

**PICHITAWNO PLAYERS
ERIC G. LAMBERT SCHOOL, CHURCHILL FALLS**

present

"The Way I Am"

"The Way I Am" is a play about teen personalities. It takes an honest look at the ways, often cruel, in which teenagers label and deal with the non-conformists among them.

Cast

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Patrick | Jeff Ash |
| Mrs. Taylor | Sarah Haynes |
| Samantha | Sandy Hurley |
| Leonard | Jamie Fox |
| Andrea | Debbie Ryan |
| Beavis | Robert Anthony |
| Mike | Dameon Bryant |
| Alex | Katherine Haynes |
| Carleton | Justin Duffney |
| Ashley | Angela Morgan |

Crew

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Stage Manager | Debbie Ryan |
| Technicians | Gerry Norcott |

Teacher Advisors

Noreen Heighton
Roz Lewis



Rex Voisey
J.C. Erhardt Memorial School
Makkovik

We had a lot of problems,
Trying to get here,
With hard work we solved them,
And now we have no fear.

We have to leave our families,
But it's only for a week,
Some of us will get homesick,
Others are fancy free.

We are all going shopping,
And skating at the rink,
Our schedule will be so busy,
We won't have time to think.

We are from Black Tickle,
We are now in Goose Bay,
We have done our very best,
And you've just "scene" our play.

"The Way I Am"

- a play about teen personalities.

Written + performed by the Pichitawno Players, Eric H. Lambert, School
Churchill Falls.

Scene I. At home. Actors in tableau. Break tableau when the light comes on them.

Patrick: seated at centre, eating breakfast. He continually eats throughout the scene.

Beavis: (still sleepy). What?! What time is it? It's not 8:00! Why didn't you call me earlier? Oh, tough, I didn't hear you. I'm not going now...its too late! I'll go after recess. NO! I'M NOT GOING! Forget it, mom. School sucks anyway....I'll go after recess! Can't you give me a break for once, MOM.

Mrs. Taylor: (putting papers in briefcase and conversing with husband off stage)

Can you take Stacey to Brownies after school? I can't, I have a staff meeting ...you know how late they are...we'll be lucky to get out of there before 6...we're talking about extra teacher workload caused by all these company cutbacks.

Where are those papers I corrected last night? God, they're hardly worth bringing to school...nearly everyone failed...I don't know where I went wrong!

I don't know where your baseball hat is! Ask Daddy. What? I can't go to your hockey tonight, dear. I've got a Home and School meeting at 8. I have to go! I'm making a presentation to the parents on the new program I'm teaching.

(looks at watch) Oh, God! I'm going to be late..I'm on duty today too. C'mon kids, I'm going to school now, give a kiss to Mom.

Mike: Mom, yes I studied. I've been up since 6...I know everything. Isn't 3 hours study enough for one history test? Yes, I've got my assignment done. It's 12 pages like you wanted me to do. I know, I know, it WILL be an A.

Jeez, can she not get off my back for one day?

What? another appointment with Mr. Heighton? I've already talked to him about every scholarship and every university. I'm only in Level I...still two years to plan. OK I'll go. 4 o'clock? Okay, see you later, Mom.

Samantha: Hey, where are my volleyball clothes? Didn't you wash them for me?

Alex: Its not my responsibility to wash your volleyball clothes! Why didn't you wash them yourself?

Samantha: I was studying for that geography test...you know I've got to pass that or I might have to quit volleyball. If that

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happens, I'll quit school.

Alex: Get a life! Its only volleyball....there are other things to get excited about.

Samantha: Not more important than volleyball! Regionals are here this year...I'm going to be the star.

Alex: Oh, right! Lets go. We'll be late for school.

Samantha: Wait! I need volleyball clothes. MOM!

Leonard: (packing school bag and lunch box). Here's my binder, my looseleaf, my calculator and all my books. Here's 3 copies of all my homework in case one of my friends asks to borrow it. And here's my peanut butter and jelly sandwich for recess. I just love school...I see all of my friends there.
Are you ready to walk me to the bus stop, MOM?

Patrick: I'm still hungry! More breakfast, please MOM.

Scene II: Before school.

Alex and Carleton are outside smoking and freezing to death.
Andrea approaches:

Andrea: Do you have your French homework done? I need to get this done bad!

Alex: I've loaned it to you enough already. Ask someone else for a change.

Andrea: (to Carleton) Lend me your French homework. I really need it.

Carleton: I'm not lending it! I don't want to risk getting 0..I want to get into Princeton.

Andrea: Oh, where am I going to get that French homework! (she goes into classroom)

Andrea: Ashley, give me your French!

Ashley: I don't have it done either! I was babysitting last night until after 3 this morning...I can hardly stay awake. Why don't you ask ~~him~~ ^{Leonard}? He always has homework done.

Andrea: Oh, God! I'm not that desperate!

Ashley: It's better than getting told off by the teacher...ask

him...you know it will be right.

Andrea: Leonard, can I borrow your French homework?

Leonard: (producing a folder from book bag) Oh, certainly! I have one copy left of my French homework. It is all double-spaced to make it easy to copy. Now, you'll notice that all of those verbs are irregular so be careful of the endings.

Andrea: Shut up! Just give me the homework!

Leonard: (trotting out after Andrea) Do you have your English assignment done? I made up two separate essays... one is on the Lure of the Labrador Wild and the other on Shakespeare...both are very good....(exits talking)

Carleton: (still smoking) Another boring day with all these delinquents. I can't wait till I graduate and get away so I can go to school with people of my own intelligence.

(Alex reacts negatively to this snobbishness)

I should belong to a private school!

Alex: Eric G. Lambert is a private school! At least up until now.

Carleton: I'd rather be in private all boys school...this place will be a lot worse next year when they join the high school onto the primary/elementary section. Can you imagine me with all those little youngsters running around my feet?

Alex: Well, at least, it won't take so long to get to the library and to gym... I like the idea of having the whole school in the town centre.

Carleton: You would! No sense for the unique, Alex. Not like myself who always strives for the unusual, that which is above the commonplace.

Alex: Yeah, right, like bumming a smoke beside the mess hall. Some unique.

BELL RINGS

Scene III, The Classroom.

Set teachers desk and chair. Desks for students. As students set desks, they sit in them and mime chatting before class. As lights come up:

Mrs. Taylor: ...and do pages 120 to 121 all the even numbers. (Class groans). I've corrected your math tests. Some of you may be disappointed in your mark...they were lower than I expected.

(hands out tests) Samantha, I want to see you after school.

Sam: I can't, Mrs. Taylor. I have volleyball after school.

Mrs. T. Surely, math is more important than volleyball!

Sam: No it isn't, miss. We have regional tournament next weekend...

Mrs. T.: Oh, alright, stay for a minute after class.
(continues to hand out papers) Here's your test, Mike.

Mike: What! 87! How could I get such a low mark?

Mrs. T.: that's a good mark, Mike.

Mike: 87? Good? I have to have a retest, Mrs. Taylor. I need at least 95 %. Can I have a retest tomorrow?

Mrs. T.: Mike, I don't have time to make up another test for you. You'll have to be satisfied with 87.

Mike: 87 is not good enough! My mother will shoot me! Every test has to be in the 90's! Mrs. Taylor, please!

Mrs. T: I'm sorry...no retest!

Leonard: Mrs. Taylor, here's an apple for my favorite teacher. I polished it all last night...

(class laughs)

Mrs. Taylor: Why, thank you, Leonard. (admonishes the class) that was very thoughtful of you.

Beavis: (enters late, swaggers in, says sarcastically) Sorry, I'm late, Miss, I got caught in a traffic jam on the way to school.

Mrs. T.: You got caught in traffic in Churchill Falls?

Beavis: Yes, miss! I thought I'd never get out! What a jam!

Mrs. T: (cuts him off) Never mind, Beavis. Here's your test.

Beavis: WOW ! 3%. Up a whole % from last time. (class laughs. Beavis takes apple from teachers hand). Thanks miss, I am kind of hungry, no time for breakfast. (starts eating the apple)

Leonard: Hey, you, give that back! That's for the teacher.

Beavis: Get lost, geek!

Mrs. T: Alright...that's enough from you, Beavis. I'm tired of dealing with your every day, hour lateness, your rudeness. Go to

the office, Beavis, right now.

Beavis: I'm going, stop crying! (he exits laughing. class snickers...he is such a loser)

Mrs. T.: Now class, next day, we're going to correct this test and then begin our group work.

Ashley: Do we get to pick our own groups?

Mrs. T.: No, the groups are already picked. Andrea, Carleton and Patrick. Patrick, wake up. (she shakes Patrick, he wakes up with a start)

Patrick: Am I in trouble?

Mrs. T.: No, Patrick, just try to stay awake in here, OK?

Patrick: OK, Mrs. Taylor.

Andrea: Don't worry, Mrs. Taylor, I will be glad to help Patrick with his math assignment. Would you like to go to the library after school for a while to work on it, Patrick?

Patrick: Okay, Andrea.

Mrs. T.: Thanks, so much, Andrea, that will be a big help to all of us. Mike, you and Ashley will be working with Beavis. (Mike and Ashley react negatively).

Mike: Mrs. Taylor, will the mark for this assignment be individual or one mark for the group?

Mrs. T.: Its a group mark, Mike, why?

Mike: Because Beavis won't do any work and his mark will be counted with mine. I'll fail and my mother will shoot me again!

Mrs.T.: Well, he's part of the group, its up to you to make Beavis work.

Ashley: Yeah, like he's going to listen to us...he's such a loser!

Mrs. T.: Well, do your best. Leonard, you will be in the same group as Alex and Samantha. (Alex smiles but Samantha reacts negatively).

Samantha: I'm in with that nerd!

BELL RINGS

Mrs. T. You may go. Samantha, come up here please. (Samantha approaches desk) Why is your mark so low? You are usually an A student. 67 ...that's low for you. Did you study for this test?

Sam: I studied as much as I could. I do have volleyball every night you know.

Mrs. T.: Perhaps you should be spending less time at volleyball...

Sam: I can't! This is important! The team needs me...

Mrs. T. I want you to start coming in after school for extra help.

Sam.: I can't miss, I have volleyball every day after school.

Mrs. T. Well, then I'll arrange for a tutor from our class to help you at night and on weekends.

Samantha: Okay, even though I don't need one.

Mrs. T.: If you don't get help and your marks keep going down, you won't have to worry about volleyball any more.

Samantha: Can I go to class now?

Mrs. T.: Yes, Samantha, and don't forget what I said.

(Samantha begins to exit the classroom. Leonard and Alex are still there. Leonard approaches Samantha)

Leonard: I overheard that you need a tutor in math...I had 100 on the test and I could help you...

Samantha: Get lost, nerd!

Leonard: I'm not a nerd. (he exits sadly)

Alex: (watches Leonard exit) You shouldn't treat him like that you know.

Samantha: He's just a nerd! Everybody talks to him like that...nobody cares what he thinks.

Alex: What if you were a nerd. Would you want people to treat you like that?

Samantha: Well, I'm not a nerd...nobody treats me like that.

Alex: Someday you might turn into a nerd.

Sam: Yeah, right! and someday he might be cool!

Alex. There might be good reasons for him being a nerd..

Sam: Like what?

Alex: Maybe his parents are real old fashioned and he has no brothers and sisters for him to imitate. He has no friends so he

doesn't really know how to act...so he just acts like that.

Samantha: Face it Alex. He's a nerd and he'll always be a nerd.

Alex: I can't believe I have a sister like you.

(they exit)

Scene IV: The Teen Centre

Set for teen centre: video game, pool cues, table and chairs, boxes to represent bar. As lights come up, Patrick is playing video game; Ashley, Samantha and Andrea are playing cards at a table; Mike, Beavis and Carleton are at the bar, Mike leaning on it looking sad, Beavis leaning on bar, looking at everybody, and Carleton behind the bar looking official..he is on the teen centre committee. Leonard enters.

Leonard: Hi everybody!

Everybody: Hi Leonard (said lamely without looking at him; except Alex who greets him affably)

(Leonard takes up a pool cue and mimes playing pool. After a few shots, he approaches Mike and Carleton to play with him but they refuse. He resumes playing alone sadly. Alex gets up to offer to play with him but her friends prevent her from approaching him.)

Sam: We need another person to play cards.

Alex: Let's ask Leonard (starts to get up)

Ashley: I'm sure someone else in the Teen Centre can play cards besides him.

Alex: Hey, Leonard, do you want to play cards?

Leonard comes over, the others get up to leave.

Sam: Well, then, you can play by yourselves.

Leonard: (looks mournfully at Alex) Well, that's okay, I'm going home now anyway.

(He exits)

Alex: Leonard, wait up! (she exits after him)

Beavis and Mike sit at table vacated by girls. Andrea and Samantha mime playing pool and Ashley and Patrick mime playing video. Ashley and Patrick notice Mike.

Patrick: Hi, Mike, what are you doing here in the teen centre?

Ashley: Yeah, what are you doing here? you're never at the Teen Centre.

Mike: I had to get out of the house! My mother is driving me nuts. She's on my case again for getting below 90 on a test.

Beavis; Don't feel bad, I got 3%.

Mike: 3%! What do your parents say about that?

Beavis: They don't know, they don't even ask anymore. I don't tell them anything.

Carleton: (in a snobby tone) Beavis, have you paid your membership?

Beavis: No, I have no extra money. Membership fees would interfere with my beer money. (others laugh)

Carleton: No money, no membership...maybe if you didn't buy so much booze, you'd have money for your membership. Get out, before I call security.

Beavis: Give it a rest, Carleton.

Carleton: Absolutely not! It is not my job to give it a rest...I'm trying to instill a little class around here. This centre is for members only...nonmembers and other riff-raff will just have to leave. Get out Beavis!

Mike: Give the guy a break...I'll pay for his membership. (he takes out money and gives it to Carleton)

Beavis: Thanks ^{Mike} Jay. What are you going at tonight?

Mike: I just got into a fight with my parents so I guess I'll just stay down here and play videos and cards. Nothing more exciting to do.

Beavis: Yelled at by the old lady and the old man eh? I know what that's like and I know the solution to that problem. But it will cost you 16.50.

Mike: What do you mean \$16.50?

Beavis: Just give me your money and meet me here later tonight.

Mike: (gives him the money) If you've got my money, I'm going with you.

Beavis: Okay, let's go find a buyer. (they exit)

(Ashley and Patrick wander over to the bar and mime buying a coke from Carleton and drinking it at the bar. After a few moments,

they exit.)

Andrea and Samantha finish playing pool and sit on the window seat.

Andrea: What's wrong, Sam?

Samantha: I'm still worried about that geography test. I don't want to get a poor mark like I did on my math today.

Andrea: What will happen if you get a low mark?

Sam: The teachers will have me taken off the volleyball team.

Andrea: You mean for the regional tournament?

Sam: I've already had a warning in my math class today. The teacher is going to arrange a tutor but that's not the problem. I just don't have the time with all the homework and volleyball every night.

Andrea: You can't get kicked off the volleyball team. They can't win without you. I'm not going to cheer for a losing team. If the captain of the volleyball team is gone, what is the captain of the cheerleading squad going to do?

SAm: But what am I going to do to pass?

Andrea: Do what I do, cheat.

Sam: You cheat! I thought you were some kind of brain.

Andrea: I am. You've got to be some kind of brain to cheat and get away with it.

Sam: But all the teachers think you're so smart and that you work so hard.

Andrea: Well, I could do it myself, but cheating is easier. Why should I do my own work when somebody else can do it for me?

SAm: But how do you do it? I've never cheated before and I didn't know you did!

Andrea: Well, if you're as popular as I am, anybody will do anything for you. If you're popular and talk to teachers the right way, they'll never believe you're cheating.

Sam: (thinking it over) Andrea, I don't know, cheating is serious, if I ever get caught...no sports for a whole year.

Andrea: Come on, who is going to catch you? I've been doing it for years. I'll teach you all my best tricks and you'll have those high marks without losing a wink of sleep or missing one volleyball

practice. (they exit talking)

Big set change. Decide who is doing what and practice it.

Scene V: in Town Centre

Leonard enters and is walking along looking dejected.

Alex: Wait up Leonard! I have to talk to you.

Leonard: (stops, turning) What, what is it?

Alex: I just want to talk to you.

Leonard: What, you just want to make fun of me like everybody else does. I thought you already had your turn.

Alex: I'm not going to make fun of you, you should know I'm not like that.

Leonard: To me, it seems like everybody is like that. why does everybody have to hate me...what did I do to anybody?

Alex: YOU didn't do anything and I don't hate you.

Leonard: Then, what is it? What is it about me that no one likes?

Alex: Well, Leonard, no offence or anything but, you do look a little bit nerdy.

Leonard: Nerdy? What makes me look like a nerd?

Alex: Well, your hair and your clothes, and your walk, and your laugh, and your glasses and your clothes...

Leonard: What do you mean...mom bought these at Target.

Alex: Nobody dresses like that, Leonard..you need to dress like everybody else, you know, go with the flow.

Leonard: But I thought that it was important that I be myself...be my own person.

Alex: Everybody is their OWN person, Leonard, no matter how they dress but this is the 90's not the 60's..its also important to fit in if you want to have friends. ONce you have friends, then you are your own person because they will look at you the way you are..but you've got to get friends first.

Leonard: But I do have some friends.

Alex: I think some people might pretend to be your friend but they're just using you Leonard, because you're so smart and so organized.

Leonard: I thought being smart and organized were good features not something that made people laugh and put you down.

Alex: Being smart is okay but lots of people are smart and they aren't nerds.

Leonard: But I can't do anything about it. I guess I'll just go home...maybe when I finish school and get out of Churchill Falls, people will like me the way I am.

Alex: Well, I can help you change.

Leonard: What can you do, can you really help me?

Alex: Well, it will be a challenge, but I'll see what I can do.
(she laughs, Leonard laughs very nerdily).
(they exit. Leonard walks out like a real nerd).

Scene VI: at Beavis' house.

Beavis and Mike are working at their math assignment.

Beavis: So, Mike did you have a good drunk with me last weekend?

Mike: Yeah, it was fun! I never had so much fun in one night before. Except when I woke up the next morning. Oh What a headache and did I feel sick.

Beavis: Did your old lady find out?

Mike: No, I told her I had the stomach flu so I spent the day in bed.

Beavis: Yeah, there's a lot of that stomach flu goes around on weekends. So are you on for Friday night?

Mike: Yeah, there's a dance FRIday night too so there's less of a chance of me getting caught. but how about we go half this time instead of me buying the whole case?

Beavis: I've only got five bucks. You put in the rest because I'm getting the buyer.

Mike: (looking around) Beavis, are you supposed to be cleaning up around here...this place is a mess, man.

Beavis: Blame that on the old lady. I used to try to help out around the house but all my mother cares about is booze...she says she's not an alcoholic but I know she is.

Mike: Like you're not!

Beavis: I'm not an alcoholic, Mike. I just drink to pass away the weekends.

Mike: Every weekend?

Beavis: No, I missed a weekend last month...my buyer was out of town...I took acid instead.

Mike: (laughing) Beavis, you're quite a guy. Okay, let's try to get some done on this math assignment, there's a lot of work to do.

Beavis: Okay, lets start with this part...

Noises as chairs banging, loud voices are heard off-stage.

Beavis reacts with alarm. He jumps up and starts gathering up the math books and papers. He starts shoving them into Mike's bookbag saying:

Beavis: I thought they were out! You've got to go, Mike! We'll finish this some other time! Just go.

Mike: Jeez, Beavis, what's all that racket? It sounds like furniture is flying around? What's going on?

Beavis: Its my parents, I didn't know they were home! Just go, Mike, please before it gets worse....

Mike: Okay, man, are you going to be okay?

Beavis: Yeah, I'm used to it, they're just drunk! Just go, okay?

Mike exits.

Beavis (turning to offstage) Shutup! Can't we have any peace in this house? (sits on couch looking very sad as noises continue off for a moment. Then Beavis stands up as imaginary father enters)

Beavis: Yes, I told you to shutup! I had a friend here but I told him to leave because you are drunk. I can never have anybody here...I never know what is going to happen next!

Beavis: Don't hit me, Dad! What did I do to deserve this? I just want you to act like normal parents!

(Beavis reels back as if he received a strong blow from father. He falls over chair and is lying on floor as Mike re-enters.)

Mike: (rushes in saying) Beavis, I forgot my calculator and(stops speaking when he sees what is going on and runs out again).

Scene VII: at Mike's house

Mike: Hi Mom, I'm home. I was just at Beavis' working on the math assignment. Oh, okay, mom cook me up some fries, please, if you don't mind. Yeah, sure, mom, I'll get right to my homework, no problem.

(phone rings) Hello.

Ashley: Hi, Mike, I'm just phoning about the math assignment. When are we getting together to work on it?

Mike: I was at Beavis' we were working on the problem but we didn't get too far.

Ashley: I'm not surprised! Did he do any work at all?

Mike: Uh, he's under a lot of pressure right now, he can't do much about it.

Ashley: It can't be as bad as pressure you're under all the time. Are your parents still mad at you about the 87 in math?

Mike: No, when I came home, they said 3 marks below 90 was okay. I can make it up. The pressure they put me under is good compared to other people's pressures. They are only acting like normal parents and they only want what is best for me. I guess I can live with that...its a lot better than what some people put up with.

Ashley: What do you mean by that?

Mike: Oh, nothing..it just feels good that my parents care about me...I'm finally realizing it.

Ashley: That's good. We can work on the assignment over the weekend. Are you going to the dance on Friday night?

Mike: Oh, I don't know. I had some plans with Beavis but now, I don't know what he'll want to do.

Ashley: If you don't mind me saying so, Mike, I'm not sure that Beavis is a good friend for you to have. He's kind of a loser, especially in school, don't you think?

Mike: That's what I always thought too, Ashley, but maybe there's a good reason for his acting the way he does...did you ever think of that? I've gotten to know him a little better in the past few weeks and he really is funny and a lot smarter than he lets on. Sometimes, kids can't help the way they turn out.

Ashley: You might be right...anyway, I'll see you.

Mike: Yeah, see you.

Scene VIII: at Alex's house.

Leonard and Alex are looking at catalogues and magazines.

Alex: Now Leonard, here are some catalogues and magazines that we can look through for a new look for you.

Leonard: We don't need any catalogues..we can just go to the department store in the Town Centre. That's where my mother shops.

Alex: Well my dad and mom agreed to take us to Lab City on Sat. where we can shop for some new clothes like these for you. Now let's pick out some.

Leonard: Well, I love these suspenders..what about these grey flannel pants? Where are the bow ties?

Alex: Well, Leonard, I was thinking more along the lines of these baggy jeans, these team shirts. what do you think of the saints or the Phoenix suns?

Leonard: You mean shirts with pictures on them? My mother doesn't like those? What about these sandals...they're cool and oh, look they have bunny slippers at Northern for half-price!

Alex: Leonard! We are not buying you any bunny slippers!

Leonard: Why not, Alex, I need them to go with my spiderman pajamas! (Alex looks exasperated) Alex, there is one thing I would like to buy when we go to Lab City...

Alex: What is that, Leonard? Some Doc Martins?

Leonard: No, I'd like to get a new pocket protector! This one is ripped and the pens don't stay in very well...could I get a new one for Mr. Power, too, I bet he'd like a pocket protector for all of his pens!

Alex: No Alex, we are going to buy new clothes for you...I talked to your mother about it and she is glad you will have some help in picking out new things.

Leonard: Really! My mother said that! Oh, good, then let's get a new bow tie for me, too. My hero, Peewee Herman wears bow ties..they're cool!

Alex: No, Leonard!

Leonard: Look Alex! There is a big sale on cd's and tapes! My favorite New Kids on the Block!...their tapes are on for 79 cents each!! What a deal! (he starts looking through the flyers exclaiming on the nerdy stuff)

Alex: Leonard, Leonard, stop! (grabs the flyers and catalogues, Leonard stops talking) From now on, Leonard, you just listen, okay, and I'll do the choosing and the talking!

Leonard: Okay, Alex...(laughs his nerdy laugh. Alex looks totally exasperated and as if it is hopeless as the lights dim.)

Scene IX: Back in the classroom. Class is writing test. Mrs. Taylor is supervising.

Ashley: Miss, can you help me? I don't understand what he means by this question.

Mrs. Taylor: I probably don't know the question either, Ashley. I'm just filling in for your geography teacher. With all these company cutbacks, they don't hire substitute teachers any more. I'm not too happy that I'm missing my (pauses as she notices the girls cheating) preparation period to supervise this test so I hope all of you finish on time. You have another 3 minutes.

(Andrea and Samantha are obviously cheating. Samantha copying from sneaker; Andrea copying from arm; copying from eraser. Samantha signals to Andrea for answer to #5. Andrea passes note to her. It falls on floor. Samantha goes to pick up note...Mrs. T. steps on it. The bell rings.)

Mrs. Taylor: Just leave your tests on the desk, everybody. (S and A start to leave). Samantha and Andrea, could I talk to you for a minute please.

Andrea: (interrupts Sam who begins to answer) What's the matter, Mrs. Taylor, is there something wrong? By the way, Miss, that is a very nice outfit you're wearing today,...

Mrs. T. (cuts her off by showing the note and saying) What's this? Is it a cheat note for your test?

Sam: Oh, that, miss,....

Andrea: (cuts Sam off) Oh, I can explain that Mrs. Taylor. Samantha and I were studying at lunch hour and those are the notes I made during our study session. I just forgot to put them back in to my locker.

Mrs. T. Is that so, Andrea. Samantha, could I see the bottom of your sneaker?

Sam.: (looks to Andrea for help, Andrea looks the other way, obviously not interested in helping her). Okay, Miss, (shows her the wrong one)

Mrs. T. No, Samantha, the other one. More cheat notes! You can't tell me that you weren't cheating on this test! Andrea, did you

run out of paper when you were studying?

Andrea: What do you mean?

Mrs. T. I'm talking about your arm, Andrea. Please push up your sleeve. More cheat-notes!

Andrea: oh, that...those boys were just marking me up...you know what they're like.

Mrs. T. I don't want any more excuses! I'm taking both of you to the principal's office. Samantha, you'll probably have to miss volleyball today...maybe permanently.

Scene X:

Andrea walking along, sees Samantha, tries to avoid her. Sam sees her and rushes up to her.

Sam: Hey Andrea, wait up! Wait a minute! I had a phone call from Mr. Holmes last night ...because of you I'm not on the volleyball team anymore. I shouldn't have listened to you in the first place! What punishment did you get for cheating?

Andrea: Well, none really. I got 0 in the test but I can make that up in the assignment...I'll get Leonard to do one for me...that guy is a goldmine for homework. I wish I had been using him, uh, I mean getting his help before this. I got kicked off the cheerleading squad but I talked my way back onto it again.

Samantha: How did you manage that?

Andrea: O, it was simple! I just blamed the cheating all on you.

Samantha: What! On me? The whole thing was your idea...why did you blame it all on me?

Andrea: well, you don't expect me to let people believe that I would cheat, do you. If that happened I'd actually have to do some work!

Sam: You're coming with me, right now, to Mr. Holmes and you are going to explain that it was your idea to cheat, not mine!

Andrea: Don't waste your time, Sam, nobody will believe you. Everybody knows that you would do anything to stay on the volleyball team. Whereas, with my popularity, I don't need cheerleading....why would I cheat? Besides, I'm on my way to help Patrick, there he is now. Hi, Patrick.

Patrick: Hi Andrea. Hi Samantha. Andrea, can you help me with this work?

Andrea: I'd love to , Patrick. You be sure and tell Mrs. Taylor how much I helped you.

Patrick: I will.

Andrea: Teachers love this kind of stuff, Sam. See you. (she and Patrick exit together, talking)

Samantha: Wait, what about the volleyball team. What will they do without their captain? What about the tournament?

Andrea: That's their problem! At least they still have me to cheer for them. See you.

Samantha: (looks dejected when Mike appears) Hi, Mike.

Mike: I heard about you getting kicked off the team, Sam. Sorry to hear about it. It looks like Andrea got away with it again, eh? I don't know how she does it!

Samantha: Some day, it will catch up with her, Mike, I'm sure.

Mike: Don't count on it, Sam. So, what are you going to do now?

Samantha: Only thing I can do...get my marks up to where they were...the right way, by doing homework and assignments and studying.

Mike: Yeah, its a drag but it works, right?

Samantha: (laughing) You're right! There's always next year for volleyball. See you. (as she exits, Beavis comes in, wearing dark glasses. He still saunters along in his saucy way and stops when he sees Mike).

Mike: Hi, Beavis, I missed you at school today. How are you?

Beavis: I didn't go to school today for obvious reasons. (takes off glasses to reveal a very bad black eye)

Mike: Wow, what a shiner! Did your old man do that? (Beavis nods) You don't have to take that, you know, Beavis, there are laws against it. Why don't you go see the RNC and have charges laid against your father?

Beavis: And what good would that do? He's only like this when he's drinking. When he's sober, he's the best kind. He even tries to help my mom, he takes me up the road, hunting birds. We actually have a half decent time. Its just that he's been drinking so much lately...I think he's afraid that with all these company cuts, he'll lose his job. Mom has already gotten her lay-off notice, so I think its just a matter of time before he gets his.

Mike: So, what are you going to do, Man? You can't let him beat

you up just because he's mad at the company or the economy. You can't help that. Lots of people are going to get laid off...everybody is not going to beat up their kids over it.

Beavis: I know. I have a plan, Mike, I want to see what you think of it.

Mike: Okay, what is it?

Beavis: I have an aunt who lives in Labrador City. I called her today and she said that if I want to, I can go live there. I feel kind of guilty leaving my parents but there isn't much I can do to help them unless they stop drinking. My aunt is good; Lab City is okay. At least, in the school there, nobody knows me so I could get a fresh start. I'd like to do better in school, Mike but here, its like everybody expects me to be the class clown, the loser. Its hard to break out of that mold.

Mike: I think its a good plan, Beavis. Its a good chance to start over but make sure people see the real you from the beginning...don't try to be something you're not. I had no idea you had so many problems...if I had, I'd have had a better opinion of you from the beginning.

Beavis: Thanks, Mike, for everything. And thanks for not telling anybody what you saw at my house last night.

Mike: That's okay. Say, do you want to come over to my place for something to eat? My mother always has a big snack prepared for after school.

Beavis: Okay, got any beer over there?

Mike: (laughing) You're kidding, aren't you?

Beavis: Yeah, just kidding. (they exit, talking about Beavis' move to LabCity).

Closing Scene: Just before the dance.

Carleton: Oh, are these all the decorations we're going to have for the dance. It looks so bare. Where are all the decorations?

Mrs. Taylor: Sorry, Carleton, but this is all the school was able to budget. We have to start cutting corners everywhere and I guess the company feels that maps, and paper for school are more important than crepe paper for decorations.

Carleton: Its getting pretty hard to make things look classy, Mrs. Taylor. We used to have a big budget for everything, even dances and parties.

Samantha: He's right, Mrs. Taylor. But as my folks say, get used

to it. Things will probably get a lot worse.

(Mrs. T. Carleton, Jeff and Ashley go upstage to finish putting up a few streamers)

Samantha: You'll never guess who is coming to this dance?

Andrea: Who?

Samantha: Leonard!

Andrea: Leonard! He never goes to dances...what is he coming here for. As if anybody will dance with Leonard!

Samantha: My do-gooder, sister, Alex is bringing him. She told me..I tried to change her mind but she says that Leonard has just as much right to go to dances as everybody else! Will she be embarrassed. Can you imagine the way he must dance? (they all laugh as Mike, Beavis, and Ashley come downstage to join them.)

Mike: What's so funny? What is the joke?

Ashley: Yeah, guys, what's so funny?

Samantha: Leonard is coming to the dance with my sister! (they all laugh)

Beavis: Leonard dancing...(he imitates Leonard, they all laugh some more).

(Alex enters. they stop laughing and look toward her)

Andrea: There's Alex, but I don't see Leonard. What happened to your date, Alex, did he decide to stay home with mommy instead?

Alex: Oh,no, Leonard is here. Come in Leonard, everybody is waiting to see you.

(Leonard enters as Mr. Very Cool Person, dressed in really nice clothes, with cool hair etc. Everybody gasps and there is complete silence for a moment. Leonard comes to centre stage, Alex drifts to the side. In a cool voice, Leonard says:

Leonard: Hi everybody!

Everybody: Hi Leonard! (they all gather around him, except Beavis, who stands to the side, looking amused).

Andrea: Oh, Leonard, you look so cool. I always knew you were a babe! oh, Leonard, I'll be very upset if you don't dance the first dance with me. (she cuddles up to him)

Leonard: (answers like he is a real stud, taking all the credit for his transformation)(he notices Alex standing to the side)

Just a minute, Andrea, I'll get back to you. (Andrea still clings to him as he walks toward Alex)

Alex: Didn't I tell you everybody would be impressed?

Leonard: You were right, Alex, you were right all along. I wouldn't have been able to make this change without you. Thank you for believing in me...I'll show you that I've only changed on the outside....I'm still the guy you saw on the inside. Would you like to dance?

Alex: I'd love to!

Leonard: (starts to laugh his nerdy laugh) Oh, sorry. (laughs coolly) they begin to dance, freeze.

Music starts. Everyone starts dancing except the teacher. They dance, freeze, as each couple goes to front for curtain call, dance again etc. until all actors are in front for final bow. Curtain.