme....

Callahan: Get a hold of yourself Stern. There's nothing wrong with this plant. Blantz doesn't know what she's tlaking about.

Phone rings. Stern answers it.

Stern: It's for you Blantz.

Blantz: Hello.....my God.....Alright. I'll come as soon as I can.
That was Dr. Caine from the Ridgewood Hospital. They have a crisis. Since the storm, they've had five cases of people coming in looking.....dead. They are bleeding internally and their main organs are working improperly. Dr. Elms can't get back because of the storm. They were ordered to contact me for help.

Tom: What do we do now?

Blantz: Call the media immediately. (Callahan interrupts)
Tell them it's a national emergency. Have them put bulletins on the radio, TV, newspapers, everything. Tell the public to stay indoors and not to eat anything that the rain has fallen on.

Callahan: (Jumping up) If you do that every journalist in the city will be here.

Stern: (Jumps up) So what, Callahan. I don't believe you. Thousands of people could be killed. Doesn't that bug your conscience?

Callahan: Oh, for God's sake, Stern. This is the 1990's, who can afford to have a conscience anymore? This country is overpopulated anyway. Maybe a good wipe out is just what we need.

Blantz: I can't believe I'm hearing this.

The phone rings again. Stern answers it.

Stern: Hello? Yeah. Tom, it's Alisa.

Tom: Yes? Alisa, Alisa. Calm down. Now, what's the matter? What's wrong with my daughter?
(He listens. With each second his face turns pale, and he looks horrified) Oh, God. Which hospital? Alright now listen. I'm on my way. In the meantime, don't go outside and don't eat anything okay?

He hangs up the phone and hurries for his coat.

Dr. Blantz: What's wrong?

Tom: It's Tammy....She was picking apples in the rain. She's awfully sick....the doctors don't think she'll make it.

Callahan: Oh, come on Tom. Only Snow White eats poison apples.

Tom hurries across the room and pins Callahan. He raises his fists.

Tom: I ought to kill you right now, decompose your organs myself. But that would be too easy. No, I want to see you rot in jail.

Callahan: (choking) Alright, I'll shut it down.

Tom: Oh, no you won't. No, I'll have that pleasure. I want to destroy this monster that has destroyed my life. But while I'm gone, Callahan, I don't want you going anywhere.

Tom brings his fist up high and punches Callahan out cold. Tom heads for the door.

SCENE FIVE

Hospital Waiting room

Tom and Alisa sit in the chair. Grandma runs in. Alisa rushes into her arms. Both cry for a little while. Tom goes over and puts his arms around them both.

Grandma: Alisa, I'm truly sorry. I was so scared. I didn't know what happened or what to do. She was so happy one minute and then so sick the next. I feel so guilty.

Tom: You have nothing to feel guilty about. You did right by bringing her here. Where are all the doctors, can't they come and tell us something?

Grandma: They're in with Tammy, they're operating.

Alisa: My god. What happened to her? What happened to my daughter?

Grandma: She and her Grandfather thought it would be fun to pick apples in the rain. Tammy ate one and about half an hour later, she got sick, horribly sick.

Alisa: There were chemicals in the rain. Mom, its something I don't want to go into now.

Grandma: I think I'm going to go get some coffee, maybe a little rest. Let me know the minute you hear anything.

Tom: Alright. (Alisa hugs her mother and she leaves. Tom puts his arms around Alisa's shoulders and they go to the chairs and sit down. He takes her hand and stares at the ceiling again).

Alisa: What are you staring at?

Tom: Nothing. Just staring back at time. Trying to somehow block out the future.

(She nods her understanding. Both go back to staring.)

Alisa: I'd just like to fall asleep. To go to a world of fantasy where all reality is gone.

Tom squeezes her hand and brings it closer to him. Both go back to staring and fall asleep. Lights go up and down again. Dr. Smith enters and puts his hand on Tom's shoulders.

Doctor: Tom!

Tom wakes up - looks at the Doctor.

Tom: Tammy....Tammy.....

Alisa wakes up.

Alisa: What is it?

Doctor: I'm sorry. There was nothing I could do. She died a few minutes ago. Her main arteries collapsed. I tried Tom. damn it, I tired.

Tom: (Starts to sob) No. No.

Alisa comes over and puts her arms around him. Tom slowly puts his arms around her. She cries.