

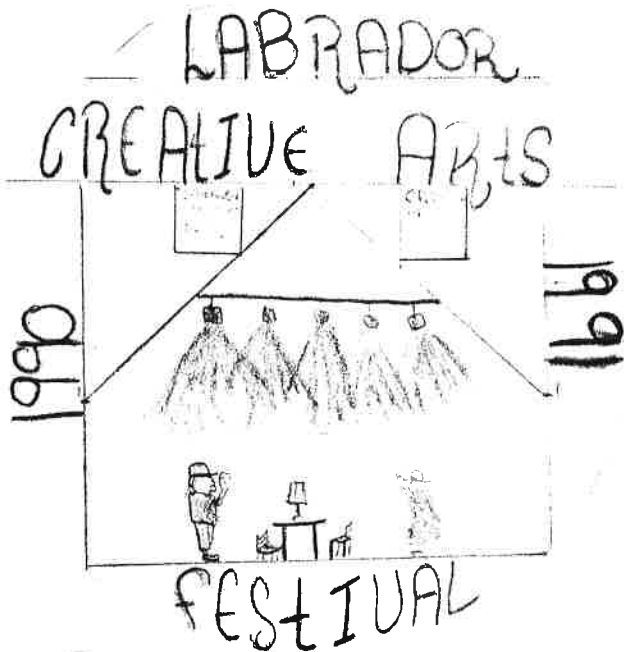
ST. PETER'S SCHOOL, BLACK TICKLE

presents

YESTERDAY'S MOMENTS ARE TODAY'S MEMORIES

CAST

Father - Jack (55 years old).....	Dinah Dyson
Mother - Stella (50 years old).....	Sheila Keefe
Grandfather - Max (75 years old).....	Mildred Keefe
Mr. Saunders.....	" "
Grandmother - Doris (76 years old).....	Laura Keefe
Stella's Daughter - Felicia (20 years old).....	Esther Keefe
Herb Campbell.....	" "
Max's Brother - Darb (65 years old).....	Alicia Dyson
Ghost.....	Corey Elson
Fred.....	" "
Christy (36 years old).....	Cindy Elson
Plant Manager - Henry.....	Laura Keefe



Colin Vaters
Sr. 9
Henry Gordon Academy



Lesley - Anne Bilholme
Sr. 9
165
St. Michaels School

YESTERDAY'S MOMENTS ARE TODAY'S MEMORIES

CHARACTERS:

Father:	Jack,	55 years old.	Dinah Dyson
Mother:	Stella,	50 years old.	Sheila Keefe
Grandfather:	Max,	75 years old.	Mildred Keefe
Grandmother:	Doris,	76 years old.	Laura Keefe
Daughter of Stella:	Felica,	20 years old.	Esther Keefe
Max's Brother:	Darb,	65 years old.	Alicia Dyson
Ghost:			Corey Elson
Christy:		36 years old.	Cindy Elson
Plant Manager:	Henry		Laura Keefe
Fred:			Corey Elson
Mr. Saunders:			Mildred Keefe
Herb Campbell:			Esther Keefe

The summer of the year 2010 AD. in the community of Black Tickle, Labrador.

(As scene 1 begins one light focuses on the ghost. The ghost is all black except for a white face. Sounds of the sea are dubbed with music.)

SCENE 1. OPENING.

GHOST: I am the ghost of Black Tickle. This is my town, a ghost town. All of my people have deserted me because the government had promised them a better way of life. I've been roaming these hills for twenty years with only the spirits to keep me company. Pregnant women have left, I never saw their babies. Children no longer swim at Dogfeed Pond. The only ones roaming the halls of St. Peters School are the rats. I don't see any fishing boats coming into the harbour anymore. But today there is a feeling in the wind, a different feeling. I wonder if someone is returning. How good it would be to hear children playing, laughter, and music again. Hark a dat, I hear a boat coming after all of these years, Gotta hide away, don't want to scare them away.

(Lights fade, the ghost exits, the scene changes to a family kitchen.)

(The grandfather is sitting down playing the accordion while others sing along. Mother and father are swinging each other around in an old-fashioned jig.)

UNCLE DARB: Dis music warms me heart a lot better den walking up da road and seeing all da houses all boarded up. It was sure good to haul me old bones around the harbour.

GRANDMOTHER: Yes it sure feels good to be back in our own house in Black Tickle. Da one we lives in in Grand Falls is a lot like dis one but it still don't feel like home.

FELICA: I think Black Tickle is really neat. I bet there's a lot of cool things to do here.

STELLA: Yes it's really neat here. And I often thought of the day we left. I was carrying you, and heartbroken because you'd never see my home. Now I'm really proud that because of this reunion you got to see where I grew up. But it's a real shame to see dis poor old house so empty and run-down. Me and Mom used to keep da house some clean. We never used to get da mop out of our hands.

GRANDFATHER: Yes, sir, I can still remember dem cracks I used to get on da head everytime I walked over your scrubbing with me oilclothes on.

FELICA: I still can't understand why you had to leave here. Was the fish really as scarce as the older people say it was?

UNCLE DARB: Well me and me brother Max knows the fish was scarce.

GRANDFATHER: Yes me son da fish was as scarce as everyone claimed it to be. They never got enough fish for a good meal of fish and brewis.

CHRISTY: Grandpa, why don't you sing that song about leaving Black Tickle. Then Felica might understand this situation a lot better. You know she was born two months after we left.

(Lights fade down. Grandfather moves to the front of the stage with one spotlight focusing on him.)

Young children let me stop and think
as I recall that day
When the news came to Black Tickle
that we had to move away
For the reason now my only son
stands clearly in my mind
The fish was getting pretty scarce
we knew that for some time

Well I was just a young man then
with my own family
had to provide for the loved ones
the things they dearly need
A lovely wife I have my son
you couldn't ask for more
She cooks the greatest meals I've seen
upon this rocky shore

Well in the year of hardship
some men they came around
Government officials
who had come to close us down
I guess everytime we went
to haul our gear on the shore
and when we didn't catch no fish
we knew what was in store

For many years we've taken
the fish right from the sea
And now it has decided
to take it back from me
For everything you win
you loose out in the end.
The gamble's when you're waiting for
the fish to come again

Well we were left with no smiles
on our faces to be seen
We thought that the government
to us was being mean
for taking all we ever had
and waited for so long
It goes to show the power
of the government so strong

And now after all those years
we're together once agin
Always by each other
through the thick and thin
It just goes to show that when you plant
your roots so deep down
No matter where in this whole world
there's no place like home.
(repeat last 2 lines 3 times)

GRANDFATHER: Ah me boys, it was a hard time, leaving and all. Me mind often goes back to them days.

(Lights fade slowly.)

SCENE 2. "FLASHBACK"

(Lights come up.)

(A group is standing around the dock and the plant manager comes out.)

PLANT MANAGER: Hey boys, can I have yer attention. I've got a very important announcement to make. Word just came from head office, dem government fellers is closing us down.

FRED: What da heck do ya mean, Henry me son? Why are ya closing us down?

(Henry tries to butt in (Adlib).)

(Jack elbows his way through the men. Goes up to Henry and grabs him by the throat.)

JACK: You had better start talking fast, Henry, before I takes ya and throws ya over the side of the wharf. Who's gonna put the food on my table when yer not around the winter?

(Fred tries to separate Jack and Henry.)

FRED: Okay now, boys, that's enough of that, we're not getting nothing settled this way!

HENRY: (coughing) If you give me a chance to speak instead of trying to choke me, you'd know what this is all about by now.

FRED: O.K. now boys, quietin' down, let the man say his piece.

(The men grumble among themselves.)

HENRY: Before you all jumps down me throat agin just give me a minute to explain meself. Well, fellers, ya all knows the past couple of months haven't been very good and the final blow came this morning around nine o'clock when I believe a Mr. Saunders called and told us that we would have to shut her down right away cause there's not enough fish comin' in to keep her goin'.

(The men continue to grumble loudly among themselves regarding their fate.)

JACK: (Loudly) Well boys I allows I'm goin to have to move to Goose Bay to get enough work to feed my crowd this winter. The family won't be happy to hear this news. Let me tell you.

(The scene changes to the kitchen of Jack's house. Jack walks in and sits down at the table looking depressed. He greets no one.)

CHRISTY: What's for supper mom?

STELLA: Saltfish and pradies.

CHRISTY: Not that old cram again its the fifth time we had it this week and the day is only Wednesday.

JACK: By the time winter is through you be glad to have a meal of salt fish.

STELLA: What's ye talkin' about now Jack me son?

JACK: I suppose I'm just goin have to tell ya. Got word today the plant is closin' down.

STELLA: What ya mean the plants closin' down you haven't even got yer stamps and the ones you do have are not worth talkin' about.

JACK: I spose we'll all have to pack up and go to Goose Bay in order to earn a living now. I might get a job on the base.

CRISTY: (runs in bedroom all upset). No way I' goin to Goose Bay, no sir not me. Nothing there for me. I don't care if I got to eat salt fish for the rest of the year I'm not leaving.

STELLA: Come on Christy, come out to the table and get yer supper.

(knock on the door. Jack gets up and goes to the door).

FRED: You wouldn't believe what I was just talkin to one of them government fellers about! Der comin' in the marrer for a meeting and to see if they could settle this mess.

JACK: Isn't it a bit too late for meetin's now?

(Lights fade down. It is the next day at the community hall. Much grumblin' of the people.)

MR. SAUNDERS: (calls the meeting to order). Good evening ladies and gentlemen. My name is Mr. Doug Saunders and I would like to introduce Herb Campbell, from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. I have asked Mr. Campbell to attend this meeting to address the issue of the closing of the fishplant.

MR. CAMPBELL: Good evening ladies and gentlemen. My position with the D.F.O includes assisting communities that are experiencing difficulty with the fishing industry.

FRED: Yes and what is the government goin' to do now that you guys is closing down our plant?

MR. SAUNDERS: The government has studied the situation very closely and these are a few of the suggestions we have come up with:
1) Attempt to diversify your local economy and look for other means of employment.
2) Services in the community may be downsized.
3) A third alternative may involve the centralization of many of the smaller communities within this area.

HENRY: In other words, Mr. Saunders you're talking about resettlement.

JACK: Resettlement, now listen buddy I resettled once before and I ain't intendin' to move again. You wouldn't get me off this island with a piece of 2 by 4.

(Everyone claps and cheers.)

FRED: (mispronounces and stumbles over the words) Centralization, resettlement and diver- Well whatever in God's name is ya tryin' to put through ya me son.

MR. SAUNDERS: Order, order. People please calm down. There is no need for all this commotion.

FRED: Meetin's were sick of em. You come and you go. Remember all the work on the Harris Report and what did we get fer it? All questions and never any answers.

JACK: Well boys, I got a longliner and gear. What am I gonna do with it? Burn it? Is that all I gets fer all my years of hard work in Black Tickle?

(Lights fade down. The ghost enters.)

GHOST: Yes Jack lost it all, longliner gear, home. They all left, and were heavy hearted. Picture what it was like for Christy, Jack, and Stella - her pregnant and all.

M I M E

(As the family leave we see the dark and empty houses, and have soft erry music.)

CHARACTERS: STELLA (7 months pregnant).
 JACK (husband)
 CRISTY
 UNCLE MAX
 UNCLE DARB

People are packing belongings into boxes and suitcases. Mother puts her good dishes in a box. She wipes tears from her face. Father gets board to cover windows. Cristy takes pictures, and treasures from her bedroom to put in boxes also.

They tape boxes, close suitcases, and leave house. Uncle Max bars the door, mother clings to father and cries. Cristie weeps and the entire family unit walk away, stopping often to look at the family home.

(Replay the 5th stanza of the song.)