

SAINT PETER'S SCHOOL

BLACK TICKLE

PRESENTS

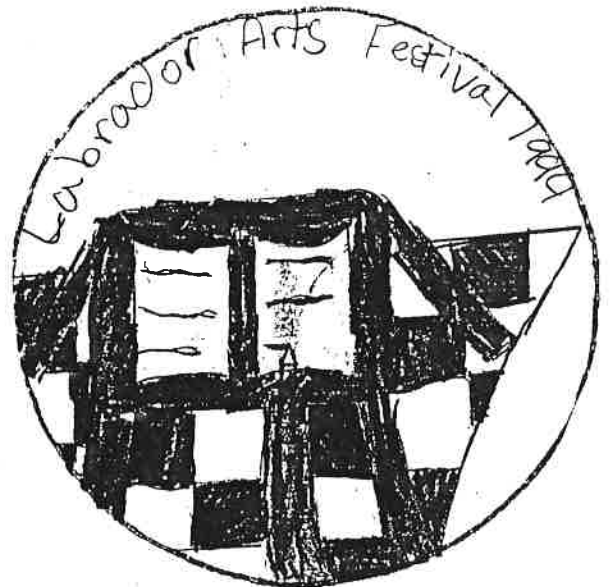
OH FATHER

CAST

Serena Holwell	Jennifer
Jeffrey Keefe	Tony
Laura Keefe	Sarah
Sharon Keefe	Sammie
Cathy Keefe	Presider
Jerome Keefe	Officer
Bernice Webber	Robin
Cathy Keefe	Ms. Snow
Linda Morris	Jo

TEACHER SUPERVISOR

Ms. Cindy Hynes



Matthew Grade 5
St. Michael's

ST.PETER'S SCHOOL
BLACK TICKLE
LABRADOR

LABRADOR ARTS FESTIVAL PRODUCTION

" OH FATHER "

CHARACTERS

JENNIFER	Serena Holwell
TONY	Jeffrey Keefe
SARAH	Laura Keefe
SAMMIE	Sharon Keefe
PRESIDER	Cathy Keefe
OFFICER	Jerome Keefe
ROBIN	Bernice Webber
MS. SNOW	Cathy Keefe
JO	Linda Morris
TEACHER SUPERVISOR	Ms. Cindy Hynes

Setting: A dull spotlight on Jennifer who is sitting in a rocking chair crying softly holding a teddy bear. The song "Feels so Different" is playing in the background.

(School opens, Jennifer is at her locker.)

Sammie: What's wrong Jennifer? Didn't you get enough sleep last night or were you up studying for that math test? (Jennifer acts spaced out) Hey, are you alright?

Jennifer: I'm okay! Just leave me alone (walks away slamming her locker door. The school bell rings and class begins).

Ms. Snow: Okay class, get ready for your test.

(The teacher collects the homework and passes out the test. Time passes and a song plays. Bell rings and the test is over).

Ms. Snow: Okay everyone pass in your test and your homework on the way out.

(As the people leave they pass in their test, then fade to black).

(The setting is in Jennifer's house. The mother is cooking supper, the father is reading a newspaper and Jennifer is in the living room doing her homework).

Sarah: I have to go to the store to get something to finish making supper. I'll be back in a little while. (Gets her coat). Watch out for the pot will you Jennifer, and don't let it burn on. (Exits)

Tony: How was your day, honey? (Jennifer stiffens) Don't be so tense, you need to relax more. (Tony starts to massage Jennifer's shoulders and she starts to cry). Why are you crying? You know that I would never hurt you.

Jennifer: Please, please don't, don't touch me. I'm scared, please stop Daddy. (starts to get up) I need to check on supper.

Tony: Supper's okay, your mother just checked on it before she left. (Takes her by the hand) Don't be scared sugar, it's only Daddy. Come with me, I have something to show you. (Jennifer starts to cry again) Hush, Hush. (As he leads her away the lights fade).

(Setting is Jennifer's house the next morning, she is having breakfast with her mother).

Sarah: You're quiet this morning, is something wrong? You haven't even finished your breakfast.

Jennifer: I don't feel very well, I think I'm coming down with something. (Mother feels her head)

Sarah: Yes, you do feel a little hot. Maybe you should stay home today.

Jennifer: NO...I mean that's okay, I feel okay enough to go to school. (Mother looks at her strangely).

Sarah: Are you sure everything is alright? If there is anything that you need to talk about you know that I'm here.

Jennifer: Well, there is something that I..... (Father enters)

Tony: Good morning!

(He hugs his wife and gets a cup of coffee)

Tony: How are you two this morning?

(He looks at Jennifer but she turns her head).

Jennifer: I have to get going to school. Bye Mom
(Kisses her mom).

Tony: Just a moment Jennifer, I'll give you a ride to school.

Jennifer: No, no that's okay. Finish your coffee, I'll just take the bus as usual.

Tony: (Looks at Jennifer sternly) Then at least let me walk you out.

(Puts on his jackets and they go outside).

Tony: What were you and your mother talking about? I hope you weren't telling her about our little secret. You know that, this is just between you and me. If you told anyone about what we were doing, bad things would happen. Your mother and your sister Robin would be really sad. Is that what you want Jennifer, for the family to split up?

(The bus comes and Jennifer leaves, the scene fades).

(Jennifer is at her locker. Sammie comes over to her).

Sammie: Okay, tell me what's going on? You've seemed a little spaced out lately.

Jennifer: What do you mean?

Sammie: I mean there's something you're not telling me. We've been best friends ever since 6th grade and I know when you're hiding something.

Jennifer: Oh, it's nothing. It just the stress of the math exam we had yesterday. I'm not fully recovered from that yet! I think I got a bad mark because I couldn't study the night before.

Sammie: Oh, if that's all that's bothering you, then why couldn't you say something about it?

Jennifer: I don't know... Oh, by the way, did you know that Robin is coming home from camp today? I can't wait! I haven't seen her all summer. (Under her breath) Maybe then I'll have someone to talk about what's been going on.

Sammie: What'd you say?

Jennifer: Oh nothing, just thinking out loud. (Jo walks up)

Jo: Hey Jen, Is Robin coming home today?

Jennifer: Yea, Mom is picking her up at the airport in a little while.

Jo: Well, tell her to call me when she gets settled in, okay?

Jennifer: Okay.

(Jo, Jennifer and Sammie go to class).

Ms. Snow: Students, overall the math exam were quite good. However, some of the marks are very low and I'm very disappointed. Some of you will need to work extra hard to bring up your grades.

(Jennifer lowers her head.)

Ms. Snow: Please come forward when I call your name. Sammie, Pat, Jo, Laura, Jennifer.

(By the lockers, Jennifer and Sammie are talking).

Sammie: What did you get on you math exam?

Jennifer: I got a 55%. What does it matter anyway? It's only math! I don't have a calculator for a brain like you do Sammie!

Sammie: Okay, you don't need to jump down my throat. I worked hard to get 87%.

Jennifer: I'm sorry Sammie. I didn't mean to snap. I'm proud of you. You know that. I just don't feel right today.

(School ends and lights fade)

(Jennifer's house.)

Jennifer: Mom is Robin...home? Hi Robin! I've missed you so much!

Rob: Hi sis. How have you been?

Jennifer: Not to bad, I guess. How was your summer? Oh, by the way, Jo wants you to phone her when you get settled in.

Rob: Okay. I'll drop over to see her now. Tell Mom I'll be back in time for supper.

Jennifer: Where is Mom, anyway?

Rob: She's gone to the store. Dad is up stairs getting a shower.

(Jennifer shivers. She goes into the living room and starts her homework. Tony comes from upstairs).

Tony: Hi, Jennifer. I didn't know you were home. How was school?

Jennifer: Okay, I guess.

(Tony comes closer, puts his hand on her shoulder. Jennifer shivers and starts to cry).

Tony: Don't cry, Sweetheart. I'll make you feel better honey. Come upstairs with Daddy.

Jennifer: No, no! Daddy, why do you want to hurt me?

Tony: I'm not hurting you! You know I love you. You're my special girl!

Jennifer: Yes Daddy! You are hurting me! That's not the love a father is suppose to have for his daughter.

Tony: Jen, don't talk that way! Now hurry! Your mother will be home soon. You know you always like our little private game!

(Jennifer gives up. He leads her upstairs. "Feels So Different" is playing in the background. Lights fade).

(Lunch time at school, Jennifer is at her locker.)

Sammie: Hi Jen!

Jennifer: Hi Sammie!

Sammie: How are ya? (Jennifer doesn't reply) Are you alright?

Jennifer: No, I'm not alright. (Pause) I have something really important to tell you. (Starts to cry)

Sammie: Jennifer what's wrong?

Jennifer: Come over here, then I'll tell you.

Sammie: Alright. (They both go to the lockers.)

Sammie: Okay, what's up?

Jennifer: Has anyone ever done things to you? I mean bad things, things that were wrong?

Sammie: You're not making sense, Jen. What are you talking about anyway?

Jennifer: You know things that you're not supposed to do, things that make you feel dirty and unloved.

Sammie: No, why?

Jennifer: Never mind, you wouldn't understand.

Sammie: Try me!

Jennifer: It's kind of weird, I don't know how to tell you. You might not believe me.

Sammie: Come on now Jen, you know that you can trust me.

Jennifer: Okay, okay, you know my Dad. Well....well see, he's doing things to me that he shouldn't.

Sammie: Jen, what do you mean? Did he touch you? (No answer from Jennifer). Is that what it is Jen? (Pause) Ya right, you're telling me lies. Come on, get serious. This isn't a funny thing to joke about Jen.

Jennifer: (Starts to cry) See, I knew you wouldn't believe me.

Sammie: Jennifer, I've known your Dad since I was six years old and he's not the kind of person who would do such a thing. Come on, this is the nineties, and this isn't a joking matter. (Pauses) Come on lets go to class before we're late. (They leave and go to class, Jennifer sits quietly then lights fade).

(Jennifer is at home. She writes a letter to her mother and sister.)

Jennifer: Dear Mom and Rob,

There has been something that I have wanted to tell you both but I never could find the right place or the time. Dad has been doing things to me that I hate very much. I will always hate him for what he has done to me. So often I tried to say something, but I couldn't. I told Sammie but she didn't believe me, I wonder if you will. I knew it was wrong but I never had the strength to do anything to stop it. I'm sorry to have to do this, I know that it will tear the family apart. But there's just no other way to end the pain in my heart. I love you both very much but I can't live this way anymore. Please don't hate me.

Love,
Jennifer

(Jennifer goes to the bathroom, a gun shot is heard and the sound of a body falling against the floor. Fade to black).

(The lights come up on Robin who just came home and is taking off her jacket).

Rob: Anyone home? (Looks around) Mom...Dad....Jen? (works around the house, finds the note and reads it. Her drops the paper and looks shocked) Oh my God! (Searches the house then comes to the bathroom and screams) Oh no, oh my God. (Runs back to the phone and dials 911) Please help me....My sister has shot herself. (Lights fade and sirens are heard. A red light is flashing on and off).

(Lights fade back on. Robin is talking to a cop).

Officer: Where are your parents?

Rob: They went out for dinner.

Officer: When will they be home?

Rob: Any minute now. (Puts her head in her hands, then looks up). She left a pretty serious letter. Read it! (Hands the note over to the cop).

Officer: (Reads it) Where did you find this?

Rob: On the coffee table.

Officer: This helps explains what happened to your sister.

(Door opens, parents run in towards Robin and the officer)

Mother: What happened? What's wrong?

Rob: (Sniffing) It's Jen, Mom.....Oh Mom she's gone.

Father: What happened to Jennifer? Is she alright?

Officer: Robin has found your daughters body. It appears that she has taken your own life. (Mother sits and cries)

Father: My little girl!

Officer: Sir, we have some questions to ask you about your relationship with your daughter. I want you to come downtown for questioning.

Mother: What do you mean? (Officer hands her the note and she reads it.)

(She looks at Tony)

Mother: What have you done? What have you done?

(Appears faint and puts her hand to her head. Robin comforts her as the father is led out by the officer. Lights fade).

(Next morning at the house, Robin and her mother are talking)

Mother: Robin, I know you're hurting. It will keep on hurting a lot more before things are better.

Robin: What's going to happen to Dad?

Mother: I got a phone call this morning and a officer said that your father confessed to the abuse. He has to go to trial but he is in custody for the time being. The police say that this is where he will be for a long time to come.

(Sammie knocks and then enters)

Mother: Sammie, come in. It's nice to see Jen's friends at a time like this. (Sammie hugs her)

Sammie: Sarah, I need to tell you something. Please don't hate me, I didn't know.

Mother: What is it, Sammie?

Sammie: Last week, Jennifer told me what was going on, but I was too blind to believe her. (Starts crying) Please believe me, if I knew I would have....

Mother: It's okay Sammie, you had no way of knowing. You are no way responsible for what happened. (pause)

Sammie: When is the funeral?

Robin: Tomorrow at 10:00a.m.

Sammie: I'll be there. (Leaves and the lights fade).

(Next day at the funeral. The song Amazing Grace is playing in the background. The people are walking in slowly, crying softly.)

Presider: We are gathered here today to mourn the death of a loved one. Our Jennifer was loved and will be missed by us all. (Sobs are heard in the background)

Presider: We hope and pray that Jennifer will finally find peace.

Presider: We pray for her family and friends that they will be given the strength and courage they need to go on with their lives knowing that Jennifer is free from all harm and enjoying the happiness of her heavenly home.

(People stand and walk down the aisles on both sides of the stage. Amazing Grace is playing as lights fade to black.)

(Jennifer comes on stage and the spotlight is on her).

Jennifer: We chose the topic of sexual abuse to help people recognize how serious and frightening abuse can be. Abuse can totally destroy a healthy person's emotions and actions. Like Jennifer, many people who are abused are often afraid to express their pain and hurt. There are always "best friends" like Sammie who, when confronted with the subject, have trouble believing others or denying the fact that such things can happen to people who are so close to them.

Very often when someone gets the courage to talk about their problems, they are not believed. Then they lose their self respect and confidence, causing some to people to turn to Jennifer's escape, Suicide.



Serena Holwell as
Jennifer