

Amos Comenius Memorial School, Hopedale

presents

"A DIFFERENT WORLD"

CAST

Judy  
Sabina  
Dr. Davenport / Peter  
Heonche

Tiny Boase  
Susan Nochasak  
Wayne Piercey  
George Winters

TEACHER ADVISOR

Norma Denney

The play centers around the experiences of two native students who leave their hometown to pursue their post secondary education.



Kristy Sheppard  
Northern Lights Academy  
Rigolet

**A Different World**  
**by**  
**Amos Comenius Memorial School, Hopedale**

Henoche..... George Winters  
Judy..... Tiny Boase  
Sabina..... Susan Nochasak  
Doctor /Peter..... Wayne Piercey

Scene 1

Two young native students find themselves in the middle of St. John's Airport. An announcement comes over the speaker system - "Announcing the arrival of Canadian Airlines flight 1420 from Goose Bay". The students wander around the airport trying to find their luggage.

Henoche: So, this is what a city is like. Look at all these people! They're all rushing around like of bunch of frightened ookaliks.

Sabina: Come on. Stop staring and help me find our bags. They've got to be around here somewhere. Gees, just look at this place. Have you ever seen anything like it?

Henoche: Oh, yeah. Everytime when a plane lands at the airstrip back home. The only difference is here you can pee in a toilet. Back home you have to go outdoors and use the side of the building.

Sabina: Ha, ha, very funny. If you don't shut up and help me find our stuff, we're never gonna get out of here.

Henoche: Oh yeah, I think I see mine. Here it is. Grab this. (He throws the bag at her).

Sabina: Hey, watch it will ya?

Henoche: Sorry. Here comes your stuff. (He brings the last of the bags to her.) O.K., it's all here. So now what do we do?

Sabina: Well, I guess we should get over to the university and get our things put away.

Henoche: So, where is it? Can we walk there?

Sabina: Hold on a second and I'll see. It says here that the residence is on a street called Prince Phillip Drive. I wonder how far away that is.

Henoche: How should I know? I just got here. I don't know where the stupid place is. What do I look like, a Kablunak?

Sabina: Be quiet, O.K.! Don't get mad at me! I'm just trying to find a way out of this place. Oh why did we do this Henoche? Why did we come here? We don't belong here! We should go back home. At least if we were home daddy could come and get us at the airstrip. I'm scared.

Henoche: Look, I'm sorry I bawled at you. I'm a little scared too, you know. It's a big change for both of us. Look, if we stick together and use our heads, we'll be fine, O.K.?

Sabina: O.K. (She looks around.) Look, there's a sign. It says "Gulliver's Taxi and Limousine Service. Providing service to the St. John's area."

Henoche: A taxi. I know what that is. You get in a car and a driver takes you where you want to go. You think maybe they can take us to this Prince Phillip guy?

Sabina: It's Prince Phillip Drive, you Issúmakie!

Henoche: Come on and grab those bags.

Doctor: Excuse me, you wouldn't happen to Henoche Ittulak and Sabina Kautjasiak?

Henoche: Yeah, we are. Who are you? By the way, my name is Henoche.

Doctor: Oh, I'm sorry, my name is Dr. Devyn Davenport. I'm a professor at Memorial University.

Henoche: Wow, you people must want us real bad if you're out here to get us. It must be a real small school.

Doctor: Actually, Henoche, the university has about 20,000 full and part time students, so its not that small. And to answer your first question Henoche, I'm here representing the Native Friendship Center. We knew you were coming today so I thought that I would come on out and help you get settled.

Sabina: How did you know we were coming?

Doctor: Your principal called the center a few days ago and told us about your travel plans. He figured you could use some help when you got here.

Sabina: Good old Mr. Wheeler. He thinks of everything. I'm sure glad you came along. We were about to leave when you came over.

Doctor: Don't worry about a thing. I'll take you over to the university. There's a meeting for new students in about an hour. i'm sure you'll find out all you need to know there. Later, I'll take you back to my house for dinner so you can meet my family, if that's O.K. with you guys?

Sabina: That's great, sir. It sure is good to see a friendly face. We really appreciate it.

Henoche: Did you say 20,000 people?

Doctor: That's right, Henoche.

Henoche: There's only 400 people in my whole town! And 80 students in my school. 20,000 students! I'll never remember everyone's name! I can't make friends with 20,000 people! I'll go crazy!

Sabina: Would you relax, Henoche. Come on, no one expects us to remember 20,000 names. We don't have to, do we Dr. Davenport?

Doctor: Of course not! You could never do it. But I guarantee that before long you will have met hundreds of new people from all over the world.

Sabina: Really? You mean there are people here from places like Africa and Australia?

Doctor: Certainly. Just about every country on earth has students here at one time or another.

Sabina: Gee, I never saw a real black person before, except for on TV.

Henoche: Yeah, I wouldn't mind meeting some people from Australia, especially the guys. Hey doc, do they all dress like Crocodile Dundee or just in the summer time?

Doctor: Oh, Henoche, you're so unlike any of the kids I've met. You and Sabina are in for such an adventure this year. I only hope that you can absorb it all.

Henoche: Hey, no sweat, Doc. If we can get out of this airport, university's a snap!

Sabina: Look Henoche, we haven't seen the place yet, so I wouldn't crow so soon.

Doctor: Sabina's right, Henoche. I think the both of you are in for a real eye-opener. Don't assume that everything will be easy, because it won't.

Sabina: Are you trying to scare us doctor, because if you are, it's working.

Doctor: Look, sit down. I'm not trying to scare you. I just want you to be prepared for what you will face. Your town has 400 people, St. John's alone has 100,000 people.

Henoche: Oh God, more people!

Doctor: Please, Henoche. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I bet at home most people either fish, hunt or trap for a living, or else they support themselves by social assistance.

Henoche: Not my father! He doesn't live off no Kablunak's money!

Doctor: If I offended you, Henoche, I'm sorry. My point was that in your village everyone is basically at the same level, economically. No one has more than the other and everyone helps their neighbour. Am I right?

Sabina: Yes. The elders say that we should all share with each other. It's always been that way. It's the old way.

Doctor: Well, here things are different. People here keep to themselves. Everyone is so wrapped up with their lives and their work that they don't have time for anyone else. It's just like everyone is living in their own little world.

Henoche: You mean, they're proud.

Doctor: Yes, Henoche, I guess you could say that.

Sabina: Well, if people here are so proud, why are you helping us?

Doctor: Because I was once in your position not so long ago. You see I came from a very small village in England and when I came here 8 years ago, I faced the same thing that you're going through now. So you see, I really do know what it's like to be an outsider in a strange new world.

Henoche: Well gee, Doc, inutsiak.

Doctor: Ah, what does that mean, Henoche?

Sabina: In Inuit it means "you're a nice person".

Doctor: Well, this nice person had better get you guys to the university or you 'll miss your meeting.

Sabina: Dr. Davenport, could you take us out to Wendy's sometime while we're here? I saw it on TV and the food looks good.

Henoche: Yeah, I want to ask that fella Dave what a big classic is.

Doctor: Come on, you two, or we'll miss the meeting.

Actors leave the stage.

## Scene 2

Sabina is alone in her room tidying up when a knock comes on the door. She goes to the door to open it and Henoche enters.

Sabina: Hi, Henoche. What are you doing here? I thought that you were going for a walk.

Henoche: I did go for a walk, but I got lost. Those darn tunnels fool me up. I left the residence and headed for the student center but I must have made a wrong turn somewhere, because I ended up in the Science Building.

Sabina: How did you know it was the Science Building?

Henoche: When I opened this door I saw a whole bunch of dark people with lab coats on and they were talking in this strange language.

Sabina: Could you see what they were doing?

Henoche: Well, they were all gathered around this big table looking at what I think was a dead cat.

Sabina: What were they doing with it?

Henoche: I don't know exactly, but when I asked them for directions to the Student Centre, one of them turned around and started chasing me with a scalpel and bawling at me all out. I think he put a curse on me.

Sabina: Gee, sounds like you had quite a day.

Henoche: So what did you do all day?

Sabina: I've stayed around here mostly and just cleaned up a little bit. Oh, I met my room mate. Her name is Judy Reynolds. The old udjuk.

Henoche: Why do you say that? What's she like? Where is she?

Sabina: She's one of those proud people Dr. Davenport told us about yesterday. I tried to be nice and make friends with her but she made fun of me.

Henoche: What did you do?

Sabina: When I started to unpack this morning, she started making fun of my clothes and the way I talked.

Henoche: What did she say?

Sabina: She said that our kind of people had no idea how to dress because we only wear sealskin clothes. And she said that I would be able to live here because I can't talk proper.

Henoche: What did you say to her?

Sabina: I didn't say anything. I got so mad that I started to cry and ran out of the room. When I came back she had her boyfriend Peter with her. Even when I said hello to him he laughed at me too and they left. Stupid Kablunaks, I'd like to give them a good hard kick in the nuluk (rear end).

Henoche: Ah, don't waste your energy. Besides, if we start beatin' up everyone who calls us names, then they'll really think that we're savages and we live in igloos and eat raw seal fat.

Sabina: Henoche, we do eat seal fat.

Henoche: Oh, yeah. Bad example.

They both laugh.

Sabina: Let's forget about those two issumackies. Look what I've got.

Henoche: Yes! I thought you left them home.

Sabina: No way! It's like that credit card, you don't leave home without it.

Henoche: What are you waiting for? Put it on.

She puts the cassette into the stereo and traditional music is heard. The young people begin to hum and sing to the music. All of a sudden the door opens and in walks a young man and woman.

Judy: Would you turn that stuff down? You can hear it all the way down the hall. God, what is it anyway, it sounds awful.

Sabina: I'm sorry, Judy. Henoche and I were just talking and we got carried away.

Judy: Well, make sure that I'm not around when you have your next pow-wow. Who was that, some guy in pain?

Henoche: It's Charlie Puliniak. He's a traditional Inuit singer. We listen to him all the time because he sings about the things that we know best; our people, our land.

Judy: Well, isn't that just so special. By the way, who are you?

Sabina: This is my friend, Henoche, he's from my home town too.

Judy: My! Since we're all getting so friendly here, this is my boyfriend Peter. He's in medical school.

Peter: Hi. Say, I've always wanted to ask you people something. Is it true that eating fish reduces the risk of heart attack and stroke?

Sabina and Henoche: What?

Peter: Come on, that's all you people ever eat and you never die of heart attacks. You two should come over to the lab. We could do some real neat experiments on you. After all, you've certainly never eaten any real food. Gee whiz, it must be awful to live on fish everyday. Gross.

Judy: Oh, no, Peter. They don't only eat fish. They mix it up with a pound of raw seal fat and really have a feast.

Sabina: Why, you stupid....

Henoche grabs her and pulls her to the side.

Henoche: Look, don't sweat it. Now's our chance to really have some fun with these guys.

Sabina: Fun? What are you talking about? All I want to do is wring her neck and feed her to the dogs.

Henoche: Look, don't say anything and follow my lead, O.K.?

Henoche: So, Judy and Peter, you want to learn some Inuktitut?

Judy: Why would we ever want to do that?

Henoche: Well, correct me if I'm wrong, but Doctor Miller over in Folklore Department is looking for an assistant to help him teach native languages.

Judy: Why are you telling us this?

Sabina: Well, Judy, you told me this morning that you were looking for a way to earn some extra money. This would be a great opportunity. If you went over there and started talking Inuk, you'd be sure to get the job!



Judy: Yeah, that's perfect! Hey, wait a minute. Why are you being so nice to me all of a sudden? A minute ago you were ready to kill me.

Sabina: Well Judy, in our culture fighting is looked down upon and if I were to hit you, I would be going against everything I was taught. I also thought that if I could teach you my language, we could get along better.

Judy: Well, I...

Peter: Aw, come on Judy. It's perfect. Think of all the money you could make. The clothes you could buy. Think of all the things you could buy me!

Henoche: So, what do you say? Are you chicken?

Judy: Of course not! Where do I begin?

Henoche: Well, when you walk into his office you should say: "Hello, Dr. Miller, you're a real issumakie. By the way, I adore your nuluk. It certainly is big."

Sabina tries to control her laughter.

Henoche: It means he's a real brilliant man and you like his office.

Judy: Then what should I say?

Sabina: Then you could say: "illuat naneu (where is your home?). I'm very interested in looking at your mamuks."

Henoche: That means you would like to go to his house and see his soapstone carvings.

Peter: How do you know he has carvings?

Sabina: Oh, he really does, I heard someone say so.

Henoche: And then to really make sure you get the job you should say, "KatitKpelougok (Please take off your shirt.)"

Judy: What does that mean?

Henoche: it means you are eager to learn and you would make a great assistant.

Judy: Gee thanks, you guys.

Peter: O.K. What about me? What can I say to a patient if they are really, really sick and they want to hear some good news?

Sabina: Then you could say: "tokonaqotit (you're going to die)." It means you are well on the way to recovery.

Henoche: And if you have a little kid who doesn't want to get a needle say this: "Kapinakotit (you will need many needles)." It means it won't hurt and you will need no more needles after this.

Peter: That's great. The kid's will eat up that stuff! Hey, when my instructors see how great I can get along with Eskimo people I'm sure to get an A. Henoche, can I see you again to learn some more of this stuff?

Henoche: Sure! Anything you need to know I can tell you. Maybe I'll teach you some of the not-so-nice words.

Judy: What about personal things?

Sabina: What do you mean?

Judy: Like, how would Peter pay me a compliment, like, how I look?

Sabina: Oh, that's easy, he could just say: "Judy, you look like annak (poop)." And Judy, even I really mean that.

Peter: What did she say?

Henoche: She said Judy looks like a goddess, really beautiful.

Judy: Why Sabina, you're just so sweet. We're going to get along just fine.

Sabina: Oh you can count on that, Judy.

Henoche: Well, come on Sabina, you and I should get something to eat and leave these guys alone to practice their lines.

Peter: You people are really great to do this. Maybe I can repay you some time.

Sabina: Oh Peter, you already repaid us. More than you could ever know. Goodbye.

Judy and Peter: Bye! Bye!

Sabina and Henoche leave the room and close the door.

Sabina: Do you think they bought it?

Henoche: Are you crazy? They ate it all up, the fools.

Sabina: Oh, Henoche. I thought I would die when Judy said I was sweet.

Henoche: Yeah, I should have told her she smelled like a honey bucket. After all, that's where annak belongs.

Sabina: Can you imagine what Dr. Miller will do when she goes over there?

Henoche: Oh yeah. Too bad we can't be there to see it.

Sabina: Come on, we better go before they hear us. How about MacDonaldis for supper?

Henoche: Sounds great. Say, do you think Ronald MacDonald's feet are really that big? Can you imagine the size snowshoes he would need?

Sabina: Come on, Henoche!

Lights dim and they leave the stage.

### Scene 3

#### Labrador Airways Plane

When lights come back on, Peter, Judy, Sabina, and Henoche are on a plane going back to Labrador. It is a very rocky plane ride.

Henoche: Hey, Judy. How ya feeling? Isn't this something else?

Judy: Oh yeah, Henoche, it's just wonderful. (She throws up in a bag.)

Henoche: Ah, don't worry, this is a good flight. You should have been on the plane when we came out here in September. Remember that, Sabina?

Sabina: Do I? My stomach still hasn't recovered.

Judy: What happened?

Henoche: Everything was fine until we were 15 minutes outside Goose Bay. We hit an air pocket and the plane dropped about a hundred feet. What a ride! No roller coaster could ever match it. We came so close to the water you could see the fish.

Judy: That must have been awful for you.

Sabina: Not really. When you've flown on these places as much as we have you get used to it. Oh, here we go again.

Judy: Oh, no! (She throws up.)

Sabina turns around to Henoche.

Sabina: You think she'll make it?

Henoche: Oh yeah, one more migak (throw up) and she'll be fine.

Sabina: So, how does it feel to have one year of university done?

Henoche: O.K., I guess. Why, do I look like a Kablunak? Do I sound like one?

Sabina: No, Henoche, you're still Inuit. What I meant was, do you think people will treat us different because we went outside?

Henoche: Atsuk (I don't know). So what if they do. At least we had the courage to leave and do something with our lives. Come on, did you really want to stay home and do nothing, like Mary or William or Jonas?

Sabina: No! But you know what people are like. They'll think we're proud because we went to a new school. They'll say we look different and act different.

Henoche: Sabina, listen to yourself. You sound like Judy and Peter. You're saying the same things about our people that they said about you. If you can handle those two, surely you can take a little mocking from the kids at home. Besides, look at Peter and Judy and what happened to them.

Sabina: You're right. I heard that when Judy went for her interview Dr. Miller was so upset that he not only kicked her out the door but out of his class as well. And when Peter was at the hospital he had this patient from Nain. The man was about 80 years old and he was constipated. When the man asked Peter if he was going to be O.K., Peter said he's going to die. Well, the old man had a fit and started bawling at the doctors and nurses. Needless to say Peter's instructors were not impressed. Oh, I wish I could have been there when they got theirs.

Henoche: Now, you see, if you can handle two Kablunaks (white people), this will be a breeze.

Sabina: You know what I'm really going to miss about St. John's more than anything?

Henoche: What?

Sabina: The guys. There's nothing at all here.

Henoche: Hey, what do I look like?

Sabina: Do you really want me to answer that?

Henoche? Ha, ha. Very funny. So what are you going to do for the summer?

Sabina: I'm gonna work at the craft centre. What about you?

Henoche: I'm gonna work with daddy at one of those new radar sites up the bay. They say it's good money.

Sabina: Ronald and Dave will certainly appreciate all the money you bring them.

Henoche: Are you saying I eat too much?

Sabina: If the shoe fits.

Henoche: Judy there seems to be O.K. You think she can last here for a week?

Sabina: Yeah, she'll be fine. It's Peter that I'm worried about. I haven't heard a word out of him since we left Goose Bay. Is he dead back there?

Henoche: Hey Pete, wake up!

Peter: Are we there yet? Am I still alive?

Judy moves to the back with Peter.

Judy: How many of those gravel did you take anyway?

Peter: I lost count after four.

Judy: So what do you think this place will be like? Do you think they have any indoor plumbing?

Peter: Well, I heard Henoche say that not all the village has water and sewer.

Judy: Oh God. I bet we'll end up in the part of the village with no water. What am I going to do. I can't go a day without washing my hair. I'll die if I can't have a shower.

Peter: Oh, relax will you? It'll probably do us good to see how these people live. So what if we have to eat seal meat all the time. It'll be good for us. After all, protein is good for you.

Judy: Oh, is there anyway we can make this plane turn back? What about if I were to fake a heart attack and pretend like I'm sick? Do you think that would work?

Peter: You are sick. Sick in the heard. Did you ever think that we might need this?

Judy: What would make you say that? We don't need no running water and no flush toilets? Let's go home. Hey, pilot, could you turn back please?

Peter: Judy! Shut up! We're on this plane, we can't turn back, and there's nothing you can do about it! If you really want to leave I'll push you through the darn door now.

Judy: O.K. I'm sorry. What's gotten into you?

Peter: I've really been thinking a lot about what Henoche has told me about this coast. Do you know that they only get doctor's here every 2 or 3 months? And that's only if the weather is good. Sometimes these people don't even see a doctor at all.

Judy: What are you saying Peter?

Peter: I'm saying I'd like to work here one day and really make a difference. You know, like Dr. Grenfell did. I think that's what medicine is all about; being there when you're needed and really making a difference.

Judy: But Peter, what about me? I couldn't possibly live here!

Peter: Well, Judy, sacrifices have to be made.

Judy: Peter!

Henoche: Here we are, guys, it's home sweet home.

Judy moans, and throws up.

Lights dim and curtain close.

T H E E N D