

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL

PRESENTS

LET'S TALK

Let's Talk was written to provide young people with an opportunity to voice our concerns about the society we are inheriting. Some scenes may seem a little melodramatic, however the concern regarding these topics was great enough for us to include them in our presentation. If you need to talk, call 1-800-4-A-CHILD.

WRITER'S AND CAST (in order of appearance)

NARRATORS:

*Erika Budgell
*Tiara Samson
*Erin Henderson
*Janine Sarrazin-Menard
*Leanne Piercey

"Date Rape"

Kylie Gambin	Jennifer
Lyndon Pike	Michael

"Divorce"

Melanie Campagna	Mary
Jim Segee	George
Cheryl Hill	Holly
Melissa Turner	Susan

"Teen Pregnancy"

Mellynda Baines	Dr. Rose
Karine Picard	Karen

"Drug Abuse"

Heather Dunn	Sandy
Shannon Thoms	Gregg
Andrea Colbert	Dawn



William Haye Gr.6
J.C. Erhardt Memorial
M. V. Kurik

"Physical Abuse"

Erin Ferguson
Kerry Matthews
Desiree Burke
Lyndon Pike

Shelly
Sarah
Mom
Dad



"Aids"

Tammy Powell
Jim Segee

Kathy
Jesse

"Teen Suicide"

Jolie Henderson
Andrea

Vanessa
Mom

Sandi Best, Gr.9
Mud Lake School

SPOTLIGHT

Megan Mullaly

TEACHER ADVISOR

Ms. Stacey Pike



Bud Broomfield, Gr.8
Mud Lake School

"LET'S TALK"
by
The Narnian Players of St. Michael's

Cast is on stage:

- #1 Welcome to "Let's Talk" a show for kids by kids.
- #2 Well, not exactly "kids" - more like young adults.
Teenagers.
- #3 We want to present to you glimpses of teenage life as
we get ready to enter the 21st century.
- #4 Teenage life in 1994 is a far cry from Richie
Cunningham's "Happy Days".
- #5 Some people will be naive enough to think that what you
see here tonight happens elsewhere, not Goose Bay,
Labrador. Believe me when I say that we could show
those teens on "Beverly Hills 90210" a thing or two.
- #1 Let's start by meeting JENNIFER and MICHAEL a
"normal" teenage couple out on their first date:

DATE RAPE

MUSIC: _____

JENNIFER: I had a really great time tonight, Michael. I'm glad
Brian set us up.

MICHAEL: It's only 10:00. The night is still young, Jennifer.

JENNIFER: My parents will soon be back, but I guess it wouldn't
hurt to come in for a little while.

MICHAEL: Now you're talkin'. (follows her to the sofa)

JENNIFER: Are you thirsty? I'll get us something to drink.

MICHAEL: Let's forget about the drinks. What I need right now
is right here. (pulls her back down on the sofa)

JENNIFER: Michael, what are you doing? You're hurting me!

MICHAEL: Come on, Jennifer, you know you want it.

JENNIFER: No! Get off of me you jerk! or I'll scream.

MICHAEL: Boy, what a tease. You practically sat on my lap during the movie, I spent about \$25 on you... that should be worth something more than a "goodnight" kiss.

JENNIFER: Just because you spent money on me you think you own me? You really are a jerk! Get out of here! I never want to see you again!

MICHAEL: Oh I get it! You're just playing hard to get. What you really mean is YES! but you just don't want to admit it.

JENNIFER: Noooooooo!!!!

MICHAEL: I can see you're not a beginner. Thanks for a great night, Babe. Maybe we can get together again sometime. But next time let's skip the foreplay!

JENNIFER: What am I going to do? I must have wanted that to happen to me. Michael was right. I'm no good.

#1 After the assault Jennifer was so ashamed she didn't tell anyone what Michael had done to her. She felt that she was responsible since she had invited him in when her parents were out. Perhaps she had led him on.

#2 She began missing school and her grades started to slip. Basically, she avoided places where she would likely bump into Michael. When her older sister confronted her about her odd behaviour she broke down and told her she'd been raped.

#3 With her sister's support, she agreed to press charges against Michael and hopefully save some other innocent girl a similar fate. What she didn't realize was that she was too late.

- #4 Because Jennifer had kept the incident a secret, a physician could not verify that a rape had occurred. Statistics show that victims of date rape rarely get justice in our court system. Chances improve however, if the victim sees a doctor immediately after the rape occurs.
- #5 In court it was only Jennifer's word against Michael's and Michael was found NOT GUILTY.

MUSIC: (cont.)

- #2 When we pooled the 110 students in our junior high we found that _____% lived with their natural parents.
- #3 That means that _____ out of every _____ students either lives with a single parent or a stepmother or stepfather.
- #2 Many teenagers adjust to their new environment, and actually welcome living with two adults who love each other instead of what life was like when they lived with their real parents.
- #3 I know what you mean. It seems like you live in a war zone, with doors slamming, yelling and name calling, swearing and the occasional object thrown across the room. When the smoke clears you hope you still have a family.
- #2 Sometimes you do and sometimes you don't. Let's meet Holly and Susan's parents and see if "staring together for the sake of the children" is such a good idea.

DIVORCE

MUSIC: _____

(Hide off stage, MOM looking at clock. DAD'S late for supper again.)

- MOM: I've had it. He's been late for supper every day for the last week. And I can just guess where he is!
- DAD: (entering) What's for supper, Mary? I'm starved.
- MOM: George, where have you been? You've been late every day this week. This had to stop!

DAD: Now Mary, relax. I just stopped of at Tenders for a beer with the boys after work.

MOM: Just one beer? Give me a break! Every day you come home reeking of booze. By the time payday rolls around you'll owe your cheque to Tenders. I'm through with this. I've had enough of it! Do you hear me?

DAD: Oh shut up! I work damn hard for what I earn and I'm not going to have you tell me how I can spend it!

Holly & SUSAN (enter)

Holly: What's going on?

DAD: Stay out of this Holly if you know what's good for you!

SUSAN: (to Holly) They're at it again. Just once I'd like to get through an evening without any fighting.

Holly: That would be a miracle. (to parents) I'm going to Sam's house. They have a normal family.

MOM: You're not going anywhere, Holly, until you've had your supper.

Holly: I've sort of lost my appetite, Mom.

SUSAN: Me too!

DAD: You two go to your rooms and stay there 'til you're told to come out. (they leave) Now, Mary, are you going to take up my supper or do I have to get it myself?

MOM: You think you can wait in here any time of the day or night and I'll just be ready to wait on you hand and foot. Well, I've got news for you buster. If that's the way you think things are going to be around here, I want you packed and out of this house now!

DAD: So that's the way you want it? Well that's just fine with me. I won't be troubling you any longer.

MOM: Your trouble is that you want to act like you're single but have all the comforts of being married...clothes washed, meals cooked....

DAD: I don't have to listen to this. Are you finished cause I'm outta here... and I'm takin the Jeep, too.

MOM & DAD: (these are overlapping conversations)

DAD: You're never satisfied...

MOM: All I ever wanted was for us to be a family...

DAD: ...it's all I listen to day after day...

MOM: ...eat meals together, watch a movie, play a game, you never have time for me or the kids...

DAD: ...it's George do this, George do that, well from now on George is going to do just as he pleases.

MOM: ...You've always put us last. Larry needs help with his lawnmower, Tom wants to show you the engine he's rebuilding...

DAD: ...I'll come home when I like, I'll go when I like, I'll answer to no one...

MOM: ...but when have you ever had time for us? Never. That's when.

DAD: ...I'll be free of your nagging, whining, complaining voice. Geeze, you never stop!

MOM: ...You're selfish, selfish, selfish. You always were and you always will be...just like your no-good father...ignorant and stupid...

DAD: ...and I won't ever have to put up with your stupid mother again. I was never good enough for her precious daughter anyway...You're just like her you know...

MOM: ...I thought you were different, but I was wrong...

DAD: ...I thought you'd change but I was wrong...

#3 Poor Holly and Susan and all the other Hollies and Susans out there. No one should have to listen to that every day.

#2 Statistics Canada reported in 1990 that TWO out of every THREE marriages failed that year and the numbers were expected to rise to THREE out of FOUR by the year 2000.

MUSIC: (cont.)

#5 What is the worst thing you can think of that you'd have to tell your parents about?

#4 That I flunked another Science test!

#3 That's at?

#4 That I'd taken the car while she was out of town and wrote it off?

#5 I'll admit that would be a hard one to explain, but what if you found yourself in Karen's predicament? Watch and you'll see what I mean.

TEEN PREGNANCY

MUSIC:

(DOCTOR'S OFFICE)

DR ROSE: I think you know what I'm about to tell you.

KAREN: Yes, I do. How far along am I ?

DR ROSE: Roughly 9 weeks.

KAREN: Oh God, Dr. Rose, what am I going to do? I'm only fifteen !!!

DR ROSE: Just relax. Don't panic. I know you're only young but this is the situation and you have to deal with it. There are some options you may want to consider.

KAREN: Forget about an abortion...

DR ROSE: That's not your only choice. You may want to consider putting the baby up for adoption.

KAREN: How am I going to be able to have a baby grow inside of me for nine whole months? I'll get fat!!! My butt will sag. No boy will ever go out with me again. My life is over.

DR ROSE: Listen Karen, your life is not over, but if you won't consider abortion then you have to face the fact that you must bring this baby to term.

KAREN: Oh Gooooodddd!

DR ROSE: Do you know who the father is?

KAREN: What's that supposed to mean? Of course I know who the father is. What's that got to do with anything?

DR ROSE: Well, it's not just your baby. You have a responsibility to let him know that he's about to be a father.

KAREN: Responsibility? Don't talk to me about responsibility! If he had been responsible I wouldn't be talking to you right now. He's the one who promised me that I'd be safe if he used a condom. I don't owe him a thing!

DR ROSE: Karen, I know you're upset right now, but after you've had some time to think, you may want to discuss this with your boyfriend and possibly his family.

KAREN: I couldn't talk to Mrs O'Rourke about this she'd think I was trying to force Ryan into marrying me or supporting his kid for the rest of his life.

DR ROSE: That's just what I mean, Karen. If you decide to keep your baby Ryan has a financial responsibility towards helping you raise him. It's a legal responsibility.

KAREN: I'm too young to deal with all of this. This is not happening to me! I just want to die!

DR ROSE: Karen, younger girls than you have had babies and they've gone on to lead perfectly normal lives. One mistake doesn't mean your life is over. You must deal with the consequences of your actions and get on with your life.

KAREN: Dr Rose, I'm going to need help with this. Will you help me? Please!

DR ROSE: You know I will.

- #5 _____ teenaged girls gave their babies up for adoption last year. _____ more had abortions, and _____ opted to keep their children.
- #4 Some troubled teens see pregnancy as a way out of a bad situation at home. They think that when they have a child they will finally have someone who will love them unconditionally.
- #5 Getting pregnant is the easy part. Being pregnant, working to get money to feed and clothe your new baby, and having to stay home and care for her while the rest of your friends go out for pizza and to a movie without you, is maybe a little more than you bargained for.
- #4 On TV, teenage sex looks so cool! I mean everyone is doing it right? Stop dreaming and get real. They are actors! They get paid to pretend. But if you get pregnant no amount of acting will get you out of it.
- #5 Save yourself a lot of grief and refrain from

having sex until you're old enough to handle the emotional and financial responsibilities that go along with being that close to someone else. It's your choice.

MUSIC: (cont.)

#5 In our next scene SANDY, GREGG and NEW-KID-IN-TOWN, DAWN have got problems of their own which they think they can solve by getting high on a little grass. Dawn's never smoked before and Sandy and Gregg are her two closest friends right? so everything should be cool.

DRUG ABUSE

MUSIC:

(Dawn arrives at Sandy's house where Gregg is visiting)

SANDY: Door's open, come in!

DAWN: Hi guys!

GREGG: Hey, how's it goin'? (to Sandy) I'll be back in a second.

DAWN: So, what are you looking at?

SANDY: I was looking at these really cool dogtags. They're all the rage. I'd like to have one, wouldn't you?

DAWN: You wouldn't think it was so great if you had to wear one every day. See? (pulls out dogtags)

SANDY: Oh cool, can I wear it sometime?

DAWN: I wish I could let you, but I can't cause I have to wear it all the time.

SANDY: Really? How come?

DAWN: I'm allergic to EVERYTHING!

SANDY: (to Gregg, re-entering) Where were you? I bet I can guess!

GREGG: Were you thinking of this? (pulling joint from behind his ear)

DAWN: I hope you're not going to smoke that.

GREGG: No! I just brought this in for "show and tell". Of course WE'RE going to smoke this. It cost me plenty!

SANDY: Oh, Dawn, don't be such a stiff. It's only a joint. It's not like it'll hurt you.

GREGG: Ya, we do it all the time. You'll love it. It's very

GREGG & SANDY: ... relaxing!!!

DAWN: Are you sure it's safe?

SANDY: Positive. Besides once word gets out that you're cool your phone won't stop ringing.

GREGG: (waiving joint in front of her face) And you do want to be COOL don't you?

DAWN: ... I guess so...

SANDY: So, are you with us?

DAWN: ...Yes...

(They start passing the joint around. Dawn inhales last. They start giggling and falling around. After about 2 minutes, Dawn starts having a negative reaction. She begins convulsing.)

GREGG: Dawn? Dawn? (to Sandy) What's the matter with her?

SANDY: I don't know, but I think she needs help. What can we do?

GREGG: She must be allergic or something.

SANDY: The tags!

GREGG: What tags?

SANDY: The tags she wears around her neck. She told me earlier that she's allergic to almost everything.

GREGG: Hurry! Call 911. We need an ambulance. NOW!

SANDY: (into receiver) 911? Help!...

MUSIC: (cont.)

- #4 Smoking dope is cool, right? WRONG! It maybe fun as most illegal things are, but it is costly fun.
- #2 By the time the emergency team arrived at Sandy's house, Dawn was already dead. It happened because she was allergic to tetrahydrocannabinol - most of us refer to it as THC. That's the active ingredient in marijuana and hashish.
- #3 This may seem a little too unreal for some of you, but it can happen. You may not be allergic to THC, but are you willing to risk becoming sterile? THC can cause reduced sperm production and irregularities in menstrual cycles.
- #1 What can we say about drug and alcohol abuse that hasn't already been said? And who's listening? Nearly one out of every three advertisements on radio, tv, magazines, and newspapers promote drug and alcohol consumption.
- #5 As for Sandy and Gregg, Dawn's death has been a sobering experience for them. Dawn's mother didn't press charges, but the two teenagers have sentenced themselves to helping other teens quit drug and alcohol use before they become responsible for taking their own life or that of a friend.
- SANDY: Gregg and I came here tonight because we don't want you to make the same mistake we did. People said, 'we weren't to blame for what happened, how could we have known?' but they were wrong. We pressured Dawn into doing something she knew she shouldn't do. It's because of us that her bedroom light doesn't go on at night... Her chair at the dinner table is empty...because of me...
- GREGG: I haven't touched drugs since the night Dawn died. She only had five drags from a joint and now she's dead. I told her smoking dope would make her cool. What I didn't know was that it would make her cold. Stone dead cold...
- MUSIC: (cont.)
- #3 Now it's time to get physical. What do you know about the family life of the boy who sits next to you in class or the girl who skips every Monday morning? Perhaps you know something is up but you just don't want to get involved. Let someone else handle it - you've got your own problems, right?!

#2

SHELLY is about to discover something about her best friend SARAH that she's not sure she's equipped to deal with. Think about what you'd do if you found yourself in SHELLY'S shoes.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

MUSIC:

SHELLY: (leaving class) What are your plans now?

SARAH: I have to go home right away. Call me later, though.
O.K. (entering own house) Hello, is anybody home?

MOM: Sarah? Is that you?

SARAH: Ya. Where's Tim?

MOM: He went to the Canex with your father. I needed a few things for supper.

SARAH: I don't want any supper. (grabs an apple) I have a ton of homework to do, so I'm going to my room. (PHONE RINGS)

MOM: Hello. Sarah? Yes, just one minute please.
(calling offstage) Sarah! It's for you.

SARAH: I'll take it in my room. (into phone) Hello?

SHELLY: Hi, Sarah. It's me, Shelly. Whatcha doin'?

SARAH: Oh, I was just about to do my homework, what about you?

SHELLY: I was just talking to Jim. We're planning on going to see Forest Gump tonight, seeing how it's Welfare Night! Wanna go?

SARAH: Who else is going besides you two?

SHELLY: Oh, the usual crowd ... Bob, Sammy, Kristy and Kelly.

SARAH: Um... I guess so. Will you come here first, or will I meet you at the theatre?

SHELLY: I'll come get you at about quarter to 7:00. O.K.?

SARAH: Sure, no problem. See you then.

SHELLY & SARAH: (say "goodbye")

(entering living room where Mom and Dad are)

MOM: What did Shelly want, Sarah?

SARAH: She wanted to know if I'd go see a movie with her tonight.

DAD: I hope you told her "No".

SARAH: Dad! It's only a movie! I'll be home by 9:30!

DAD: Did you ask me if you could go? No! You just said "Yes" without even asking me.

SARAH: Dad!!! May I go?

DAD: NO! The only place you're going is to your room.

SARAH: MOM! He's so mean! He won't even give me a reason why I can't go!

DAD: (jumping up and grabbing her) Who do you think you're talking to? I'm your father. I don't have to give you a reason if I don't want to. (shaking her) As long as you're living under my roof you'll do as I say. Understand?

SARAH: (breaking free) Well, I won't be living under your roof very much longer, and I can't wait to get away from you and your stupid rules! (running to room)

DAD: (chasing after her) You just wait until I get my hands on you young lady! You'll soon regret the day you were born!

(Sounds of SARAH screaming: "Stop! NO! Please, Daddy don't hit me!" crying, slapping, chairs being knocked over)

DOORBELL RINGS (Shelly enters)

SHELLY: Sarah? (Sarah is sitting with her back to the audience: looks at Shelly when she comes and sits beside her on couch) Oh, Sarah, what happened?! Your poor face? Who did this to you? Tell me!

SARAH: If I tell you, will promise not to tell anyone?

SHELLY: Sarah, are you sure it's a good idea to keep something like this a secret?

SARAH: I'm not going to tell you unless you promise, so swear!

SHELLY: (reluctantly) All right I swear I won't tell anyone. Now tell me, who did this to you?

SARAH: My father.

SHELLY: Your father did this? Why?

SARAH: Who knows, Shelly? Sometimes he has a reason, but most of the time he doesn't need one. I'm seem to be always near when he needs something to punch. It could be worse: it could be Tim.

SHELLY: What are you going to do?

SARAH: Nothing. I'll hide the scraper with makeup. The swelling and bruises will disappear in a day or two: they usually do.

SHELLY: How long has this been going on?

SARAH: When I was little he didn't beat me too often; about once a month or so, but since I began highschool it's gotten worse.

SHELLY: Sarah, your dad needs help. You've got to tell someone!

SARAH: (standing up) I knew I shouldn't have told you. I thought you were my friend! I'm not going to tell anyone and neither are you. You promised!

SHELLY: Sarah, I know I promised, but you're my friend and I can't let this abuse go on and not do something to help you.

SARAH: The only way you can help me, Shelly is by keeping your mouth shut! What happens when you tell someone? I'll have to go to court and testify against my own father. He'll probably go to jail, and my mother and brother will hate me. We'll lose our house and truck because Mom won't be able to make the payments on her own... Have you thought about all that? Well, I have. That's all I've thought about for the last 6 years or so. I can suffer it out for another 3 years. I can. (Sits)

SHELLY: And what happens when you move out? Will Tim or maybe your mother replace you as his "punching bag"?

SARAH: (standing) Shut up, Shelly, shut up!

SHELLY: You know I'm right, Sarah. It's up to you to break the cycle. Force your father to get counselling. That's the only way your family is going to have a second chance.

SARAH: Oh God, Shelly, I'm scared. I don't know what I'm going to do.

SHELLY: Whatever it is, we'll do it together, O.K.? (embrace)

#5 Family violence is a serious problem in today's society. Drugs and alcohol don't always have to be involved, but in 83% of the cases reported to Social Services it is. Only 15 - 20% of abuse cases ever make it to court.

#1 Reporting a family member for abuse of any kind is a very difficult decision for most people. This decision is especially hard for teenagers. They worry if they will be supported by other family members, and if they will be able to hold up under cross examination.

#4 Justice has not always been served. Reporting the abuse is supposed to help the victim but it often only serves to compound the problem. Now s/he feels the added burden of being responsible for the breakup of the family. For some it's a no win situation,

#3 So they choose to allow the abuse to continue. Unfortunately, documentation shows that victims of abuse go on to become abusers themselves in their adult life. And so the cycle continues.

MUSIC: (cont.)

#1 Our last two scenes tonight deal with AIDS and TEEN SUICIDE. Again some of you are thinking that no one in Goose Bay is HIV positive, right? ARE YOU SURE?

#4 And if you don't think that we haven't been affected by TEEN SUICIDE then you must live a very sheltered life. The Melville Hospital alone deals with an average of 20 cases of attempted suicide each year. Sadly, some of these attempts have been successful.

#1 Let's sit back and hear what Kathy has to tell her longtime boyfriend, Jessie.

AIDS

MUSIC:

KATHY: I guess you think I'm a perfectly healthy teenager,

huh? Well, you couldn't be more wrong if you tried. You don't know anything about me. Haven't you ever heard "looks can be deceiving"?

Oh, God what am I going to do? I should just slit my wrists now and get it over with cause I'm goin' die anyway... and a lot sooner than I had planned.

How am I ever going to tell Jessie? He's going to hate me!

(to JESSIE) Why didn't you tell me?

JESSIE: Just a minute Kathy, Brian is telling this really great story about this wolf they saw on their way

KATHY: Jessie, forget about the stupid story! Why didn't you tell me?

JESSIE: Tell you what? What am I, a mindreader or something? I don't know what you're talkin' about! Tell you what?

KATHY: I got my test results back today. They say I'm positive!

JESSIE: Positive? Positive for what? Don't tell me you're pregnant, Kathy! Please don't tell me that!

KATHY: Pregnant we could handle, Jessie, but what about AIDS? Do you think we can handle being HIV Positive? Because that's what we are, HIV Positive!

JESSIE: You're joking, right?

KATHY: Do you think I'd joke about a thing like that? This is no laughing matter. I'm going to die. And if I'm going to die then so are you!

JESSIE: Just because you're HIV Positive doesn't mean I am too.

KATHY: Oh, no? And how do you think I came in contact with the AIDS virus? From a toilet seat? Get real, Jessie. I got it from you. I haven't been with anyone else, ever. Can you say the same thing?

JESSIE: I haven't been with anyone besides you in over a year. How could I have AIDS?

KATHY: Before we started going together you had a different girlfriend every second weekend. And I know for a fact that you slept with more than one of them.

JESSIE: I was always careful.

KATHY: Always?

JESSIE: Well, almost always.

KATHY: Jessie, your carelessness has cost us our future! I had plans - we had plans! We were going to backpack across Europe, ski the Swiss Alps, honeymoon in Mexico, remember? Right now, we'll be lucky if we live to see our highschool graduation!

JESSIE: Take it easy, Kathy. We'll figure something out. It will be alright.

KATHY: No, Jessie. You told me that before, remember. I believed you then, and you were wrong. I don't think things will ever be alright again.

#1 A lot of people don't realize that if you have sex just one time you are putting yourself at risk... risk of coming in contact with many unpleasant and sometimes deadly organisms you hadn't planned on becoming intimate with.

#2 There's no such thing as "safe sex" only "safer sex". Remember: "No glove - No love!"

#3 So, the next time you hear him or her say that a "condom spoils the mood," just remember, "AIDS spoils it even more!"

#4 If you really want to protect yourself and your future family you'll wait and hope he or she does. That's the only 100% guarantee you'll get in this life.

#1 A lot of people don't realize that if you have sex just one time you are putting yourself at risk... risk of coming in contact with many unpleasant and sometimes deadly foreign bodies you hadn't planned on becoming intimate with.

#4 There's no such thing as "safe sex" only "safer sex"... Remember: "No glove - No love!"

#2 So, the next time you hear him say that "a condom spoils the mood," just tell him, "AIDS spoils it even more!"

#1 And if MR RIGHT still refuses to wear one then maybe he's MR WRONG!

#3

If you really want to protect yourself and your future family you'll wait and hope he or she waits too. Cause that's the only 100% guarantee you'll ever get.

MUSIC: (cont.)

#5:

Are you aware that approximately 700 teenagers commit suicide each year in Canada? Pretty frightening, huh? It's hard to believe that life can get so unbearable that a 14-year-old will take his own life? Sure, STUFF happens. Teens are under a lot of pressure: to make the grade, to be part of the IN CROWD, to be cool. Is it any wonder that our feelings get confused? Vanessa is here to tell you exactly what it's like.

TEEN SUICIDE

MUSIC:

VANESSA: I was dead long before I put that rope around my neck. I just wanted all the pain and loneliness to stop. I was feeling...

#1

Inadequate.

VANESSA: No matter how hard I tried, I knew I'd never get more than a 65% in algebra. The teacher explained it over and over. I began feeling like a complete moron. It got to the point where I skipped mornings just to avoid math class. That only made things worse because I missed all my other classes too. I got sent to the Guidance Counsellor, but she wasn't much help.

#2:

Poor communication skills.

VANESSA: No one understood what I was going through. They said they'd been there, but it just wasn't the same. It wasn't just the math. People I'd gone through elementary school with had changed so much. If you didn't have a boyfriend or if you weren't DOING IT then there was something wrong with you...you were lesbian or frigid!

#3

Being accepted is important to everyone, but to us teenagers it is crucial to our state of mind. When teens feel they are rejected by their peers they become desperate. They can become trouble makers looking for any form of attention, even if it's negative, or they

can withdraw into themselves. At this stage they are overcome by a complete sense of helplessness.

VANESSA: The last day in school I sat at my desk trying to make a list of my friends. After 45 minutes, I gave up. There was no one - no one I could count on to talk to; no one who'd take me serious when I explained that I didn't think life was worth the trouble.

When I got home from school that day, Mom was cleaning the house windows. There was a harsh odor of Windex in the front hallway. I can remember thinking she'd be glad to have them done for the funeral. I went up to my room and emptied my garbage can. I had done my laundry the night before so the only things not perfectly clean were the clothes I was wearing. After brushing my hair and cleaning my hairbrush I went down to the basement.
(VANESSA exits.)

MOTHER: (enters) Vanessa? (upstairs, NO ANSWER) Vanessa, are you downstairs? I need you to come hold the ladder for me? (downstairs) VANESSA! (exits same as Vanessa)

SCREAM!!! (Silhouette of hanging body)

MUSIC: (CONT.)

#4 According to the Canadian Task Force on suicide, girls attempt suicide three times as often as boys...

#5 ...but boys are four times more successful.

#3 And nine times out of ten the suicide happens in the home while a parent is present.

#4 What we've tried to show you tonight is real... TEEN SUICIDE happens!

#1 PHYSICAL ABUSE, DATE RAPE and DRUG ABUSE is common in our society.

#2 The AIDS virus is real.

#5 DIVORCE is a reality we live with every day.

#3 We get so bummed out by what we see happening around us: things that we have no control over. It's hard to express in words what is bothering us because we are out of practice.

- #4 When I was younger, Mom, I could tell you anything, but lately we don't talk. Don't think I'm putting all the blame on you cause I'm not. We've all gotten so busy with other things and have lost sight of what's really important. I'm not sure we know how to talk anymore, but I'd sure like to give it a try if you'll meet me half way.
- #3 Remember we are new at this maturity thing and we sometimes stumble and fall. Often we need you to help pick us up and accept our mistakes as growing pains.
- #1 You adults have the power to make or break us. And remember, if you're not part of the solution you just may be part of the problem. Let's talk.



The Narnian Players
St. Michael's School