

J.C. ERHARDT MEMORIAL, MAKKOVIK

presents

CHAMELEON

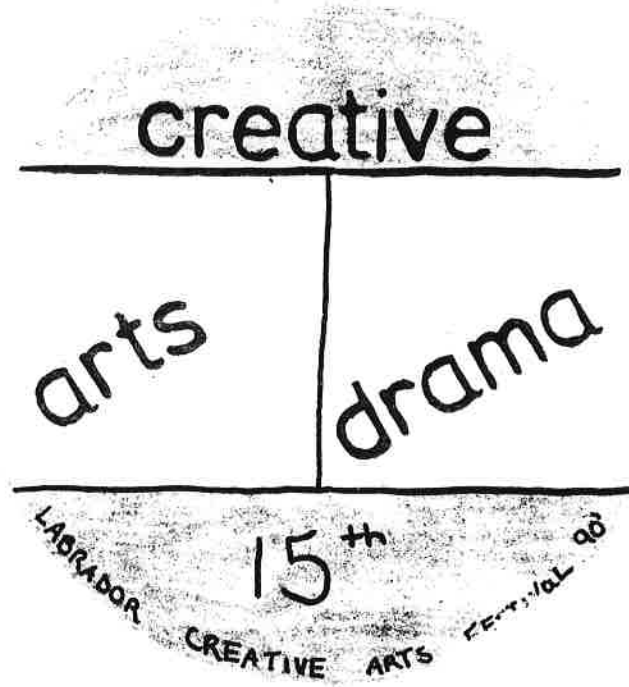
Cast

Ashley	Jody Strangemore
Eli	Rex Voisey
Judy	Bethann Winters
Jessica	Kelly Andersen
Kate	Angie Chaulk
Elmer Bubb	Kirk Andersen
Herbert	Rory McNeil
Brad	Travis Dyson

Teacher - Barbara Mitchell

Dana Pittman
Henry Gordon

Kristen Ryan
Peacock Elementary



CHAMELEON

by J.C. Erhardt Memorial School

Makkovik, Labrador

CAST

Eli - Before: - not very attentive, quiet
- very sensitive
- seems like he doesn't care about anything

Becomes: - a doctor who is running for Federal Politics
- never forgets his roots

Brad Morgan - Before: - superstud, very athletic
- gorgeous

Becomes: - paraplegic from a drunk/driving car
accident which he caused
- advocate for the disabled

Almer Bubb - Before: - class clown
Becomes: - priest

Judy Simpson - Before: - very intelligent
- spinster-like (brown hair in a bun,
glasses, dark, drab clothes)
- voted most likely to achieve success

Becomes: - kleptomaniac

Herbert Frye - Before: - puny guy, weak, image of a nerd

Becomes: - wrestler

Jessica - Before: - bragger
- has high expectations for herself, low expect-
ations for everybody else
- thinks nobody is as good as she is

Becomes: - a bum

Kate - Before: - shy, sensitive

Becomes: - famous singer

Ashley - Before: - beautiful, expected to become a major star

Becomes: - a mother and a housewife
- a gossip
- has to know everything

Chrissy - One person who we don't see during the entire play, but she is mentioned.

- Before: - a cheerleader, very popular
- has a very bad reputation

- She dies as the result of AIDS from a blood transfusion

Act 1 - Lights are out except one spotlight on Ashley, who is talking to her child about homework. You cannot see the child.

Ashley: You want what? A word meaning to alter...ah...try change...(spells word)...C H A N G E. I wonder, after 25 years have any of my old classmates changed? I doubt it. Sure, I haven't changed! Have I? (Puts her finger on her cheek with a wondering expression.)

Flashback to classroom scene. CLASSROOM: 1965. Ashley is wandering around the classroom as if she is a ghost. Nobody can see her. This is an image in her mind. She stops at each desk and gives a brief description of each person. When she does, each person demonstrates a part of their personality.

Ashley: (In a conversational voice) Let's start with Judy Simpson. Talk about geek! Her knee socks up to her waist and her skirt down to the floor. She always has her face stuck in a book. I bet she'll become a scientist. I wonder what she's reading, anyway.

Judy: Ah, here it is, Chameleon - a small lizard constantly changing color to blend with it's environment or it may change color as a result of a fight. Interesting! (She gets up and leaves, not bothering to take the book out of her face.)

Ashley: What's that noise? Sounds like an auction.

Jessica: Anyway, I got a new purse. It's genuine plastic, all the way from Postville. (Talks on as she leaves.)

Ashley: I pity the man who marries her. She thinks she's going to be the first lady Prime Minister in Canada. Well, well, well, well, look who we have here, Miss Sensitivity. Kate, I don't think I've ever heard her speak.

Kate: (Reading a book, mumbling to herself, gets up and leaves.)

Ashley: Look over there, Brad Morgan. (Whistle, whistle) What a hunk.

Brad: (Lifting weights at his desk.) 48, 49 grunt, 50. Ahh. Wow, I'm good and gorgeous, (looks in a mirror) and strong (flexes his muscles)...Oh, stop it Brad. (Gets up to walk out, very cool like.)

Ashley: Isn't he tough (flicking her hair). He'll play football for the major leagues yet! (Laughter) That laughter can only mean one thing...Almer Bubb!

Almer: (Singing) Tip me over and pour me out...(falls off desk)

Ashley: (Laughing) Oh, Almer, I bet you're doing a stand up comedy routine at that Yuk Yuk Club. Oh, look at Eli sitting here all alone. He's the anti-social type, you know. Oh, Eli, what ever will become of you! Not much, probably.

Eli: Leave me alone. Stay out of my way. (Leaves in a huff.)

Ashley: See what I mean. Oh look over there, El Nerdo, Herbert Frye.

Herbert: (Attempting to leave, losing books, struggling to collect them - causing much confusion). Oh, these books are heavy, I wish I had some muscles.

Ashley: Poor Herbert, not exactly every girl's dream man. This empty desk belongs to Chrissy McCullin. She is absent due to the flu, but maybe it's from having too many boyfriends. And this other desk belongs to me. Ashley Stevenson. I, too, have the flu. Gee, maybe I should have been a poet. I was voted most likely to become a star. Well, I didn't become a star, but everybody around this town knows who I am. They come to me when they want to hear the latest news. Isn't that being a star? Well, I wonder if anybody has changed? I certainly hope so! Goodness, gotta run, the reunion starts in half an hour.

Act 2 - Beginning of Reunion. Lights go down as people change costumes and classroom tape of a car motor plays. Curtain draws back and reveals a reunion scene. Judy is already there when Ashley walks in.

Ashley: Judy, Judy, is that you?

Judy: (Looks up, makes actions of hiding something.) Who wants to know?

Ashley: It's me, Ashley. My goodness, you haven't changed!

Judy: No, no. I haven't changed at all. Oh look, isn't that Eli?

(Ashley turns around and Judy takes Ashley's scarf.)

Ashley: Imagine, knowing a federal politician!

Eli: Well, I'm not a federal politician yet.

Ashley: Well, you're going to be very soon, because I'm going to vote for you.

Eli: Thanks! Hello, Judy.

Judy: Hello, Eli.

Ashley: Judy, did you know that Eli is running for federal politics and that he's a well know psychiatrist?

Judy: My! Haven't you come far from a quiet, shy person who wouldn't talk to anybody.

(Enter Almer)

Almer: Hello, everybody! (All people show astonishment.)

Everybody: Almer Bubb?!?

Almer: It's Reverend Bubb now.

Judy: Reverend! Never in a million years would I think I'd see you become a man of the cloth.

Almer: We all have our crosses to bear.

(Enter Brad in a wheelchair.)

Brad: Hello, everybody!

Ashley: Brad, the athletic!?! What happened to you?

Eli: How's the fundraising for the Special Olympics coming along? If you every need help, just call.

Brad: Thanks, Eli.

Ashley: Brad? Fundraising? Well, quite a bit has changed.

Brad: I was involved in a drinking and driving car accident. I was paralyzed from the waist down. The other driver was killed.

Judy: I wish they'd get all of those drunks off the road. They're all animals anyway. (She slips something into her purse.)

Eli: Judy, Brad was the drunk driver, and he is off the road for good. He did 5 years in jail for it. (Silence fills the room.)

(In walks Herbert.)

Almer: Oh, look, there's Herbert.

Brad: Isn't he a wrestler now?

Herbert: Hey, Dudes!

Judy: My! You're big, strong, and handsome!

Herbert: Yeah, this place is pretty nice. (Judy looks confused.)

Ashley: How is the wrestling life, Herbert? My son simply adores you. Aren't you Mr. Muscles? Can I have your autograph? (Gives him a pen and a piece of paper.)

Herbert: What am I supposed to do with this?

(Ashley drops the pen and paper, she looks confused. Judy picks them up and puts them in her purse.)

Ashley: Brad, where's Chrissy? Couldn't find anybody to bring her to the reunion, or did she have too many to choose from?

Almer: Chrissy died from AIDS.

Ashley: Well, that figures.

Brad: Ashley, she contracted AIDS from a blood transfusion.
(Ashley looks taken aback.)

Ashley: Oh, I...I'm sorry. I didn't know. (Silence.)

(Enter a bum.)

Judy: I'm sorry mam, but this is a private party. You need an invitation.

Jessica: Yeah, yeah. Isn't this the reunion of the class of '65?

Herbert: Yeah, I know that much at least. (Looks really proud of himself.) Hey, aren't you Jessica?

Jessica: Yeah.

Everybody: Jessica???

Jessica: Yeah, haven't you ever seen a homeless before?

Almer: My child, have something to eat.

Judy: My goodness, Jessica, what happened? I thought you became a prime minister or something.

Jessica: Eli can have that job. Well, Reverend Bubb, where's the grub? (They go over to the table for food.) (Enter Kate.)

Brad: Look, isn't that Kate? She's a famous singer now. Kate Klynn. Hello, Kate.

Kate: Hello, Brad. Sorry about your accident.

Ashley: We never thought we'd see you back here.

Kate: I wouldn't miss this for the world.

Eli: How about sing a song for us, Kate.

Everybody: Yeah!

(Eli gives her a microphone and starts the music. Everybody is shocked as she sings.)

Judy: Well, who would ever have thought she'd have enough guts to sing.

Brad: Isn't she wonderful.

Herbert: Beautiful. (After the song is over everybody claps. They get refreshments and chat.)

Judy: My, look at the time. I have to leave.

(Reunion is coming to an end. People getting ready to leave. Eli goes over to Judy and assists her with her coat.)

Eli: I've noticed Judy, that you like other people's things.

Judy: What are you talking about?

Eli: Admit it, you're a kleptomaniac and you need help. I can give you that help.

Judy: I don't have a problem.

(He opens her purse and starts pulling out scarves, cups, a bottle of punch, etc.)

Eli: Explain these.

Judy: Okay, I do need help.

Eli: (Eli gives her his card.) Please make an appointment.

(They exit together. Jessica is strolling out and meets Almer.)

Jessica: Well, I guess it's Reverend Bubb now. Reverend, I need help.

Almer: The Lord helps those who help themselves.

Jessica: Reverend, I don't have anything to help myself with.

Almer: Have faith my child, the Lord will provide. Do you need a place to stay?

Jessica: Yes, Reverend. The Town Council took away my house.

Almer: Really? How can they do that?

Jessica: Because my cardboard box was right in the middle of the street. The wind blew it there.

Almer: My goodness child. Come with me to our shelter, where you'll get warm clothes and warm food.

(Brad and Kate are ready to leave. Kate offers to help Brad.)

Kate: Would you like me to help you?

Brad: No thanks. I've managed like this for 10 years. It's very easy.

Kate: I admire you're strength and will.

Brad: Well, to tell you the truth, it does get tiring, and I wouldn't mind a push.

(They exit together.)

(Poor Herbert, who has been confused all evening.)

Herbert: Where's everybody gone? Nobody leaves before I make my exit.

Ashley: Herbert, I think you've had one too many knocks on the head.

Herbert: Yeah, I think I will buy the new car. Thanks for the advice.

(Ashley shakes her head in pity as Herbert leaves.)

Ashley: (Getting ready to leave.) Well, this certainly is a reunion to remember how much those people have changed. I wonder, did I change? Nah! (Exits.)

Four months later.

Ashley: (On the phone.) Yeah...yeah...yeah...Well, that reunion was four months ago. Yeah, that's right. Judy is no longer a kleptomaniac. She's the wife of a federal politician. That's right...Eli. Who? Well you won't believe this, but Jessica became a Reverend. Yes..imagine Jessica a Reverend.

Kate just cut a new album called "Chameleon". One song on it talks about us.

Brad...Well, the last time I heard of him he was going to wheelchair across Iraq to raise money for the paraplegic children in the Middle East.

Yes, hey...Poor Herbert...He's in an institution. He thinks he's a sheep. But they say he's a happy sheep.

Yes, girl, it's unbelievable, isn't it? I wonder what we'll be like 25 years from now. (Laughs.)

Goodbye. (Hangs up phone and the lights go down.)