

ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL, PARADISE RIVER

presents

WELCOME TO PARADISE

CAST

Arthur
- an American tourist, somewhat nerdlike..... Melisa Learning
Lydia
- Authur's wife, the cool type..... Emily Higgins
Uncle Bill
- a local trapper and fisherman..... Bryce Learning
Aunt Rose
- his unflappable wife..... Marilyn Brown
Savage Cove Devil
- a traditional spirit..... Stella Swaffield
Bear, an example of typical Paradise
River wildlife Margaret Swaffield

OPENING MUSIC

Paradise River, by Eldred Mesher
Played on Recorder by Marilyn Brown
Sung by Emily Higgins

TEACHER ADVISOR

Patty Way

Kathleen Palliser, Gr. 9
Northern Lights Academy
Rigolet



WELCOME TO PARADISE

ARTHUR an American tourist, somewhat "nerdlike" - Melisa Learning
LYDIA Arthur's wife, the cool type - Emily Higgins
UNCLE BILL a local trapper and fisherman - Bryce Learning
AUNT ROSE his unflappable wife - Marilyn Brown
MABEL their energetic daughter - Denise Saunders
MARY the Lab Air agent - Christine Saunders
SAVAGE COVE DEVIL a traditional spirit - Stella Swaffield
BEAR an example of typical Paradise River wildlife - Margaret Swaffield.

The setting is in modern day Paradise River, a small village on the Labrador coast with a current population of 65.

The stage will incorporate two different scenes- one being the trail through the community and the other being in the kitchen of Uncle Bill and Aunt Rose.

The curtain rises on the trail.....

Arthur staggers onto the stage, somewhat haggard looking and with a dripping wet coat, followed by Lydia.

LYDIA: I do hope that you won't let this ruin our vacation, dear.

ARTHUR: Why should it bother me? Just because there's no decent dock to come ashore here? I'm lucky that I didn't drown. Where did you say we are again?

LYDIA: Paradise River, Arthur. The brochures say that it is a wonderful peaceful haven.

ARTHUR: I hope you're right. I'd just as soon stay home in Boston as risk my life in these backwoods.

ARTHUR: What's here anyway?

LYDIA: (reading) Let's see, ummm... There's hunting, fishing wildlife and beautiful scenery. That sounds just wonderful, doesn't it, Arth..

ARTHUR: (Screaming) A- a-a-a-a-a-a-h!

LYDIA: Calm down, dear! It can't be that bad. What's the matter?

ARTHUR: At least six million bugs seem to be eating me alive!

LYDIA: Don't exaggerate, Arthur. That is truly annoying. I haven't noticed any flies. (Looks around.) Isn't this a beautiful spot? I think I'll take a few pictures right now. (She does. He scratches.)

ARTHUR: I'm cold, I'm tired, I'm hungry and I don't see any sign of a hotel or restaurant. Or any houses, for that matter! (Looks around in alarm)

LYDIA: Come along Arthur. I am sure there are houses around the next corner. Oh! What a lovely squirrel in the tree. (Takes more pictures)

ARTHUR: (Grumbling..) Stupid jacket; stupid flies, stupid trip, Stupid! Stupid! Stupid! (He slips) Wa-a-a-ah!

LYDIA: Arthur! For heaven's sakes! Lift your clumsy feet. Why don't you watch where you're going?

ARTHUR: I am watching. I watched myself slip and slide on this lumpy, muddy, bumpy mess that your brochure calls a "road". It's a killer! Help me up.

LYDIA: (shaking her head and pulling him to his feet) Get into the spirit of things, dear. This is a heavenly place. I can certainly see where it got its name.

Enter Bill dressed in traditional clothing. Arthur stares at him somewhat dismayed. Lydia continues to take pictures.

BILL: Good day, folks. I spose you're from that tourist boat that's anchored off out there. How is yous enjoying Paradise so far?

LYDIA: TERRIFIC! } Together
ARTHUR: TERRIBLE! }

(Lydia glares at him)

(Bill notices his wet coat.)

BILL: What happened to your coat,bye? Looks like you went
 for a swim! Ha!Ha! Ha!

ARTHUR: (not amused) I think it needs to be dried.

BILL: My goodness,yes! Where's me manners at all? Come
 on over to da house and me old woman will cook
 you a feed of brewis or something while your coats
 in hanging behind the stove drying.

LYDIA: That sounds simply wonderful to me.(Pauses. Jabs
 Arthur) Isn't that nice of the gentleman.dear?

ARTHUR: Yes,thank you very much. (Aside) I think.

They walk along the trail to the house,leaving stage. Lights
down on trail and up on house.

BILL: I brought home a couple of dem tourists,Rose maid.

ROSE: They better not be them grand kind.....(Changes Tone)
 Why,hello! I'm real glad yous could come. Like I was
 just saying to Bill here, we can't have visitors enough.
 You're just in time for dinner. I'm Rose, everybody
 around here calls me Aunt Rose.

ARTHUR: Are you related to all o{ them?

ROSE: Nah,bye. Thats our custom. Pull up a chair now and
 I'll dish you up some porridge and dumplings that'll
 knock your socks off!

ARTHUR: (Looks at feet) Pardon me??

LYDIA: (Jabbing him) Isn't this charming,Arthur? Thank-you,
 Aunt Rose. I'm always eager to try something new!

BILL: Partridge and dumplings? But, Lydia, I'm a vegetarian,
 remember?

AUNT ROSE: Well,like I tells the kids, if you're going to be
 fussy, there's always bakeapple jam and bread.

ARTHUR: What's Bakeapple?

ROSE: None of your joking, now. Just sit yourselves down and help yourself to anything you sees. Whatever you don't see, don't ask for.

ARTHUR: (to Bill) Excuse me, which way is the bathroom? I need to freshen up a little before lunch.

BILL: Bathroom? Rose, maid, I hope you remembered to empty that pail after you was finished this morning. My, that was a bad one!

ROSE: Bill, Get on with you, bye. You know I always empty it. You're only getting on with that foolishness trying to tease. Well, it's not going to work. It's right this way, sir. Don't mind Bill's foolishness!

Looking a bit leery, he leaves. Everyone else begins to eat and make small talk. Arthur re-enters and sits in by Lydia.

ARTHUR: Lydia, I couldn't find the toilet. I'll just have to hold it until later. (Visibly shakes) I'm not that hungry.

ROSE: (Screeching) MABEL! Dinnertime!

MABEL: (Running in) I want to get my rabbit licence, Mom! They're free this year. I want to catch more than 50- even more than David got last year. Pass the bread, please, Buddy.

ROSE: Mabel, mind your manners!

MABEL: I said "please", sure.

ROSE: Oh, good enough.

ARTHUR: What does she mean "catch", Lydia? Surely she doesn't intend to kill the rabbits?

LYDIA: Hush, Arthur! Ever since you joined Greenpeace....

BILL: Did I hear someone say Greenpeace? If I catch one of them hanging around here, I'll hang him by the nose from the nearest tree. I used to make a lot of money from the seals. They ruined that!!

LYDIA: I was just saying that Arthur was looking a little green and peaked....

ROSE: Nothing a little bit of this good feed won't cure!
(Arthur looks pretty squeamish.)

MABEL: Where's you fellers from?

LYDIA: We're from Boston.

MABEL: Where?

ROSE: Mabel,maid. Don't be pestering them with all kinds of questions. Boston, up around Toronto and that!

LYDIA: I don't mind her questions. We just came in on the tour boat,my dear, We're ashore for just a few hours.

ARTHUR: That boat was a bit unnerving, Lydia. I think I would rather fly back. There is an airport here?

ROSE: My golly, yes! Our airstrip must be 30 or 40 feet long and we gets at least three planes a week,don't we, Bill?

BILL: Long as the weather is good. We got it made these days. (Looks out) Here comes Mary now. Best Lab Air agent we ever had. Course she's the only one we ever had. She puts out a wonderful line of clothes to help guide them pilots in. They hardly ever misses the strip.

ARTHUR: Oh, Lydia, What are we going to do? I dread the thought of the cruise ship... Still I suppose if its the only way....

ENTER Mary.

MARY: I seen you had visitors so I figured I'd run over and say hello on my way to Brown's store. I was down to Riverside Sales this morning but they were all out of flour. I daresay Brown's might still have a bit left. We're some lucky we got two stores, eh? Well, I'm some glad we had this chance to talk. I loves meeting people from outside. Come back again now, won't you?
See you later, Rose.

While Mary has been talking on and on, Arthur and Lydia stand amazed. The others appear not to notice.

ROSE: See you later, Mary. Let me know if they got the flour.
I'm getting kind of low myself.

MARY: Sure, girl.

MABEL: Can you give me a ride over to Dave's to see if he got his
licence yet, Aunt Mary?

MARY: Yes, maid, you can hop on. Bye!!

They exit.

ARTHUR: Hop on??? Hop on what??

ROSE: Hop on a four wheeler, bye! Hers is a Honda, I believe.
That's the only thing we can drive around here this
time of year.

ARTHUR: Lydia, get me out of here!

LYDIA: I think perhaps we'd better head outside for a bit of
air. Arthur and I enjoy strolling and I've been taking
some wonderful pictures. Thank you so much for the
delicious lunch and your kindness. In which direction
should we walk in order to find a public restroom?

ROSE: Public restroom? You knows more than I do, girl, there's
no public restroom in Paradise River. (Arthur groans)

LYDIA: Well we'll manage. Thanks again. Bye!

They exit.

Enter on the trail, reading from brochure....

LYDIA: "there is a lot of folklore in the area and one of the
traditions is that of the Savage Cove Devil...." isn't
this interesting, Arthur?

(Arthur is busy looking over his shoulder. He all of a
sudden notices the devil.)

ARTHUR: A, Lydia,.... ah..

(Lydia continues to read and takes no notice. She then puts
the brochure away and begins to take more pictures. The
Devil speaks;

DEVIL: I thought I'd just come over here to Paradise for
a bit of a break, you know what I mean? It's rough
being a ghost. People don't respect you anymore-
they talk about science and technology. Well, I
think that if I was good enough to scare their
ancestors, I should ^{be good} enough for them- but no! It's

all superstition and folklore. It's causing me a lot of stress. I needed a holiday badly. Thanks to pollution, a brochure about Paradise River floated in to Savage Cove ! It said it was a calm and peaceful haven, so, here I am!! I need that peace. Friendly people,the brochure said. Here's one now... Hello, sir...

ARTHUR: A-a-a-a-a-a-a-a-h!!!! Lydia! Lydia! Help me!

DEVIL: So much for my nerves... I'm out of here. 'He exits)

Enter Lydia,running.

LYDIA: What's the matter, Arthur?

ARTHUR: (very upset) I saw....the Devil himself- I knew there was something fishy about this place the very minute I laid eyes on it.

LYDIA: What devil? I don' see any thing. You just need a good nap,dear,I think you're beginning to see things! Let's walk along just a little further,please? I want to enjoy just a bit more of this wonderful wildlife. (She takes another picture.)

ARTHUR: Lydia,please. Get me back to the boat now. Let's signal for the small boat to come for us.

LYDIA: I'll tell you what, Arthur, wait here and take a rest under this tree while I go and get a few more shots. This is such a beautiful spot! (She leaves.)

ARTHUR: No, Lydia..Wait! (Shakes his head, lies down)

The bear enters. He sniffs along the trail, then sniffs at Arthur. Arthur begins to moan a little.

ARTHUR: Lydia, is that you?

BEAR: GR*R*R*R*R*R*R*R*R*R*R*R!!!!

ARTHUR: Lydia! A-a-h! A-a-h! A-a-h! (Screams)

Bear exits. Lydia comes running in on one side of the trail, Bill,Rose and Mabel run in on the other.

LYDIA: Arthur! Oh my God! What's wrong? What's wrong?

ARTHUR: Help me, Lydia, Help me... (he faints away)
LYDIA: Perhaps we need to get the doctor here to take a look at him.
AUNT ROSE: My dear, I spose you thinks you're home in Boston somewhere. We haven't got either doctor or nurse here in Paradise River. We got to go by boat 20 miles to the nearest nurse,sure! But,don't worry, I knows just what he needs. The best thing in the world! He needs a few days rest away from all that hustle and bustle outside. Why don't you stay here for a few days rest for him? That'd be the perfect thing.
LYDIA: Well, if you are sure we wouldn't be imposing?
ROSE: No trouble at all,maid,eh,Bill?
BILL: Rose usually asks 40 bucks a night but I'm sure for you it'll only be 30.
ROSE: For sure. My, can't you just imagine how surprised he'll be to wake up in Paradise??

They carry him off. Lights go down on trail.