

PICHITAWNO PLAYERS  
ERIC G. LAMBERT SCHOOL  
CHURCHILL FALLS

present

**MIRRORS**

In this collective, the Pichitawno Players present the idea that each of us is guilty of discrimination by our opinions, our words, thoughts and gestures. Although discrimination still exists on a mass scale in some corners of the world, it is the everyday actions of ordinary people which keeps this unfair practice prevalent in all of our lives. Even those of us who claim that all people are created equal are not innocent of expressing some form of prejudice. In **MIRRORS**, you are sure to see yourself.

**CAST**

Steve Harris  
Carla Haynes  
Melanie Lake  
Matthew Roberts  
Wanda Lee Wade  
Jeff Ash

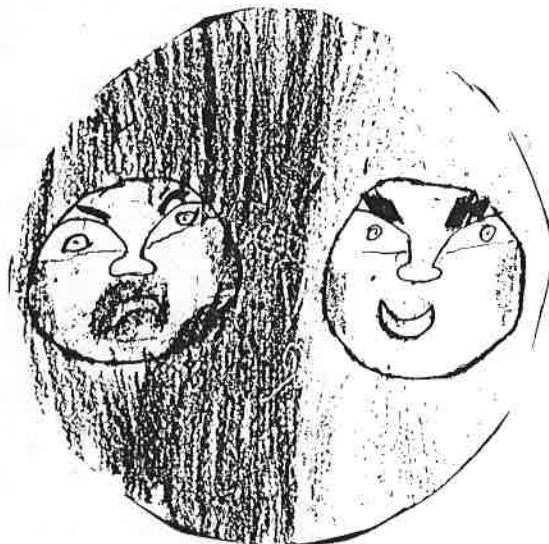
Blair Hayward  
Amanda Reardon  
Leon Curl  
Angela Morgan  
Jordan McGrath

**LIGHTS & SOUND**

Jeff Bowers

**TEACHER-ADVISORS**

Noreen Heighton  
Andrea Carter  
Diane Ryan



Ben Faulkner, Gr. 5  
Northern Lights Academy  
Rigolet

## MIRRORS

Opening: A tape is played in which voices, music and cheering is heard depicting a rally in Nazi Germany. The stage is lit so that the actors, entering, are in silhouette. They take their places in various parts of the stage; some are on risers, some seated and some standing.

#1. Some guys I know think that women aren't natural leaders. Women in leadership positions don't bother me...as long as they look like women. They can do all the leading they want. I don't mind working under a woman, know what I mean?

# 2. Names for Nationalities: dagos, spicks, nooks, niggers, wops, micks, polacks, Yanks, paccies, frogs, injuns, ragheads, newfs, japs, chinks, and Canucks.

Names for homosexuals: fags, homos, queers, gays, dykes, butches, lesbos, queens, fairies, pansies, and fruits.

# 3. Of course they get better marks than us guys. Don't girls always get better marks than guys? The teachers like them better because they always agree...they don't argue like us guys do.

#4: I love it here in Canada. In Canada there are lots of opportunities for immigrants. We can drive taxis and sweep floors, we can make lots of money. Naturally, I would like to be working as an engineer because that is what I was educated to be in my own country but I have a good job at the 711 and I have only been robbed 15 times so I am very, very happy to be in Canada.

#2. Names for non-conformists: bum, scab, grub, fool, dork, wimp, jock, twit, nerd, sissy, and tool.

Names for white males:

Names for women: bag, ho, skirt, bubble, airhead, babe, chick, broad, old lady.

#5.: Sure, she is very nice and she is smart in school but did you ever notice the clothes she wears? Where does she buy them...Woolworth's basement? She doesn't know a thing about brand names. How does she ever hope to have any friends?

Actors exit.

Scene I

The curtains are brought together to form an opening of about 4 meters, the width of an elevator door. An actor enters dressed as a "yuppie". He rings for the elevator; a few seconds, the elevator arrives. He enters. The scene which follows is

entirely in mime; there is no dialogue.

He holds the door for another yuppie, a woman, who rushes onto the elevator. They greet each other affably smile, nod etc. They mime the elevator rising. A street person enters and pushes the elevator button. He steps onto the elevator. The yuppies immediately react to his presence...they move together to the other side of the elevator, the man checks for his wallet, shifts the briefcase to the other hand. The woman shifts her shoulder bag to the other shoulder, indicates a foul smell by passing her hand under her nose. The yuppies exchange looks. They mime elevator rising, all watch floor indicator. A mentally challenged person enters with inter-office mail and parcels. He pushes the elevator button. He enters the elevator, others react to his disability. The woman checks her watch impatiently. Mime elevator rising. Yuppies exchange looks. All watch floor indicator. Yuppies rush off, colliding with mail person who drops the mail. Yuppies rush on without helping him. The street person helps him pick them up.

## Scene II

Spot on girl. Spot on boy. Both are talking on the phone.

Boy: (laughing) so my friends think we would have a good time if we went out together.

Girl: Yes, they said the same thing to me. I was surprised at the number of common interests we have...

Boy: Yes, especially the movies. Have you seen any of the latest releases?

Girl: Well, I haven't exactly seen any but they sound great.

Boy: Oh, right, you've seen the reviews on television.

Girl: I guess you could say that. I was glad to hear you like going to art galleries...so few guys like that...sculptures are my favorite. That's how I spend so much of my vacation, visiting galleries in different cities.

Boy: Did you see the meat dress at the National Gallery?

Girl: I was one of the last people to visit. I didn't have to see it, I could smell it!

Boy: (laughs) There is a new exhibition by the Pratts at the Christine Parker gallery which you would just love.

Girl: Is there, have you seen it? Tell me all about it.

Boy: There are 47 pieces in all including The Veranda and Mary's kitchen series....

Lights fade as they talk...curtain opens to reveal people talking in groups.

### Scene III

A boy enters with a volleyball.

Boy: How about a little pick-up game of volleyball?

Another boy: Okay....let's pick teams.

Others enter as two boys come to the centre for odds and evens. They begin picking teams from among the people on stage. One person is not picked. She stands at centre, upstage. Others begin playing a mimed game of volleyball with appropriate, adlibbed dialogue. After two serves:

A girl: What about her? (indicating girl upstage centre)

Boy: We had last pick. She's yours.

Other boy: No, that's okay. You can have her.

Boy: No, she's on your team!

Other boy: Okay, come on.

She joins one team. Other players tell her where to stand, what to do. She misses ball, is criticized. After she misses the ball a second time, people give excuses for having to go. She looks sad and embarrassed.

Boy (accusingly): Now, see what you did?

### Scene IV

Lights come up on boy and girl on phone. We pick up their conversation.

Girl: (laughing) I knew when I heard the score that you wouldn't be happy with that game.

Boy Well, Montreal only lost because of that fluky goal...the ref must have been blind to allow it.

Girl: Maybe we could go to a hockey game sometime.

Boy: That would be great! Most women don't like watching sports...

Girl: I love hockey! But only if I can hear the broadcast at the same time...

Scene V

2 guys enter talking about a girl.

First guy: Did you see Charmane today?

Second guy: Yeah, she was fine!

First: That shirt she was wearing...it really showed off her...

Second guy: She doesn't need that to show them off; how could you miss them?

First: Yeah, she looks good all the time..... (a voice interrupts them by calling off stage)

Voice: Hey, hey, you guys wait up.

Third guy enters in a wheelchair. The others reluctantly stop, showing by their body language that they don't want to have much to do with him.

Third: Hey where are you guys going?

First: To Ralph's to get something to eat.

Third: Can I come?

First two guys exchange looks then each feels pockets for money.

First: Oh, I can't go to Ralph's. I forgot my wallet...no money.

Second: Me too, no money. Don't know how I could have forgotten it, I just had it before I left the house.

Third: Well, I was just on my way to the library. Do you guys want to come along?

Second: No, I've got ten overdue books. The librarian would get on my case as soon as I came in.

Third: Well then, we'll go to the teen centre. Come on, let's go.

First: I haven't got my membership paid. If I go down there, Dean will kick me out. (they are interrupted by the entrance of 2 girls). Hey, look at Charmane! She is looking hot today!

Second: I wouldn't mind going out with her. If she comes by here, I'm going to get her attention and ask her out.

First: No man, if she comes over here, it will be me she'll be

going out with.

Third: I've got a date with her tonight.

The other guys ignore him.

Second: She's going to be with me tonight.

First: No! Ten bucks says she goes out with me.

Third: I've got a date with Charmane tonight.

First; Yeah, right.

Second: Dream on! You'll never get a date with her.

Charmane walks over. First and second guys make comments but she ignores them and puts her arms around the guy in the wheelchair.

Charmane: Hi I didn't expect to see you until later tonight. We are still going out tonight aren't we?

Third: Sure, where do you want to go?

Charmane: Let's go out for dinner first and then we can use those tickets to the theatre that I won...you'll love that play.

Third: Okay. I'll pick you up at seven. I'm just on my way to the library now. Want to come along?

Charmane: Sure. Thanks for lending me that CD last week. I love that group..... (they exit talking. The other guys exit wondering how that happened.)

## Scene VI

This scene takes place on a split stage. On one side two girls are preparing a stir-fry meal, chopping, slicing food, stirring a wok etc. On the other side, two guys are shooting baskets. Both are discussing dates and boy/girlfriends and the things they look for. One of the girls and one of the boys are the couple whom we have seen talking on the phone throughout the play. The scene prepares the audience for the boy's reaction to his new friend's blindness and also shows how people discriminate against others because of their lack of material possessions or their handicaps.

## Scene VII

Girl enters wearing sunglasses and carrying a white cane. She sits at centre on a riser. Checks her blind person's watch.

After a few moments Boy enters, glances at girl, looks

around as if expecting someone, checks watch, waits.

Another girl crosses stage. Boy approaches her calling her by name.

Other girl: I beg your pardon.

Boy: Oh, sorry, I thought you were someone else. Could you tell me the time please.

Other girl: (looking at watch) Sure, its almost 10 after 6. (She exits looking back nervously at him)

Girl: (when she hears his voice) \_\_\_\_\_ is that you?

Boy: (calling her by name) \_\_\_\_\_ is that you?

Girl: Of course, its me....we agreed to meet at 6:05 and its just past 6....

Boy: (interrupts her by laughing) Oh, I get it ...a blind date...you're pretending to be blind because this is a blind date,....I should have thought of that...(laughs again and when she says nothing, he stops. An awkward silence follows)

Girl: You mean you didn't know that I'm blind. Didn't your friends tell you that I'm blind?

Boy: ah...no....I guess they thought I knew....I didn't realize....

Girl: You mean, it makes a difference?

Boy: Yes, I mean, no it doesn't , I mean, why didn't you say something.....(stops stammering. Another awkward silence)

Girl: I see. Some things are obvious even to a blind person. Good-bye (Girl exits)

Lights fade on boy still standing at centre.

Scene VIII

As scene begins, two girls are standing at side discussing another student; teacher is at desk, working.

Carla: Hey, did you see Melanie at the Mall yesterday?

Amanda: Yeah, I saw her buying these really cool jeans.

Carla: Yeah, I saw those; and did you see her new shoes? Man, are they ever excellent.

Amanda: Yeah, I know, she is just so cool...I mean even her name is cool...:Melanie" ...I've never heard a person actually named that before. Maybe its a St. John's thing. I mean, Melanie, it just projects.

Two boys enter discussing the same student.

Blair: Melanie's not here yet!

Jordan: What do you mean she's not here?

Blair: She's not here!

Jordan: I came here early to catch a good glimpse of her.

Blair: That's why I came to school!

Jordan: Great minds think alike. Let's ask those girls. Maybe they know where she is.

Blair: Hey girls, we've got a question to ask you.

Girls exchange looks. They think the boys are interested in them.

Jordan: (putting his arms around them) Now, girls, have you two seen Melanie yet today?

Amanda: Why would we tell you if we did?

Carla: Yeah, you two are pathetic.

Girls sit down in disgust.

Blair: What's with them? Melanie is definitely mine, man. I know she wants me.

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Blair: Well, whoever she wants, that girl is fine. She give me



the shivers every time she tosses her hair.

Melanie enters.

Teacher: Good morning Melanie

Melanie: Oh, good morning.

Amanda: Hey Melanie.

Melanie: HI

Amanda: I love those jeans.

Melanie: Oh, thanks, I took your advice and bought the black ones. I bet the blue ones would look great on you.  
Oh, Jeff, here's the book you wanted.

Jeff: Thank you

Melanie, aware that Blair and Jordan are watching her, walks over to the boys.

Melanie: (walking over to the boys) Hey guys. Ooh Jordan, you are looking good today. I love that shirt (runs her finger down his chest) They're my team tool

Blair: Yeah? Well did you see them get slaughtered last night.

Melanie: Flukey goal! (turns to walk to her seat, tossing her hair. She sits in centre at back.)

Jordan and Blair rush to the empty seat next to her. Jordan gets it and immediately starts to talk to Melanie. Blair tries to get Matthew to give up his seat on the other side of Melanie.

Blair: Come on Man, let me sit here.

Matthew: No, I want to sit here. I was here first.

After a short struggle, Blair flings Matthew out of the seat. Matthew sits near the front. Blair moves his chair over so that he can also vie for Melanie's attention.

Teacher: Today we're going to begin our discussion of Romeo and Juliet. Romeo and Juliet were only 14 yet they were so much in love that they were willing to devote their lives to each other. What is your opinion: do you think it is possible for teenagers to really be in love? Blair?

Blair: (confering with Jordan) Jordan is going to answer that question, Miss.

Jordan: If you're at a bar and you're having a few drinks, and

she's having a few drinks, that's love.

Teacher: Carla, what do you think?

Carla: I think that teenagers could make love.

Teacher: Can you add anything to this, Melanie?

Melanie: It is possible. Subconscious is attracted to subconscious and because, scientifically, your subconscious knows no age, therefore, its possible for anyone of any age to fall in love when mind meets mind.

Other students react negatively to this display of "smartness".

Matthew: Are you serious?

Melanie: Juliet, at 14 was well beyond the marrying age in Elizabethan times. So it is impossible to compare her situation with modern teenagers. Therefore my second statement negates my first...however, I agree with the idea of people of this age being in love...it is the depth of that love that is questionable.

During this speech, the class turns away from Melanie.

Teacher: That is an excellent answer Melanie. I hope that the rest of you noticed how well Melanie answered that question. In fact, I think I'll put most of her points on the board and you can put them into your notes. (mimes writing on board)

Blair gets up in contempt and forces Matthew to change chairs with him again. Reluctantly, Matthew sits next to Melanie but moves his chair away.

Melanie: What do you think Jordan?

Jordan (moving to sit next to Amanda) What are you some kind of brain or something?

Jordan: Move, I want to sit there.

Carla: No, then I'll have to sit next to her, I don't want to sit next to a nerd! (Jordan pushes Carla and she reluctantly moves to the empty chair.

Jordan: What happened to her?

Amanda: I could tell she was like that all along...she's just a big show-off...can't you tell by the way she flicks her hair back? What a phoney! She sure had you guys fooled.

Jordan: Smart people just turn me off!

Blair: How can she be such a babe and so smart at the same time?

Jordan: I hate smart people.

Melanie: I'm not so smart! It's just that Romeo and Juliet has always been a favourite of mine...I studied it last year...I really like the plot and the characters are so believable...(she slows down as she realizes that the class has turned against her) Uh, but we can discuss it another time. Amanda, do you want to go shopping for those jeans after school?

Amanda: No thanks, I don't like them anymore.

Teacher: Class, let's proceed to the library now where I want you to begin your assignments. If any of you have any difficulty choosing a topic, I'm sure that Melanie would be glad to help you.

Class exits saying derogatory remarks about Melanie. Melanie, realizing that all have deserted her, turns to Jeff:

Melanie: Jeff, do you like Romeo and Juliet?

Jeff: Teacher's pet!!! (he exits)

Melanie sits quietly at centre and exits slowly as lights fade.

#### Scene IX:

The scene opens with an office scene in which the efficient male secretary is busy at a desk and the idle female boss is sitting back in her chair with feet on the desk.

Angela (entering and standing at the secretary's desk) is dressed like the quintessential female executive. After a few moments, the secretary notices her.

Matthew: And you are?

Angela: Ms. Angela Morgan

Matthew: And you are here for?

Angela: I'm here for an interview for the executive position which is open in your company.

Matthew: Please sit down.

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Steve (entering and standing at the secretary's desk) is dressed with jacket, shirt and tie but wearing jeans and casual shoes. He is very cool looking.

Matthew: And you are?

Steve: Steve Harris.

Matthew: And you are here for?

Steve: I'm here for the job interview.

Matthew: Please be seated.

Matthew: (buzzing the boss) Boss, there are two people here for the interview.

Wanda: Send the first one in. (She fusses with her hair and adjusts her makeup)

Matthew: Ms Morgan, you may go in.

When Angela enters, Wanda makes it obvious that she is disappointed that the candidate is not a man.

Angela: Ms. Angela Morgan (they shake hands weakly)

Wanda: (buzzing secretary) Are you sure that this person is here for the interview?

Matthew: Yes.

Wanda: But, this person is not a man.

Matthew: That is who personnel sent up for you to interview.

Wanda: (asking all questions with less than enthusiasm) Tell me a little about yourself.

Angela: Well, I graduated from Dalhousie with a Bachelor of Commerce degree, honours, and I have a Masters of Business Administration from Queen's University.

Wanda: Why did you apply for a job with this company?

Angela: I used to have my own firm and now I would like to get back into the corporate structure. I feel that I have many skills which could be utilized by this company and my research shows me that I could make a valuable contribution to its success.

Wanda (unimpressed) What exactly would you like to do for this company?

Angela: Well, my research shows that you have a good product but your marketing is weak especially with regard to domestic exposure. My first plan would be to create a more aggressive

marketing strategy aimed at the middle income buyer. Following that, I feel that a restructuring of the .....

Wanda: (cutting her off) Well, thank you Ms. Morgan, don't call us, we'll call you. (opening the door)

Angela: (exiting) I'm sure that my ideas will benefit your company....(seeing that she is outside the office). I'll be waiting for your call. Good luck, Mr. Harris.

Wanda: (overhearing the words, Mr. Harris, slams the door and rushes to her desk where she adjusts her makeup and hair and then perches on the desk provocatively and buzzes the secretary) Send in the next candidate, please.

Steve: enters and is immediately appraised physically by Wanda. They shake hands as he introduces himself. She leans on him to get down from the desk and saunters to her own chair as he is seated.

Wanda (with much enthusiasm) Now, Mr. Harris, tell me a little about yourself.

Steve: Well, I like to keep in good physical shape. I work out 5 times a week...I see that this company has its own fitness room...I like that idea.

Wanda: Very interesting. Why did you apply for a job with this company?

Steve: This city has a good basketball team and I really like going to basketball games so working here would really suit me.

Wanda: How interesting! What do you think you can do for our company?

Steve: I'm very good at organizing company softball teams and I would like to get a fitness program going here. I think that fitness and corporate success go hand in hand.

Wanda: I agree Mr. Harris. (moving to behind him) Are you married?

Steve: I have a dog.

Wanda: MMMMMM that's nice. The new executives in our company usually like to work at nights and on weekends. Would you be able to work late at night?

Steve: No problem, as long as I can work out sometime during the day.

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Wanda: I'm sure that we can do anything that you would like to keep you fit and in good shape, Mr. Harris. Perhaps you could

work out a program for me too. Well, Mr. Harris, I've seen enough for me to make a decision...when would you like to start?

Steve: You mean I got the job? Don't you want to discuss my resume, my credentials, my references, my corporate strategies?

Wanda: Mr. Harris, you are just what I've been looking for and please let me worry about all the strategies. See you tomorrow and come prepared to work late.

Steve: (confused and starting to get suspicious about why he was hired) Thank you, I'll see you tomorrow. (he exits)

Wanda (buzzing Matthew). Contact personnel and let them know that Mr. Harris is our new vice-president in charge of marketing. (As lights fade, Wanda puts feet up on desk and smiles wickedly to herself)

Scene X

### Mirrors

written and performed by

The Pichitawno Players

In this collective, the Pichitawno Players examine the theory that prejudice and discrimination are human failings. They present the idea that each of us is guilty of discrimination by our opinions, our thoughts, our words and our gestures. Although discrimination still exists on a mass scale in some corners of the world, it is the every day actions of ordinary people which keeps this unfair practice prevalent in all of our lives. Even those of us who claim that all people are created equal are not innocent of expressing some form of prejudice.