

Henry Gordon Academy, Cartwright

presents

"RUMOURNISTIC"

CAST

Kelly
Stephanie (Steph)
Steve
Mr. Pye
Toni
Jeff
Mandy
Vicki
Joanne

Donelda Pardy
Michele Martin
Bobby Hopkins
John MacDonald
Miranda Pardy
Fabian Green
Leneah Hamel
Adrienne Morris
Barbie Mesher



CREW

Lights / Sound

Clinton Clark

TEACHER ADVISOR

Miss Sharon Handcock

June Flowers
Amos Comenius Memoria'
Hopedale

MUSIC

I Heard it Through the Grapevine - Marvin Gaye
I Heard a Rumour - Banarama
Little Lies - Fleetwood Mac

This play, written and developed by the H.G.A. Players, focuses on the nature of rumours (i.e. how they are started, spread and how they affect the lives of those involved).

When the play opens, it is the last day of the school year and some teenagers are sitting on the school steps conversing. This is the place where the rumours begin about "Kelly", initiated by the character "Steph". As the plot unfolds, it is eventually believed that "Kelly" is pregnant and later has an abortion. This character is later confronted with this false information, becomes distressed and considers ending her life.

NOTE: The idea for this play and its written material were developed by the students themselves. It is a topic of concern to them since it affects their lives as well.

RUMOURNISTIC

SCENE I

Situation: (Kelly has the stomach flu or a similar illness and she has been missing school in the mornings. It is the last day of school and the teenagers question why she hasn't been in school. This is when the rumours begin.)

SETTING: School steps (some teenagers are on the steps having a smoke.)
CHARACTERS: Jeff, Steph, Toni, Mr. Pye, Steve.

MUSIC....

JEFF: Anyone got a light?

TONI: No by! I spose Mr. Pye got one, he'll be out for a smoke the once.

JEFF: I think I hear him coming now... who else could it be? Just listen...
(Mr. Pye is humming)

STEPH: Mr. Pye is trying to sing!!! (He comes out onto the school steps)

MR. PYE: Push over by's, make room for your favorite Home Ec teacher,

STEPH: But sir, your our only Home Ec. teacher. Get a life.

(Mr. Pye takes a cigarette out of his pocket, lights it, and puts the lighter back into his pocket. Everyone looks at him with a stupid look.)

JEFF: Come on now sir, I needs a light. Don't be so greedy by! You're supposed to share.

MR. PYE: You're supposed to say please. Relax! Take a chill pill! Here by!

STEPH: Sir what about us?

MR. PYE: Here take it. Well by's I only stopped for a minute. I must strut down the road, I spose. See ya.

JEFF: See ya later sir and thanks for the light.

TONI: (Shakes head, rolls eyes!) Strange man! Slightly touched!

(Pause - everyone puffing.)

(In the background Steve is putting on his sneakers and hears them talking, he hears them mention Kelly's name.)

STEPH: No kidding Toni! Gee by's I haven't seen Kelly around lately. Doesn't it seem funny she's only been sick in the mornings.

TONI: Yeah! I heard Mom telling someone the other day that Kelly was over to the clinic Wednesday. Something could be up.

JEFF: Yeah that is strange.

STEPH: Maybe she's...

(Toni nudges her.)

(Steve walks out of the school porch.)

STEPH: Yo Steve! What's up? (He shrugs his shoulders)

JEFF: Wanna draw or wha?

RUMOURNISTIC

STEVE: No by! I'm on my way to Kelly's house, now.

TONI: Oh by the way, how is she?

STEVE: I dunno... why don't you ask her yourself?

END OF SCENE I

SCENE II

Situation: (Steve brings Kelly her report card. Kelly is lying on the couch, watching T.V. and flicking controls.)

SETTING: Kelly's livingroom

CHARACTERS: Kelly and Steve.

STEVE: Hey Kelly! What are ya at?

KELLY: Hello there! Oh! "All My Children" is making me sick.

STEVE: Wha?

KELLY: Erika by, Erika! She's up to her old tricks again.

STEVE: Ooh yeah! I know what you mean! Here's your report card sook!

KELLY: Oh joy! But thanks anyways.

STEVE: So, how is ya maid?

KELLY: Gross! I feels like I'm pregnant! Not! (Throws pillow at Steve, meanwhile he looks as though his eyes are going to pop out.) No by! All I does is eat though. You'd probably do the same thing if you were sick.

STEVE: Excuses, excuses! (throws pillow back) But yeah I spose. Really though how are you?

KELLY: I was over to the clinic Wednesday, they thinks it's just the stomache flu, but if I'm no better by tomorrow they got to send me out.

STEVE: Gee! I hope it's nothing serious. (Has a concerned look on his face.)

KELLY: Who knows? Oh by the way, want something to drink? (Get's up and walks towards kitchen.)

STEVE: Yeah I spose. (Then says to himself) Gee I wonder if what the by's were getting on with is for real...

END OF SCENE II

RUMOURNISTIC

SCENE III

SETTING: Steph and her friends are on the Pool hall steps talking.

CHARACTERS: Steph, Toni, Jeff, Vicki, Mandy, and Joanne.

STEPH: What was that plane that came in around three o'clock this morning?

TONI: Oh that was Kelly. She got sent to St. Anthony last night cause she had bad pains in her stomache.

STEPH: Nah! Could it be what we said about her yesterday is true?

TONI: Go on by?

JEFF: We knows that can't be true.

STEPH: Yeah! Ya never knows by, the way her and Steve bangs around together.

JEFF: Come on by's! You don't know that for sure and even if it is true it's none of our buisness.

STEPH: Well, what else could it be? Why else would they send her away?
I mean she has been sick only in the mornings for the past week.
If you ask me, it's pretty obvious what's going on.

TONI: Yeah, I mean Kelly has been putting on a few pounds. There's just no other reason for it.

JEFF: It's not right to be talking about her like that, she has feelings too.
What if everyone was talking about you like that?

(Meanwhile, a group of girls overhear Steph and her friends talking.)

VICKI: Holy cow! Did you hear that Joanne? From what their saying Kelly must be pregnant.

JOANNE: I bet Mandy doesn't know about this. Let's go find out Vicki.

STEPH: Who's side are you on anyways?

JEFF: No ones side.

TONI:What's wrong Jeff, you got the hots for Kelly or what?

STEPH: Yeah, perhaps it was you that got her in trouble. Maybe that's why you're defending her.

JEFF: Steph do you ever stop??? Get a life of your own instead of poking your nose into other peoples buisness.

(Jeff exits. Then Toni and Steph exit.)
(Enter Vicki and Joanne dragging Mandy.)
As they enter Mandy says....

MANDY: You can't be serious, what did they say?

RUMOURNISTIC

VICKI: Honestly, we were standing right here. We heard every word.

JOANNE: Yeah, they said Kelly was definatly pregnant and was gone to St.Anthony, I mean St.John's and...(Vicki interupts)

VICKI: Yeah! To get rid of it!

MANDY: You're not serious. To get an abortion.

VICKI: That's gross! I'd never be able to do that toa baby.

MANDY and JOANNE (together):Me neither!

END OF SCENE III

SCENE IV

SITUATION:(Kelly and Steve enter the Pool hall. The other teenagers are there already. Kelly goes up to the counter to buy a Pepsi. Steph comes up behind her, she is with Toni.)

SETTING: Pool hall

CHARACTERS: Steph, Kelly, Steve, Jeff, Toni, Vicki, Joanne, and Mandy.

STEPH: When did you get back? (Says it very snobby.)

KELLY: Today. Gee, what's your problem?

STEPH: I'm not the one with the problem. You are,or did you get rid of it . How could you do such a thing Kelly?

KELLY: Do what? What areyou getting on with?

STEPH: Oh come on.You know what we're talking about. Don't play dumb with me. We all know what you did.

KELLY: What did I do? Will someone please fill me in here?

STEPH: Do we have to spell it out for you?

TONI: We know you had an abortion, you can't deny it .

MANDY: Yeah I heard it too!

VICKI: You were pretty fast getting back from St.John's.I did'nt think you could abortions that quick.

KELLY: St. John's, abortion? What are you talking about? Where did you hear that?

STEPH: Well it was pretty obvious.

KELLY: It was only the stomache flu! Get your facts straight before you go shooting your mouth off.

TONI: It's too late now! We all know the truth.

RUMOURNISTIC

KELLY: There's no reason why you shouldn't believe me. What proof do you have?

JEFF: Okay guys, that's enough, leave her alone. It;s all a bunch of bull anyways. When are you ever going to grow up?!?!

STEVE: Come on Kelly, let's go. You don't need to take anymore of this abuse.

KELLY: No that's okay Steve. Everybody just leave me alone!!(Kelly takes off.)

(Stephs friends start to feel bad.)

STEVE: Do you get some kind of pleasure out of hurting people?(Directed at Steph.)

JEFF: Yeah, it seems to be a habit with you lately.

(Jeff and Steve leave the Pool hall)

TONI: Gee, what a sin! She was always such a nice girl. I don't believe these lies.

JOANNE: Me neither. (The other girls give a mean glance and exit with Joanne.)
(They all leave Steph alone in the Pool hall. She looks shocked.)

STEPH: (Sits on bench.) Fine! Leave me! See if I care.

END OF SCENE IV

SCENE V

SITUATION: (Kelly enters her house and starts talking to herself. She sits down and starts to write a suicide note.)

KELLY: (Still crying a bit, walks around.) Why did this have to happen to me?
What did I do to deserve this? I'm sick of it! Sick of everything!
Sick of life! (She picks up a piece of paper and sits down to write.)

Dear Mom, Dad, and Steve,

I am so sick of all the rumours. This gossip has ruined other peoples lives and now it's ruined mine too. I can't believe the things that people can say. They don't realize they are playing around with peoples feelings and emotions. They don't realize the damage they've done and what they're going to continue to do.

We're all guilty of spreading rumours, letting our tongues control our minds. But some people carry it too far. I don't want to be a part of it anymore. Too bad I won't be around to hear about this one. It really sucks when you're the target and you're the one who has to take all this crap! Well, I've had enough. I'm not going to take it anymore! I'm going to end it, all....

(She pushes back the coffee table and blasts the music, then walks out to another room.)

(Enter Jeff and Steve into Kelly's house, Steve turns down the music.)

STEVE: Kelly! Kelly! Are you in here? She must be in here somewhere, she left the music on bust.

JEFF: Look what's this? (Begins to read note.)

RUMOURNISTIC

STEVE: What's she writing now? (Reads a bit of it.) Looks like a suicide note to me.

JEFF: Holy sweet honorable! She wouldn't do that would she?
(Kelly enters livingroom carrying pills and reading the labels.)

JEFF: Kelly! (She gets a fright and drops the pills.)

KELLY: What are you doing here? Don't you know how to knock??

STEVE: Kelly, what do you think you're doing? What's this?

KELLY: I can't take it anymore. (She starts to pick up the pills.)
(Steve and Jeff go over to put their arms around Kelly.

Jeff: It's okay Kelly. Calm down.

STEVE: This isn't the way out Kelly. You're only hurting the people you love.
You've got so much to live for. It's a very selfish thing to do.

(Lights go down, spotlight appears on Jeff.)

JEFF: Suicide is a permanent solution to a temporary problem. You're not going to stop people from gossiping. There will always be false rumours but the truth will always come out in the end.

-----SCENE FADES OUT-----

POEM IS READ

THE END.