

REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA FESTIVAL

**The Uigasuit Players**  
**Jens Haven Memorial School, Nain**

**presents**

**"Inogusiujuit"**  
**(Alternatives)**

**Cast**

Sandra .....	Lucy Harris
Laura .....	Shabnab Zahirfir
Alice .....	Kristin Webb
Elizabeth .....	Joanna Angnatok
Betty Crocken .....	Amy Dicker

**Technician**

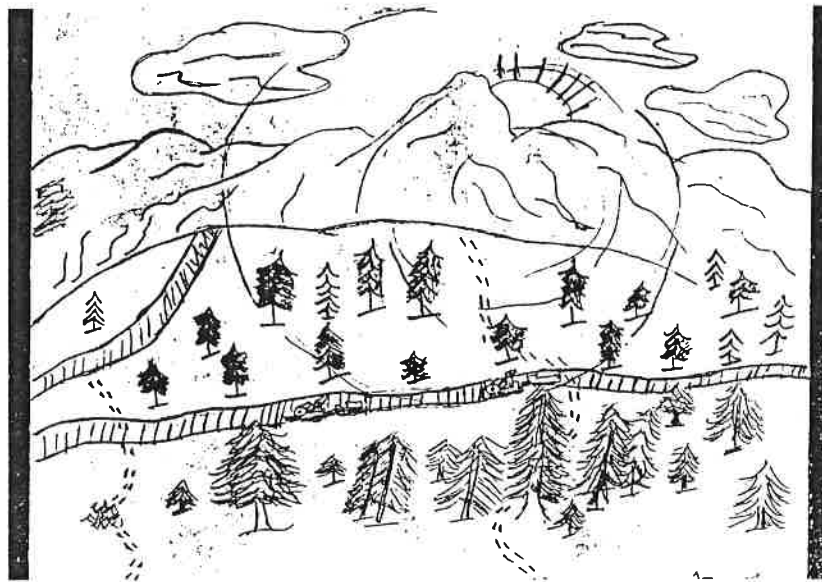
Bill Wheaton

**Director**

Andrew Parsons

*This play is set in a community radio station on the north coast of Labrador in November. "Inogusiujuit" is an original play written by the staff and students of Jens Haven Memorial School in Nain. This play addresses the problems and challenges of teen pregnancy, relationships, and life on the north coast of Labrador.*

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Tom Andersen, Jens Haven Memorial School

## Inogusiujuuit (alternatives)

### - a one act play in five parts

the set is a small community radio station on the north coast of Labrador. It is a typical evening in November. there are four workers with the radio show and one guest speaker.

### The Cast

**Alice** - is pregnant, 18 years old, just graduated, low self esteem, living with her mother (puts her down a lot), boyfriend is unsupportive. she has to tell her mother, needs her mother's help with pregnancy. She is thinking about an abortion. She has missed twice, the first time thought it was tension, now she knows that she is pregnant. she has not been to the clinic.

**Elizabeth** - is Alice's best friend, 17 years old, still in school, supportive family, popular, involved with things, thinking of leaving Nain for university in Sept. She has been sheltered all her life, not very street smart. Things have been easy for her.

**Sandra** - mother of one baby boy 4 years old, 20 years old, finished grade 10, works full time at Northern store, son in day care. Only time she gets to have fun with friends is at radio show. Lives alone with son in single apartment. Cynical but supportive. realistic

**Laura** - employed by the station, works full-time there, 20 years old, finished school. lives with her boyfriend (engaged). nice guy. hard working, determined, positive, independent.

**Betty Crocken** - Public Health Nurse - Into talk about safer sex, especially condoms. A bit over zealous. Concerned with "getting the message out". funny. thinks that she is on T.V. show, not radio.

### Part 1

*scene opens with the actors sitting in the audience in reserved seats located on the isles. we hear the bingo in full swing. gradually the actors take the stage. they all remove lots of layers of clothes as they come in. they begin working in the radio station, talking, selecting disks, smoking outside. it is very cold outside. A and E are outside. S and L are inside. before the bingo ends they come in. we are waiting for the bingo show currently broadcasting to finish...*

Inogusiujuuit (alternatives)

*sound up on*

b -12

b-1-2

is there any bingos ?

g - 46

g-4-6

*L and then S come in enter right together*

A message for Julius Nukasuk, please go home your mommy needs you to chop some wood. she is cold.

o-67

o-6-7

whaa ? ( pause ) ya o.k., wood for sale, twenty dollars a load, call Jacko Terriack, at 219.

b-1

top of the mountain

b-1

o-66

Oh click-e-dee-click

hullo, ya

i bingoed on 0-66

o.k., is this Sue ?

Yuh.

Card number ?

1207

Numbers ?

*A and E come in and take their coats off putting them on the backs of chairs*

*L & S greet them. alice goes to the phone, E goes to announcing booth. take off coats*

B-1

ya

l-19

Ya

G-46

Ya

O-66

*list the numbers as the sound of the bingo fades out...*

*lights rise on the studio*

*in the control booth*

*L goes to announcing booth. A continues to answer phones*

L: i wish bingo could stop now.

Inogusiujuuit (alternatives)

E: My family bes righ ugly to me if i don't play bingo.

S: shouldn't be too much longer.

E: Eh boy.

*the bingo sound rises again... L goes back to booth*

well we have a winner, Sue you can collect your money at Bini's house 'cause there's a show on next. Sorry for the change. thanks for everyones support for the new hoses for the firehall. don't forget to play tomorrow when we raise money for the woman's broom ball team to go to Goose Bay for the tournament.

S: I wish i could get outta here and go to Goose Bay. Everything is so much better there. I hate this ol' town. nothing to do. boring man.

L: hey were on the air now, you ready or whaa ?

*S runs into the announcing booth and L points at her as she begins to speak*

S: so here we are at CKAK, for another show of music and information brought to you by the usual Wednesday night crew, Alice, Sandra, Laura, Elizabeth. We have a guest coming in tonight, she is the new public health nurse, Betty Crocken. she wants to talk to us about safer sex. so that should get everyones attention, eh ? sex is sorta the topic tonight. so now for some music. here's in "De ghetto" by parsons

*music comes up...*

*music fades E goes over to A and talk at phone desk*

E: are you going dance Friday or whaa.

A: if I'm not busy

E: how come your not coming ? Yous always goes. Yous never misses a dance.

A: well I'll be there if nobody asks me to babysit.

E: make money eh boy.

A: naw, just for the practice.

E: whaa ? why you mean ?

A: nothing, never mind.

Inogusiujuuit (alternatives)

*music fades up, L needs motion to E that she is needed on the air, E goes to announce. A continues to answer phones.  
song ends*

E: that was in "De ghetto" by parsons. It is 10 after 8 here on CKAK ( *reading paper*).  
Susie you gotta pick up your mommy at the community hall. Adam you have to make a collect call to 896-2431 cause your sister wants to talk with you. Our next song is "Don't stop".

*music fades up...  
music fades down... L goes to door of announcing booth*

L: Elizabeth that was really good. why don't you and Sandra go and get some music ready.

*E & S select music, L goes back into booth  
A is still answering phones  
E & S are talking and should be selecting CDs that are on the floor and on the table ,  
but taking their time.*

S: did you notice that Alice is acting rey weird or whaa ?

E: i noticed that too. when i was talking with her she was righ strange. She said she was go babysit instead of gon go dance.

S: god.

E: whats up with her ?

S: i don know. you should know you're her best friend.

E: hey we gotta get some music ready

*they start looking at he music and select some quickly*

S: how about this one, "Shoop", by salt and pepper.

E: yae that's da one. what about "Rhythm of the night".

S: Yae good ol' dance song. Red Red Wine ?

E: Ahh, too old.

*Laura enters*

Inogusiujuuit (alternatives)

L: tapes ready or whaa ?

S: yae

*L in the control room, S and E in the announcing booth. music up and then down.*

L: that was "Don't stop". the time is now 8:23 and you are listening to CKAK.

E: *(reading paper)* All those interested in taking the firearm safety course this weekend can call the college at 671. The course runs from Saturday morning to Sunday night. you need this course for your F.A.C. Call RCMP or the college for more information.

S: and now for High Hopes by Pink Floyd  
*music comes up then fades everyone is looking at Alice*

*we see A on the phone getting more and more upset, finally she slams down the receiver and runs from the room as S and E come out. she grabs her coat and runs off stage, right through the audience. S,L, E all watch her and look started to see her act this way*

## Part 2

S: (towards L) i see what you mean.

L: what's with her ?

E: we don know.

L: sometin is bugging her.

*S goes to the paper by the phone and starts reading aloud:* "Please announce Jane has just had a healthy baby boy of 8lbs 7ounces."

L: so what is the big deal ? she doesn't even like Jane. i don get it.

E: me either.

S: (crossing the stage to get her coat) you guys just keep on with the show and I'll go and see if i can find Alice.

L: O.K. but hurry back 'cause the nurse is supposed to be here any minute. You got your interview all ready, right ?

Inogusiujuuit (alternatives)

S: well I'm not so sure. i mean i talked with her but i don't think she has ever been on radio before. in fact i don't think she has ever even been to the north coast.

L: that doesn't matter, as long as you can get the point across.

S: I'll try. but I'm not promising anything. she seems a little weird.

E: weird ?

S: you know she's bouncing off the walls.. she's not very mellow. she does seem nice enough for a kallenuk.

L: well just go find Alice and see if she is all right. if you can't find her, hurry back and we'll find her later.

E: i can go and look for her.

S: no you stay here. there's lots of time before the interview and if i am not back in time Elizabeth can do it. O.K.? (turning to Laura)

L: all right, just be quick.

*L and E go into the booth and get ready to mix the next song.  
S goes off stage right off stage.*

L: and that was High Hopes by Pink Floyd

E: you're listening to CKAK, broadcasting to the entire north coast of Labrador. coming up soon is our feature interview with Betty Crocken from public health who will be speaking about HIV and AIDS. she promises it will be of interest to everyone in our audience who is thinking about having sex.

L: *whispers* "what about all the others who are already having sex?"

E: *embarrassed* "so stay tuned, and now for..." she looks panicked.

*L and E both look for the play sheet.*

L: and now for "Mama's always on stage" by arrested development

*music fades up*

*E looks stressed out.*

*L comforts her*

Inogusiujuuit (alternatives)

*we see S still searching for Alice in the audience and elsewhere.*

*meanwhile A has returned to the edge of the stage left  
she sits looking at her smoke which is unlit.*

S: approaches her "mind if i join you ?"

*A shrugs her shoulders*

S: haven't decided to smoke it or whaa ? i know that when i was with Christopher i was the same way.

*A looks shocked*

S: you're not hiding anything. it was the same for me. how long have you known ?

*A mumbles (shakes her head indicating no).*

S: yae i figured, you have seemed on edge tonight. so are you sure ? not nerves or stress?

A: no, i wish.

S: so did you tell Trevor ?

A: why would i tell him ?

S: well he had a part to play in all of this. Didn't he ?

A: of course, but he will just blame me for not being careful enough. and he may want me to get..you know.

S: do you care what he thinks ? i mean he is always getting wasted and fighting and generally being a total jerk.

A: but i don't know what to do.

S: have you told your mom ?

A: not yet, she'll freak out.

S: why ? most parents around here are happy when you get pregnant. i know mine were.



Inogusiujuuit (alternatives)

A: not my mother. she's always telling me how having me, screwed up all her plans. getting pregnant changed everything in her life. she says that if she hadn't had me that she would be living in Goose Bay, married to some pilot and having everything she could want.

S: yae right. and i would be president of L.I.A.

*A looks at her, rubs her belly. " how long was it before you started to show ?*

S: i kept it a secret till the 5th month.

A: huh. i just don't know what to do. My anansiak always said i gotta think of the future.

S: sivunitsatinne pivalliagutaugajattuit (see-vous-neat-as-tin-nee pee-val-lee-a-rue-taw-o-rue-yut-to-eat)

A: whaaa ?

S: i forgot you don't know Inuititut. it means looking at the future optimistically. you know, something good will come of all of this.

A: i don't know. I'm scarred to tell my mother. i don't know if i want to be a mommy yet. i mean i do 'cause since i finished school in June. i have had a lot of free time. at first it was great. now, I'm not so sure. everyone is working, still in school or moved away.

S: hey there is always babysitting.

*A doesn't like this suggestion*

S: or you could work at the northern with me. i could put in a good word. It's not like your brother, always going off wooding and getting tok tok and partridges.

A: i just don't know. life sucks. *starts to cry.*

*S hugs her and rocks slowly back and forth, mumbling in her ear. A hangs on tight. lights fade off them and back to the station.*

### Part 3

*music fades up and lights on E and L both in announcing booth.*

L: i wish those two would get back here soon (*checks her watch*).

Inogusiujuut (alternatives)

E: yae I'm not crazy about doing this interview. Sandra's the one who is so good at this kind of thing.

*enter from right Betty the nurse, wearing tons of clothes.*

B: it is so cold outside. Hello i am Betty Crocken, the new public health nurse. (shaking hands with both) From Sidney, Nova Scotia, where the boat stops from the island. gets cold there but not this cold. boy it sure is cold. and only November. everybody keeps reminding me. no don't say it, i know I'm late. sorry about that. happens, ya know. so where do you want me to sit ? Sandra said something about a booth and a mike. where's the camera ? hey where's Sandra ?

*L & E are over whelmed by her entrance. they have tired to answer a couple of her questions but she has cut them off. E looks worried and is motioning to L that she doesn't want to do the interview. L is ignoring her.*

L: Miss Crocken, we are very pleased you could join us tonight

B: oh don't mention it. and call me Betty please. Mind if i put all these here ? (indicating her many layers of clothes). Where is Sandra ? She said she would be here. i did come on the right night didn't i ?

L: Yes.

B: good. nothing more embarrassing than getting the wrong day for an appointment. i did that once for a job interview..oh never mind. there i go again rambling on and on.

*L starting to look irritated and amused as Betty undresses "Sandra is out right now and Elizabeth here will be conducting the interview. why don't you sit in here and make yourself comfortable while we get ready.(indicates she should go into the announcing booth)*

B: oh that will be fine.*(she continues to undress)*

L & E leave her and come back into the control room.

E: i don't want to interview her. I'll never get a word in.

L: that will be perfect, you just get her talking and everything will fall into place. don't worry you can do this. you'll do a great job. get your notes ready and go make some small talk with her.

E: what will i say ?

Inogusiujuit (alternatives)

L: anything, ask her about her work, or about the cold. she seems to like that topic.

*E gathers up papers and goes into the booth*

*L music fades up and down* "All those interested in billeting participants for the northern music and culture conference next month, please call Sharon at 539. i think it pays real good. and now for "In Your Eyes" by Peter Gabriel.

*Music fades up then down.*

*lights onto S and A*

*A has stopped crying and is looking at her smoke. S has finished hers.*

S: lets get back.

A: Sandra couldn't we wait just a little longer ?

S: sure. we can take all the time in the world.

A: all be ready in a minute. I'll be all right.

S: i know.

## **Part 4**

*lights onto E & B, the interview has started*

*B talks a lot with her hands, she doesn't stay close to the mic*

*E looks very nervous.*

E: we have with us this evening, a special guest from the public health office, Betty Crocken. good evening Betty. (*motions for Betty to come closer to the mic*)

B: good evening Elizabeth. and might i say it is a pleasure to be here with you tonight. on such a cold night. (L watching closely)

E: yes well, we have a few questions for you, if you don't mind. first why is this week so special ?

B: what a good question. as many of you know it is national HIV and AIDS week all across Canada. we are speaking to lots of people about this disease and how to not get it. of course the only way to completely avoid risk of infection is to not have sex. well that may be good advice, but as you know, few young people are following that

Inogusiujuit (alternatives)

advice. i have with me some handouts and some pictures showing how to prevent transmission of the disease (holds these up).

E: perhaps you could describe them to our audience ?

B: Yes, well the best method for not getting HIV/AIDS is to not have sex with anyone. But we all know how hard that can be. oh sorry, can i say that on the show ? anyway, oops, the next best method is to use a latex condom whenever you have sex. i am talking about vaginal, oral or anal. now i have some examples with me. many people are uncomfortable talking about condoms and sex. but i figure if teenagers are having sex, they should at least be educated about what might go wrong. and sexually transmitted diseases are not the only outcome, you might also get pregnant. so how to use condoms the right way is really important. I have with me some samples. *(takes out a condom)* just open like so *(rips open the condom)*. being careful not to rip it or tear it in anyway. *(pointing at the condom and moving it about - enjoying playing with it)* could i have your fingers please.

E: whaaa ?

B: your fingers, i need a penis for the demonstration.

E: what do my fingers have to do with anything ?

B: I'm just going to roll the condom onto them. They're gonna be my penis.

E: o.k. *(looking very unhappy about this)*. I'm not sure how helpful this is for a radio show.

B: not to worry, I've found it very helpful to demonstrate how to do this, you see you have to be careful not to leave air trapped in the condom. it might burst then. roll it down the penis *(as she rolls the penis downward)* to the base and then enjoy whatever. when the male ejaculates, or cumes, make sure you remove the condom immediately by holding the base. just tie a knot in it and wow la c'est fini. *(she takes the condom off, ties it and tosses it into the imaginary garbage basket)*.

E: Atsuk ?

B: that's it. just throw out the condom. use a new one every time you have sex. you can't reuse them. and the best part is that they are free at the clinic or L.I.H.C. no questions asked. do they have them in the school bathrooms ?

E: ah no. not that i know of.

B: well hopefully that will change. it seems that everywhere else they are available in school bathrooms.

Inogusiujuit (alternatives)

E: *(checks her watch)* ah that is all we have time for right now, I'd like to thank *(cut off)*

B: but I'm only just starting. there's lots more important stuff about HIV and AIDS that everyone needs to know. for example did you know that condoms are only effective 87% of the time ? or that in Canada, there are at least 1 in every 1 000 people that have HIV/AIDS ? and those are only the reported cases.

L *(from the control booth)*: unfortunately that is all the time we have for you right now. Betty can be reached at 234, the public health office. we would like to thank Betty for coming in tonight and sharing with us this important information.

L: and now for some Steve Miller Band  
*music fades up*

*E rushes out of the booth to rinse her hand off. Betty packs up her info and begins dressing up in her many layers.*

*music fades down*

L comes to Betty " thanks for coming in. sorry it was so short but we ran out of time. perhaps you could come back next week and finish up what you were going to say ?"

B: that sounds good. *(still dressing)* i guess part of the message is better than no message at all. I'd like to leave these with you. *(holds out a strip of 20 or so condoms)* please see that anyone who is interested can have them. thanks again for having me in. and now i have to face that horrible cold outside. i know, i know, don't tell me. it is only November and just wait till January. well bye for now. thank that wonderful young girl for the interview and give my best to Sandra. see you soon.

L; See you next week

*B exits still getting dressed*

*E is returning from washing her hand. " she's crazy, just like Sandra said"*

L: i don't know. she seemed nice enough to me. i think it was the first time she has ever been on radio. i invited her back next week.

E: are you crazy ? I'm not going to interview her that's for sure. Sandra is not getting out of this one. where are those guys ?

L: don't worry. Sandra can handle the interview just fine. thanks for filling in for her.

**Part 5**

*A & S return stage left. As they come in the others leave the booths and gather round to hear her news.*

S: well i found Alice and she has some news for all of you. go on, tell them.

*A looks at the floor* "I've missed my period for the last two months. i think I'm pregnant"

E: hey, that's great. don't you think, Laura ?

L: well i guess it depends. ya sure it's great(*not sounding too convinced*).

E: yae my mom is always talking about how I'm old enough to have my own kids. she thinks it would be great if i got pregnant.

S: ya my mother was the same way. she wanted me to get pregnant and Johnny didn't care. i remember after i told him, he went up to the bar and was boasting to his buddies about what a man he was and how he was gonna be a daddy. as soon as the baby was born he took off down the coast. couldn't handle the real job of father.

L: what a jerk.

S: but it was o.k. mom helped me through the first few weeks. i hated school anyway, it was good to get out of there and not have anybody giving me a hard time about not finishing school.

L: ya but look where that has got you.

S: you are always going on about how i could have a better job, or get outta here. maybe you're right. i don't know.

E: well i think it is great.

( L goes to booth and puts on head phones)

A: that's 'cause it didn't happen to you.

(*E looks hurt*)

L: don't get mad at her. you're the one who's pregnant.

Inogusiujuuit (alternatives)

E: so whad'ya goona call it ?

A: who says I'm gonna have it ?

E: whaa ?

A: just joking. I'm confused and it has all happened so suddenly. we only did it once.

S: tell me about it.

E: I guess once is enough.

A: Yae that's for sure.

S: Taima.

*L has left to attend to the show...she is doing stuff in the booth. music fades up... an down (everyone turns to watch and listen to L) " well that has been our show for this evening. hope you all enjoyed it. tune in next week when we examine some of the issues around the new community centre. you have been listening to CKAK".*

*L comes out of the booth with her coat and boots on...*

L: well good show i guess. Alice, i hope you don't have news like this for us every week.

A: *tries to smile* no, i don't think you have to worry about that.

S: naw

E: i don't care what any of you say, i still think it is great.

S: a lot of work

L: that's for sure. Mary is always running here and there. always worrying about babysitters and bills and breast pumps and then formulae.

A: i just don't know if I'm ready for this. It seemed like such a good idea when it was somebody else. i just don't know if i want to take on this challenge.

E: sure you do. we can all help with taking care of it. it will be fun.

S: it will be a lot of work. but Elizabeth is right, we'll all help. your mom will get over being upset. mothers love grandchildren. she'll get used to it. you'll just have to give her some time.

Inogusiujuut (alternatives)

A: i guess your right.

L: well, all right, anyway i gotta go, David is waiting on ski-doo. lock-up when you go.

S: o.k. see ya later

*A, E say good bye, L rushes out stage right*

E: (looks at her watch) hey. i gotta get going or mom is going to ball at me. see ya. it'll be all right Alice. don't worry. everybody loves babies. (exits stage right)

*A nods her head*

*E exits.*

*S and A move towards the audience.*

S: you sure look uncertain.

A: it's just that i always dreamed of being a nurse. I like helping people. But my mother always said I'd never be able to do it. She said that I was too stupid and would never be able to make it on my own. Now it's gonna be like she was right. I hate that. I don't want to be stuck in the Northern for the rest of my life.

S: Me neither. I always wanted to run my own business. be my own boss and sell stuff to the tourists. i guess i can still do that. It seems a long way off.

A: Atsuk.

S: everyone loves babies ( *says it sort of weakly, without feelings, she is thinking far way*)

A: whaa ?

S: oh just thinking that everyone loves babies but they grow up one day. Inogusiujuut.

*pause*

A: Oh Sandra what am i gonna do ? (*turns looks real scared*) I....

*lights black out.*

*The End*