

Amos Comenius Memorial School, Hopedale

presents

AN EASY WAY OUT

Cast

FatherJohnny Tuglavina
CopJohnny Tuglavina
MotherTiny Boas
PattySusan Nochasak
RonnieWayne Piercey
Sniffer # 1Junior Pijogge
Sniffer # 2Julius Basto

Teacher Advisor - Norma Fox

Jackie Nui
Peenam McKenzie



melanie Sidon



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by
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Opening Scene

A mother and two kids are sitting on a sofa watching television. The two kids are eating junk food while the mother smokes. The mother peers out of the window to see the father returning home. She tells the kids to go to their room while she turns off the television and cleans up the room. While mother is in the bathroom, the father walks into the living room, drunk, and yells out and asks if anyone is home. When no one answers, he goes to the kitchen to look for a bottle of booze.

Father: Hey, I'm home! Where's the kids? Marie, where are you?
Where's my bottle?

Wife walks in:

Wife: Where were you all night? Out drinking again, I 'spose.
That's all you're any good for.

Father: So what! What else is there to do here? Where in the
hell did you put my bottle?

Wife: I dumped it down the sink.

Father: What? Did you say you dumped it down the sink?

Wife: (Very quietly) Yes.

Father: I didn't hear you.

Wife: Yes, ok. I dumped it down the sink. You don't need it
anyway. You got a family to take care of.

Father: What family? I don't see any family here. Where are the
kids? Go and buy me another bottle.

Wife: With what? I don't have any money.

Father: You'd better get some now before I lose my temper.

Wife: I won't!

Father: Why you, you asked for this!

He hits his wife and she falls to the floor crying with her hands covering her face.

Father: Now, where are those damned kids? (Wife continues to sob) Hey, I'm talking to you.

Wife: (Crying) I sent them to their room. They don't want to see you when you're drunk. They're afraid of you when you get this way.

Father: Afraid of me? I'll teach them to be afraid of me.

Wife: No, don't touch them, please. Please don't hurt them.

Father: You're not telling me what to do here. This is my house. I'm in charge here. Now go and get my kids. (Throws object from coffee table.)

Wife: No, not if you're gonna hurt them!

Father: Alright, I'll get them myself.

Wife tries to stop him but don't succeed. Her husband grabs her again and throws her to the floor.

Wife: Ron, please don't hurt them. Please! Don't!

Father walks off stage and into the kids bedroom. He finds the kids hiding under a bed and from offstage the sound of screaming kids is heard.

Father: So, there you are. Come here. You're scared of your old man, eh? I'll teach you to be scared of me.

Father hits Kid #1 across the face. He falls to the floor holding his face and crying.

Father: Well, you're scared of me when I'm drunk, are you? Hey you, I'm talking to you.

Kid #1: Yes dad, I'm afraid of you when you're like this.

Father: Oh, so now you're calling me a drunk. Is that what I am to you? A stupid old drunk.

Father kicks Kid #1 in the side. Kid is now on the floor holding his stomach and sobbing loudly.

Kid #2 comes out on stage.

Wife: Ron, for God's sake, leave them alone. They don't deserve this.

Wife shoves him. He moves to grab Kid #2.

Father: So, do you think I'm a drunk old bastard too?

Kid #2: No dad, you're not a drunk.

Father gives Kid #2 a smack across the head and leaves the room.

Kid #2: God I hate him, I wish he was dead.

Wife and Kid #1 move over next to Kid #2. Wife is holding Kid #1 in her arms and she moves to Kid #2.

Wife: Are you alright, Patty? Listen to me, both of you. I want you to take this money and leave here. It may not be much, but I won't let you stay here when your father is like this.

Kid #1: No mom, we can't leave you here alone.

Wife: Don't worry, I'll be alright. I can handle your father. Please go and find some help. It's your only way out! Hurry now, before your father comes back.

Both kids leave, hugging their mother for the last time.

Wife: Please don't worry about me, I'll be fine. Remember I'm doing this because I love you.

As kids leave mother begins to sob loudly. Lights dim and scene one ends.

Song!

Scene 2

Two teenagers are walking. Both of them are heavy sniffers. They meet with the two kids who left home. One sniffer asks them if they want to sniff and get high.

Sniffer #2 starts to push the kids around. Kid #2 finally gives in and asks to try some gasoline. While kid is sniffing Sniffer #1 reaches into kid's pocket and takes his money. Kid #2 tries to stop Kid #1 from sniffing but doesn't succeed. Kid #1 pushes Kid

#2 away from him and tells him to leave him alone. Kid #2 keeps trying and finally leaves him to try to find help. Kid #1 is now stoned. He begins to see things that aren't there. He begins to feel pain and his heart races as though it were about to explode. He is alone now and starts to get scared. He is on the ground feeling cold and shivering.

S #1: This is heaven man. Hey bud, how you feelin'? I feel great.

S #2: Yeah man, this is great. I feel like I'm floating on cloud nine.

S #1: Hey, there's someone coming. Quick, hide the stuff.

S #1: It's only two kids. Hey, you two come over here.

Kid #1: What do you want?

S #2: What are you kids doing out so late?

Kid #1: It's none of your business.

S #2: Ohh, big shot eh? Hey kid, want to have a real good time without leaving the ground?

Kid #1: How, and with what?

Kid #2: No, leave us alone. Come on, Ronnie. Let's get out of here.

S #2: You kids want to sniff or what? Gas or glue?

S #1: It makes you feel great.

S #2: Come on boys. You're a bunch of chickens. Nothing but sissies!

Kid #1: I'm no chicken.

S #1: Well, here. Try some.

Kid #2: No, don't try any of it.

S #2: Leave him alone.

S #1: You try it, you chicken.

Kid #2: No way, buddy. I'm getting out of here. Are you coming Ronnie, or what?

Kid #1: Leave me alone, Patty. I'm staying here. (He sniffs some gas). Oh yeah, this feels great.

Kid #2: Well, you can stay if you want, but I'm leaving. I don't want any part of this crap.

S #2: Chicken! Mommy's little girl. Go back to where you came from you sissy.

Kid #1: (Still sniffing) O man, this is awesome! I've never felt like this before.

S #2: Oh man, this is only the beginning. We can really make you fly!

S #1: Hey kid, we're getting out of here. You wanna come or what?

Kid #1 just lays on the ground, half conscious and laughing continuously.

S #2: Do you think he'll be ok? It's his first time trying to sniff.

S #1: Yeah, he'll be fine. Let him stay here and enjoy the high. Besides, the poor kid looks like he could use a lift.

The two sniffers leave and Kid #1 is left alone, still sniffing the gas. He suddenly realizes that he is all alone and starts to think about his father and what happened earlier. Then he begins to act strange, talking to himself and starts talking about suicide.

Kid #1: Yeah, man, this is heaven. This is all I need. Who cares about my old man. Damn him. (Shouts) I hate you, you old drunk. He doesn't care about me, nobody does. My mother is afraid of my father and they're always fighting. They wouldn't notice if I never came home again. I know what I'll do. I'll sniff until I get so high that I'll never come down.

He begins to sniff even heavier than before. Then he blacks out and falls to the ground. At that moment his sister comes on stage. She runs over to him and tries to wake him up.

Kid #2: Oh God, I wonder where Ronnie is. Damn! I knew I shouldn't have left him alone. If something happens to him I'll never forgive myself. Ronnie, Ronnie, where are you?

Kid #2 keeps looking around for Kid #1.

Kid #2: Hey, wait a minute. There's someone over there. Hey buddy, wake up. I'm looking for my brother. Have you seen him? He's about 13 years old, wearing a black leather jacket. Oh no, Ronnie, Ronnie, it's you. Wake up. Damn. What have they done to you?

Kid #2 holds her brother in her arms and begins to cry.

Kid #2: Oh, please God, don't let my brother die. Please don't let him die. Ronnie, please, wake up. You can't leave me alone, not now.

A cop passing by hears the girl crying and goes over to help.

Kid #2: Please mister, help my brother. He won't wake up.

Cop: What happened to him?

Kid #2: He was sniffing and I think he had too much.

Cop: Sniffing? With who?

Kid #2: I don't know. There were two guys who had some gasoline, and they made Ronnie sniff it but I left to get some help. Is her gonna be alright? Is he gonna die?

Cop: I think he'll make it. He's still breathing but he needs to get to a hospital right away. Come on, help me get him over to my car.

Kid #2: Thanks mister. I'm glad you came along. I don't know what would have happened if you hadn't.

Lights go out and scene two ends. The song "Back on my Feet Again" begins to play in the background. Then the policeman comes back on stage and gives a speech about the dangers of sniffing.

Cop: Good evening, everyone. What you have seen here this evening is not a new phenomenon. It's real whether we want to admit it or not. The play we performed dealt with two very difficult and pressing issues - family violence and sniffing.

- Tiny: Family violence, whether it be wife abuse or child abuse is a serious crime. In most cases it's the kids who suffer the hardest. A child's dreams are easily shattered when daddy comes home drunk and begins to take his anger out on his wife and kids.
- Susan: The pain, the hurt, the anger and the torment which these kids go through is more terrible than anything you or I could imagine. A lot of times all these kids want to do is to get out and run away from the pain and the suffering. But what alternative do they have? Where do they turn?
- Wayne: More often than not the kids of abusive parents turn to the streets. On the streets they're free from the torments of home and the pain they find there. On the streets they're also alone and afraid and easily give in to the person who offers them security and comfort from the troubles of their lives.
- Junior: The security that's offered to them comes in many forms: alcohol, prostitution, drugs. You name it and it's there for the asking. To a kid who's all alone on the streets these pleasures are like heaven. They take them willingly without question. But at what risk to themselves.

The kids in this play are typical of the ones we just described, alone on the street with no place to go, just looking for an easy way out. But the reality is there is no easy way out. If someone offers you a quick release from your problems, turn it down and just say no. When you leave here this evening, we all hope you remember one thing - (together) DRUGS ARE NO EASY WAY OUT!

T H E E N D