

JENS HAVEN MEMORIAL, NAIN

presents

INUVIA VIET NAINIMI

Cast

Lisa.....Trudy Dicker  
Sheila's Mother.....Donna Webb  
Nympa .....Regina Obed

Sheila Ford  
Liz Angnatok  
Allan Angnatok  
Susan Saksagiak  
Rex Holwell  
Julius Barbour

Teacher Advisor

Cheryl Hiscock

Jamie Rose  
Mud Lake



INUVIA VIET NAINIMI

By Jens Haven Memorial School  
Nain, Labrador

CHARACTERS:

Lisa - Trudy Dicker  
Sheila's Mother - Donna Webb  
Nympha - Regina Obed  
Sheila Förd  
Liz Angnatok  
Allan Angnatok  
Susan Saksagiak  
Rex Holwell  
Julius Barbour

SCENE 1:

At school, the bell rings, a group of friends meet.

SUSAN: Hi, what are you all doing tonight?

LIZ: You all going to Lisa's party or wha?

JULIUS: There a party or what, I didn't know ... what time?

REGINA: I heard it's 8:30 and everyones gonna be there.

LIZ: Yeah, Lisa's parents are gone for the weekend so its party time!

REX: Did anyone ask the new girl?

SUSAN: You should ask her.

LIZ: Yeah she seems nice.

JULIUS: I don't think she's the type that will go to a party.

REX: Won't know until we ask.

REGINA: Go and ask her then you knob.

EVERYONE: So I'll see you tonight, see you.

(Rex starts to walk over to Sheila. He turns back a few times but finally gets the courage to go up to her.)

REX: UH Hi, I'm Rex and you're Sheila, right?

SHEILA: Yeah, Hi Rex.

REX: So how do you like it here in Nain so far?

SHEILA: Well, I don't know anyone yet but the place is really nice. I'm really enjoying it here so far.

REX: Well, there's a Christmas party going on tonight and I'm wondering if you'd like to go.

SHEILA: Sure. I mean who's giving the party?

REX: Lisa. She lives next door to the thrift shop. You know where that is?

SHEILA: Yeah I think so.

REX: So it's a date?

SHEILA: I'll have to ask my mom first but I'm sure I'll be able to go.

REX: The party starts 8:30 so I'll pick you up at 8:15, okay.

SHEILA: Fine, see you then.

(Rex walks away but returns after taking a few paces.)

REX: By the way, where do you live?

SHEILA: I live right across from the Radio Station, the white house.

REX: Oh, I know where it is now. So I'll see you tonight.

(Sheila enters her. Her mother is sitting down drinking a cup of coffee.)

SHEILA: Guess what, mom? This guy Rex invited me to go to a Christmas party with him, tonight.

MOTHER: Where is he from? I don't want you going if he's one of the Eskimo boys from around here. Well, is he from outside?

SHEILA: No I don't think so, but he seems really nice and ...

MOTHER: Look, I told you you're not going to start hanging around with the crowd from around here!

SHEILA: Why not, Mom! We're here around three more months, yet. What do you expect me to do! Stay home and watch the time pass away.

MOTHER: Yes, if that's what it takes to keep you away from those kind of people.

SHEILA: What kind of people? They're no different than we are you know.

MOTHER: Yes, they are! If you do start hanging around with those people, before you know it, they'll have you into drugs, sniffing and drinking.

SHEILA: Mom, you know that isn't true!

MOTHER: I know it's true. I heard a lot of stories about this place and the people here.

SHEILA: Oh, come on! Don't tell me you believed everything you heard about Nain. Did it ever occur to you people sometimes over exaggerate or start rumors?

MOTHER: Yes, it did but I'm sure everything I heard about the people around here is true.

SHEILA: Mom, I would understand if you didn't want me to hang around with them but... only if you got to know them first. You can't judge them on what you've heard about them. You've got to give them a chance.

MOTHER: If I give them a chance! I know I'd regret it because I already know all I need toknow about them.

SHEILA: Well, think as you wish, but I'm going to get to know these people and give them a chance to show me how nice they really are. Which means I'm going to that party tonight, whether you want me to or not.

MOTHER: No, you are not!

SHEILA: Yes, I am!

MOTHER: I knew coming to Nain was a bad idea. It's changed you already.

SHEILA: How has it changed me?

MOTHER: Well, you're starting to talk back to me a lot more and trying to disobey me.

SHEILA: It's not Nain that's changing me. It's you and your way of thinking about the place, not to mention the people. You're unbelievable!

MOTHER: You listen to me! All that I'm trying to do is protect you! That's my job. I'm your mother!

SHEILA: Protect me from what?! The horrible and wicked people of Nain. I don't care what you say, mom. I'm going to that party and don't even try to stop me.

(Sheila walks off stage.)

#### PARTY SCENE:

(Music is playing. Sheila, Rex, Lisa, Julius, and Allan are sitting around. Sheila and Rex get up for a dance.)

JULIUS: So when are the other five coming?

LISA: I doubt if anymore people will turn up. Ten of them called and said they can't make it.

ALLEN: I know the reason for that. Charles Penn is throwing a party also tonight. He got alcohol to drink. (pause) People these days are so stunned. They don't realize they could have fun without drinking alcohol.

(Sheila and Rex stop dancing and go in a corner to talk.)

JULIUS: Did Rex and Susan break-up or something? He and Sheila seem to be getting pretty close.

LISA: Yup, they broke-up a few days ago, yet, but I heard Susan wants him back.

(Liz enters. She's under the influence of alcohol and is pretty drunk.)

JULIUS: Oh, oh! Here come trouble!

(Susan enters, drunk also.)

JULIUS: (gulp) Make it double trouble!

LIZ: (making fun of Lisa's party) OOO, great party, Lisa!  
Would you give me some pointers on how to throw a party as  
good as this? (laughs)

LISA: Okay, Rule #1 - No drinking alcohol!!

SUSAN: No drinking? So what are you supposed to drink ... Kool-  
Aid? I mean what's a party without booze?

LIZ: Quit wasting your breath on these people. They're a bunch  
of suks!

(Susan notices Rex and who he is with.)

SUSAN: Hey, Liz! Look who's here!

LIZ: Who?

SUSAN: My ex and the new girl in town. Let's go and see what  
they're up to.

(Susan and Liz walk over to Sheila and Rex. Everyone continues  
to talk.)

SUSAN: Hey, Rex, new girlfriend already?

REX: Come off it, Susan! Don't you think you should go home  
before you pass out?

SHEILA: If you need some help, I'll be glad to walk you home.

LIZ: You hear that, Susan? She don't think you could take care  
of yourself. She wants to be friends with you after she  
stole your boyfriend.

SHEILA: He's not my boyfriend! We're just friends!

SUSAN: You make me sick!!

(Susan pushes Sheila around and tries to pick a fight with her.)

SHEILA: I don't want to fight with you. I said we're only  
friends.

SUSAN: (bawling) Don't give me that crap. I'm not stunned, you  
know. How would you feel if a new girl came into your  
town and stole your boyfriend?

SHEILA: Please listen to me.

SUSAN: (still bawling) Come on, let's fight! You're not scared to take me on are you?

(Everyone runs over. Julius tries to calm Susan down and Liz gets angry at Julius.)

LIZ: Stay out of this, shortie!

JULIUS: Come on. Just calm down.

(Liz pushes Julius, Rex goes over to Susan.)

REX: What I do now is my business, not yours, so get out! And I'd be glad if you stay out of my life, too.

(Rex takes Sheila's hand and walks out.)

Lights fade out.

#### SUSAN'S SUICIDE ATTEMPT SCENE:

Dim lights - Liz and Susan are walking around town, Susan is crying.

LIZ: Are you alright? Forget about Rex. He's not worth it!

SUSAN: I can't! I mean I miss him so much. I want him back!

LIZ: Come on, Susan, it can't be that bad. Rex is a knob! You deserve someone better.

SUSAN: Look! If you don't want to hear about my problems, just leave me alone!

LIZ: Susan!

SUSAN: Go! Just leave me alone! Get outta my sight!

LIZ: OK! I know when I'm not wanted!

(Liz walks away. Susan gets on the ground and starts to cry harder.)

SUSAN: Oh, Rex, you'll be sorry!

(She takes a reazor blade from her purse.)

Lights dim - Susan fall to the ground.



SCENE 4:

Sheila and Rex are walking home.

REX: So, how did you like the party?

SHEILA: It was excellent. I had a great time. Most of the people I met seemed so friendly.

REX: Yeah. The majority of the people here are nice but there are a few who are different.

SHEILA: I noticed there were a few people drinking at the party. Do you drink, if you don't mind me asking?

REX: No, I don't mind at all. No, I don't drink. Do you?

SHEILA: No, I tried it once but I didn't like it much. I got really sick.

REX: It seems you went through the same experience as I did.

SHEILA: You drank before? You don't seem like the type of person who drinks.

REX: Well, I did once and never again.

SHEILA: That's one thing we have in common so far. Well, here's my house. Thank-you for inviting me to the party. I had a great time.

REX: Will we see each other again? Sometime soon? I mean, maybe we can do something next weekend if you want.

SHEILA: Sure, I'd like that. So, I'll see you next weekend.

REX: Yup, I'll give you a call.

(They stand facing each other for a minute. Then, Sheila turns around.)

SHEILA: Well, I guess I should be going.

REX: Se-you.

SHEILA: See-you.

COMING HOME AFTER THE PARTY SCENE:

MOTHER: (angrily) What did you do at the party?

SHEILA: Nothing much. I had a good time there, though, and would you believe I met a lot of nice people.

MOTHER: Was there drinking or sniffing going on?

SHEILA: No, of course not! I told you I had a good time at the party. That don't mean there was any bad things going on.

MOTHER: I didn't say that. I just asked a simple question. All I wanted was a simple answer. (pause) How many people were at this party anyway?

SHEILA: There was about six people. Around ten couldn't make it.

MOTHER: What can you do with only six people?

SHEILA: Don't ask.

MOTHER: Why not? What are you hiding from me?

SHEILA: Nothing!

MOTHER: So what did you guys do?

SHEILA: We danced! We talked! Anything else you'd like to know?

MOTHER: Don't talk to me in that tone of voice young lady or else ...

SHEILA: Or else what, Mom? You'll ground me? Keep me from seeing my friends?

MOTHER: I had just about enough from you. And if keeping you away from you so called friends will smarten you up, that's what I'll do.

(Sheila gets mad and starts to go out of the house.)

MOTHER: Sheila, come back here! You never know what kind of people are out there.

SHEILA: Don't expect me to come home tonight!

(End of scene.)

SCENE 6:

Sheila ends up at Lisa's house and knocks at her door. Lisa answers the door.

LISA: Oh, hi, Sheila. What brings you back here? Did you forget something?

SHEILA: No. Well, me and my mom had an argument and I needed to get out of the house and I had no where else to go.

LISA: Oh. That's okay. Please come in. You're welcome to spend the night here if you want. (They go inside and sit down.)

SHEILA: I would love to if it won't be too much trouble.

LISA: Not at all. I hope you and your mom didn't get into an argument because of you coming to my party.

SHEILA: No, not really. I mean she's so prejudiced about everyone here in Nain, She don't want me to become attached

SHEILA: (con't) to you guys, whatever she means by that.

LISA: A lot of bad things are said about Nain, but it isn't that bad here.

SHEILA: I know. You don't have to explain that to me. I know what its like and I like it. I have nothing whatsoever against Nain.

LISA: I'd like to appologize for the way Susan and Liz were acting tonight. I mean I'm sure they like you, they even wanted me to invite you to the party so they could get to know you. I'm sure it was only the booze.

SHEILA: That's okay. I know what booze could do to you. (short pause) Anyway, the party is no different than all the other parties back home.

LISA: So are you and Rex an item?

(Sheila starts to laugh.)

LISA: Well, are you seeing him?

SHEILA: Well, I've only known him for two days but we're doing something again tomorrow night.

LISA: OOO. Are you going to start seeing him?

SHEILA: Well, he hasn't asked.

LISA: Would you?

SHEILA: Hey, let me ask some questions! Who are you interested in?

LISA: Allan. I thought everybody knew that.

SHEILA: Are you two seeing each other?

LISA: No, I wish! Well, I'm kind of tired. Wanna hit the sack?

SHEILA: Sure.

LISA: You could take my bed and I'll take my parents' room. Second room on the right.

SHEILA: Oh, thanks. I'll call my mom. Good-night.

LISA: Good-night.

SCENE 7:

LIZ: Gee, bad eh. Susan got so crazy about Rex that she tried to kill herself. I'm glad that old man found her.

ALLAN: If that old man didn't find her, she would have passed out and froze herself.

JULIUS: Do you think we should visit her?

LIZ: Yes, but the only thing that I'm scared of is Susan telling other people that I was drunk, too. And if my parents find out, I'm in deep trouble.

JULIUS: Why are you so worried about getting in trouble when your best friend is in the hospital?

LIZ: Just before she attempted suicide, we had a fight and she's no best friend of mine. You two can visit her. I'm not!

ALLAN: Fine! If you want it that way. Come on, Jul, let's go.

JULIUS: You'll regret this someday, Liz. What if it was you who tried to kill yourself? Wouldn't you want your best friend to visit you?

(Allan and Julius start to go to the hospital when ...)

LIZ: Hey you guys, wait up!

(She catches up and says ...)

LIZ: You're right, I would want my best friend to visit me.

ALLAN: Let's get a get well card for her before we go in.

HOSPITAL SCENE:

(Liz, Julius and Allan enter. Susan looks surprised to see Liz come in. Julius give Susan the card.)

JULIUS: Hi, Susan. How are you feeling? We got a card for you.

SUSAN: (smiling) Thanks.

LIZ: Hi, Susan. I'm sorry we had that fight last night.

SUSAN: (looks away) What's it too you? Is that the way a friend treats another friend?

LIZ: No. I didn't know what I was doing. Alcohol does that to you sometimes. I realized this morning that losing a best friend feels bad. Do you forgive me?

SUSAN: (long pause) Yes, I forgive you but do you guys forgive me for how I behaved at the party last night?

ALLAN: We forgive you but you should ask Lisa for her forgiveness. She's the one who threw the party which you kind of spoiled. And you did go to Charles's party when you said you'd go to hers.

SUSAN: You're right. I shouldn't have gone to Charles' party when I said I would go to Lisa's. That was a dumb decision. There was nothing to do at that party anyway except drink.

JULIUS: Drinking is dumb for people our age anyway. For people at any age really.

LIZ: Drinking, then trying to end your life because of a guy is crazy! Promise me you won't do anything like that again.

SUSAN: I promise. (holding hand out) Friends?

LIZ: (takes Susan's hand) Best friends.

SCENE 9:

(Nympha knocks at Mother's door and then enters.)

MOTHER: Hi, Nympha. What's wrong?

NYPHHA: Have you heard about Susan?

MOTHER: Susan who?

NYPHHA: Susan Saksagiak, the girl who used to go with Rex, your daughter's boyfriend.

MOTHER: That's not her boyfriend. They're just friends. Well, tell me what happened.

NYMPHA: Rex broke up with Susan and she just went crazy like the rest of the people here. She tried to kill herself.

MOTHER: When did this happen?

NYMPHA: This happened last night.

(Sheila come home from Lisa's.)

SHEILA: Hi, Mom. Hi, Nympha.

MOTHER AND NYMPHA: Hi.

NYMPHA: Well, I should be going. I have a million things to do. So, will you two be able to come over for supper tomorrow night?

MOTHER: Well, (mother smiles) seeing tomorrow is Christmas Eve, I guess we will come. Right, Sheila?

SHEILA: Sure, why not?

NYMPHA: Well, I'll see you tomorrow then. Around 6:30, alright?

MOTHER: Okay, Nympha, see you.

NYMPHA: Bye.

(Nympha leaves)

SHEILA: Mom, would Rex be able to come over for dinner tomorrow?

MOTHER: Won't he want to spend it with his family? I mean, tomorrow will be Christmas Eve.

SHEILA: His family are away but they'll be back tomorrow afternoon. I mean, imagine spending Christmas Eve dinner alone.

MOTHER: Okay, I guess he can come over, but don't plan on making it a habit.

SHEILA: No, I won't. Thanks, Mom.

(Sheila walks excitedly off stage.)

Next day ...

(Sheila is busy setting the table and is kind of nervous about Rex coming over for dinner. There is a knock at the door. Sheila runs and answers the door.)

SHEILA: Hi.

REX: Hi.

SHEILA: Come in. It's cold out there.

(Rex goes in and takes off his coat.)

MOTHER: Hello, Rex. It's nice to see you.

REX: Hi, Miss Andersen.

(They shake hands.)

SHEILA: Mom, I think dinner is ready!

MOTHER: Oh, I'll go and take it up. You two go and sit down.

(Rex and Sheila go and sit at the table and mother goes to get the dinner. Music (Xmas song) in the background. Rex looks worried. Sheila turns down the music.)

SHEILA: Are you worried about your folks not getting back from Webb's Bay this evening?

(Mother returns and sits down to join them. They start to eat.)

MOTHER: So, were you drinking on the night that Susan tried to commit suicide?

SHEILA: Mom!

REX: That's okay, Sheila. No, I don't drink. I don't smoke either for that matter.

(short pause)

MOTHER: So, Rex, what grade are you in?

REX: I'm doing Grade 12 this year.

MOTHER: What are you planning on doing next year then?

REX: I'm going to University and I'm hoping to become a doctor.

MOTHER: Oh, that's great. It will take a lot of hard work, though. I'm speaking from experience.

REX: I'm willing to do what it takes.

(long pause)

REX: So are you two guys going to the candle light service at the church tonight?

MOTHER: The candle light service?

REX: Yeah. Tonight at 7:00, everyone goes to church and the people who are 16 and under get an apple. Inside the apple is a lit candle. It's part of the tradition.

SHEILA: Really? That's the first time I heard of that.

MOTHER: Me too, but it sounds really nice.

REX: Yeah, it is. Then all the kids have to stand up and sing a song called "Sorutsit". I Love it!

(Lights dim. On the other side of the stage a group of people will and sit down with their apple and candle. Then the kids will stand up and sing the song "Sorutsit". Mother, Sheila and Rex froze on the other side of stage. When the kids finish singing "Sorutsit", they go offstage. The lights come up again.)

MOTHER: It sounds really nice.

SHEILA: Yeah.

REX: Well, are youse going?

MOTHER: I wish we could, but we already accepted an invitation to Nympha's at 7:00.

REX: Oh, that's too bad. Well, at least I hope you heard our church band play.

SHEILA: When did they play?

REX: Well, they go around town playing quite a bit through the Christmas holidays.

MOTHER: Really? I never heard them yet. So, they just go out and play in a certain place?

REX: Well, this is how it goes ...

(Lights dim. Rex, mother and Sheila freeze. On the right side of the stage, a band enters and plays. Band finishes their song(s). Lights come up.)

REX: And they'll be playing on the church at Easter time.

SHEILA: Don't you mean by the church?

REX: No, they actually get on top of the church and play their instruments on Palm Sunday.

MOTHER: You're joking, right?

REX: No, I'm serious. Like I said earlier, it's part of one of our traditions.

SHEILA: Oh boy, this community amuses me! What other things do I have to look forward to during this Christmas?



REX: The Nalijuk.

SHEILA AND MOTHER: Nalijuk?

MOTHER: What's that?

REX: Well, on January 6th, Old Christmas Day, Nalijuks come out and go around with a stick or something. If the children run into a Nalijuk, they have to sing a song or the Nalijuk will hit them.

SHEILA: Will the Nalijuk hit them hard?

REX: Yes, if the children don't sing, but if they do, the Nalijuk will give them some candy.

(Lights dim. On stage right, there are kids running along the street and a Nalijuk catches up to a few of them. The Nalijuk hits the ground, giving them the idea that he wants them to sing. Two of them sing and he gives them candy, but the third tries to run away. The Nalijuk catches up to him and hits him slightly with his stick. He then chases everyone off stage. Lights come up.)

REX: And on the night before what we call Nalijuk's night, kids hang their stockings again in their homes and the Nalijuk fills it up with little things.

MOTHER: The more I learn about this place, the more I like it. The tradition here is so different and interesting.

SHEILA: (looks at mother and smiles) I told you so.

MOTHER: Sheila, why don't you invite the rest of your friends over tomorrow? I'd really like to meet them.

SHEILA: Okay, I'll do that. I'll go and start calling them now. Rex, could you help me. I don't know their numbers.

REX: Sure.

(Rex and Sheila leave. Mother looks and smiles.)

Lights dim.

#### SCENE 10:

Sheila, mother and Nymph are at Nympha's house. Sheila is doing the dishes and Nympha and mother are sitting down having a cup of coffee.

NYMPHA: That girl, Susan, is lucky. Everyone here is crazy. Don't know any better, though, I guess. People who didn't grow up in Nain are just plain and simply better.

MOTHER: We think this place is so bad but that's just because we're not used to it.

NYMPHA: Look! I've been here for one month and I can see that people here are crazy and just no good.

MOTHER: Now wouldn't you say you're going just a bit too far?

NYMPHA: Just going a bit too far? I've been here longer than you.

MOTHER: Did you meet any of the people here?

NYMPHA: No, and I don't want to. And I suppose you did?

MOTHER: Yes, I did, and this person is very nice.

NYMPHA: What has gotten into your head? I mean you're letting your daughter go out with an Eskimo boy. Aren't you scared?

MOTHER: Scared of what? There is nothing to be scared of.. Rex is a nice boy. Every town or community have their bad points.

NYMPHA: But this place has more bad points than good. Haven't you heard all the rumours about this place?

MOTHER: That's just it! They are rumours and not facts. I heard you are not an amatuer at meeting men.

NYMPHA: And what do you mean by that? That isn't true!

(Sheila is now sweeping and listening to her mother's and Nympha's argument.)

MOTHER: You see now how untrue things can be said. You shouldn't believe everything you hear.

NYMPHA: I've never had to put up with this kind of thing before.

MOTHER: Maybe that's because nobody ever stood up to you because your over domineering pesonality would smother them.

NYMPHA: This place has gotten something into your head. Before you know it you'll be living in igloos, riding on a dog sled and eating raw fish.

MOTHER: I will not end up living in an igloo and maybe riding on a dog sled is fun and raw fish may be good. Well, there's no doubt that it can't worse than your cooking.

NYMPHA: You're defending Eskimos and ...

MOTHER: So what if I am defending Eskimos. What are you going to do about it?

NYMPHA: I'll have nothing to do with Eskimos or anything to do with people who like Eskimos.

MOTHER: Well, I sure hope so.

NYMPHA: I don't know how you could stand these people.

MOTHER: I don't know how I could've put up with you!

NYMPHA: I'm not taking anymore of this.

MOTHER: Well, you're going to have to take it, whether you like it or not.

NYMPHA: Oh no I don't! Get out and stay out!

MOTHER: You don't have to tell me to get out and stay out because I'd do it gladly. I don't ever want to hear you talk about the Inuit or Nain people again. Never!

NYMPHA: You are a ...

MOTHER: Nympha, shut up! Come on, Sheila, let's get out of here.

SCENE 11:

MOTHER: Sheila, when are your friends coming over?

SHEILA: They should be here in a minute.

Sheila and her mother are on stage. There is a knock at the door.

SHEILA: Oh, there they are now.

Mother answers door and she invites Sheila's friends in including Susan and Liz.

(Susan and Liz go over to Sheila. Others talk among themselves.)

SUSAN: I'd like to apologize for what happened at Lisa's party.

SHEILA: That's okay. That's long forgotten.

LIZ: So, we're forgiven?

SHEILA: Yeah. How are you feeling, Susan?

SUSAN: I'm alright, I guess. Boy, the things booze can do to you.

LIZ: Yeah. Well, we're glad to say we quit drinking and, hopefully, it's for good.

(Mother interrupts everyone.)

MOTHER: I thought you'd like to know that I'm considering transferring to Nain. Would you like to liver here for awhile, Sheila?

SHEILA: I would love to!

LIZ: That's great!

LISA: Oh, Sheila, we'll have so much fun. We'll have boil ups and maybe we'll go on a caribou hunt or seal hunt. You'll love it!

(Rex walks in.)

REX: Love what?

SHEILA: Oh, Rex. We're considering staying here in Nain.

REX: That's great, but this will cost me my medical school tuition.

SHEILA: What do you mean by that?

REX: Well, girls like presents, don't they? We've still got Valentine's, Easter and your birthday ahead of us. But I don't mind. I'm glad you're staying.

(Rex hands Sheila her Christmas gift. Rex starts to remove his coat. Rex and Sheila freeze. Lights dim.)

SHEILA: Rex, you're going to spoil me. I'll love it! Living here will be even better than I thought.

(Music starts to play,)