

**Nalujuk Players
Amos Comenius Memorial School
Hopedale**

presents...

IkKaumajannik (Memories)

The play focuses on the ever changing lives of three Inuit teenagers as seen through the eyes of their dead elders. This play is dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Sybella Nitsman and Mr. William Abel and all Inuit elders who serve to remind us how unique our Inuit heritage is.

Cast

Bernice Lucy	Ethel
Pauline Jararuse	Lucy
Inez Piercy	Sybella
Connie Pijogge	Millie
Rachel Tuglavina	Amalia

Director

Norma Denney

Button design by:
Wayne Keefe
Black Tickie



Scene One

Three young girls are roaming around a cemetery. They are looking for the headstones of their relatives. They walk on stage as if wading through water, looking for fish.

Millie: It's too scary here, let's go!"

Amalia: It's daylight stupid there's nothing to be scared of."

Sybill: Would you two hurry up! I promised mummy I'd put these flowers on anansiak's grave.

Millie: I'll stay outside. You two go on without me.

Sybill: Oh Millie give it up. You've been listening to too many old ghost stories!

Amalia: Ah, she's afraid because the last time she was here she was with Alfred & somebody caught them and frightened the life out of her.

Sybill: What?

Millie: Oh Amalia that's not true. Take it back!

Amalia: Millie, everybody knows about you & ALFRED. Jeannie told me you were so scared, you looked like you belonged in here.

Millie: Stop it Amalia! Or I'll tell everybody about you & Andrew!

(Amalia & Millie try to grab each other but Sybill steps in between them.)

Sybill: Would you two knock it off & help me find anansiak's grave.

(They roam around the cemetery)

Millie: Here it is Sybill.

(The girls gather around the gravestone)

Sybill: Lucy Mary Sybill Jararuse, born 1902 in Hebron & died in 1988 in Hopedale.

Millie: What an old woman, 86. My anansiak's only 76.

Amalia: I think my anansiak's here somewhere. Hey Millie better be careful, you could be steppin' on her right now!

Millie: Ahhh.....! (Monkey Dance)

Sybill: Amalia you should be ashamed of yourself. We're in a cemetery for God's sake. Have some respect.

Amalia: O.K., O.K., I just couldn't resist. Millie is so easy to scare.

Millie: You're evil Amalia Onalik. Your poor old anansiak is probably watching you right now wherever she is.

Amalia: And if she is watching me I hope she can hear me when I tell her that I'm not too crazy about the name she left me!

Sybill: What's wrong with your name Amalia?

Amalia: What's wrong with it? Amalia Julianna Sabina Ethel Onalik! That's not a name! That's a role call for a senior citizens home!

Millie: You should be proud of your anansiak Amalia. Mummy told me she was a real brave woman when she was in Hebron years ago.

Sybill: That's right. I heard she was one of the only people left in the village when the spanish flu killed everybody. She even had to bury her own brothers and sisters before the husky dogs ate them!

Amalia: Alright! Alright! I get the idea! So, she was a brave woman. There's lots of them around today!

Millie: Not like her Amalia!

Sybill: Gee imagine what that must have been like. Digging graves for your own family. Ugly eh!

(Lights fade on the girls. The lights begin to rise on stage right. Two figures in white approach centre stage.)

Lucy: Look at them Ethel. They're back again.
(She turns around) Ethel! ETHEL!

(Ethel walks from offstage surprised.)

Ethel: Sorry, I'm late.

Lucy: What were you doing.

Ethel: Oh I was just talking to Philip Kairtok. I haven't seen him in years.

Lucy: When did he get here?

Ethel: Oh I'd say about half an hour ago.

Lucy: What happened?

Ethel: A stroke he said. Just like that!

Lucy: Oh no poor old Tabea, she must be in a hard way. She depended on Philip for everything.

Ethel: Yeah, but from what I hear she won't be too far behind him.

Lucy: Well I suppose that's a good thing.

(Ethel looks across the stage and spies the girls)

Ethel: Lucy why didn't you tell me they were here?

Lucy: I tried but you were busy with Philip.

Ethel: My, look at your Sybill, Lucy. What a pretty young girl she is.

Lucy: Yes, she takes after her grandmother.

Ethel: There's my Amalia. Sometimes I wonder what will become of her. It's so hard for her mother you know. Ever since William died Amalia's changed.

Lucy: Don't worry Ethel. She's a good girl. She's just young. It's hard for the young today you know. So much to do. So many temptations.

Ethel: I know, but I can't help but worry. It's not like our day Lucy. I pity the children today. I feel for them. Sometimes I wish I could just talk to Amalia like I used to and tell her everything will be O.K.

Lucy: In our time our biggest worry was getting the fire lit or cleaning all our skins so mummy could make her boots.

Ethel: But Lucy do you think they understand that. Do you think they realize what we sacrificed and went through. I don't want them to forget, they must understand!

Lucy: All we can do is wait Ethel. Wait and hope that they will learn.

(Ethel & Lucy move towards the girls)

Amalia: Wow did you feel that?

Millie: Feel WHAT?

Amalia: Like this breeze of cool air behind me.

Sybill: It's just the wind Amalia.

Amalia: I don't know. It's almost like there was someone behind me & then they were gone.

Millie: Ohhhh....

Sybill: Come on you guys lets go. It's close to supper time.

(They stand to leave)

Amalia: Hey Millie! (Amalia puts on mask)

Millie: What?

Amalia: BOOO!!!

(Millie screams & runs off stage)



Printmaking with Sharon Paddister

Scene Two

Girls come on to the stage - seal crawling. The three girls are in Amalia's bedroom talking about the events of the day.

Millie: The only time I'm going back to that graveyard is when I'm dead & buried.

Sybill: Ah come on Millie. When one of your relatives dies you'll have to go back there.

Amalia: Knowing Millie it won't take a funeral to get her back to the graveyard. All she's got to do is look at Alfred's rear end. (Amalia laughs)

Millie: Why don't you shut up Amalia. At least I've got somebody.

Amalia: Like Duh. Alfred is someone to go to. All he thinks about is what girl he's going to take to the graveyard next.

Sybill: Come on you two. Don't make fun. A graveyard is a sacred place.

Amalia: I know, I'm sorry. (Pause) You know I wonder what our anansiaks were doing when they were our age?

Millie: Probably raising babies or hauling wood or making boots.

(Millie & Amalia laugh)

Amalia: From what I heard they didn't have a gym or a pool hall. There weren't any dances either. God that must have been boring.

Sybill: Everyone thinks it was boring and dull back then, but from what my anansiak told me before she died, I can tell you there was plenty to do. Sometimes I wish we could go back to those ways.

Amalia & Millie: Are you racked or what?

Sybill: Millie your anansiak is still living. Did you ever ask her about Hebron & why she left?

Millie: NO!

Sybill: Why?

Millie: I don't know. Not interested I s'pose.

Ghosts stand

Sybill: Well did you know that our grandparents had to leave Hebron? The Moravian mission station closed down and then the government came in and told everybody they had to leave.

Amalia: How do you know Sybill?

Sybill: Because I took the time to sit down with my anansiak. Because I wanted to know who I was & what I was all about.

Millie: I heard daddy & anansiak say something about that a long time ago.

(The two ghosts enter from offstage.)

Ethel: Look at all this stuff! What is it Lucy?

Lucy: It's their way now Ethel. The posters, the movies & the videos.

Ethel: Look Lucy, M-e-tal-li-ca, Me-ga-deth. What is this?

Lucy: Don't worry Ethel. They say it's a stage they go through. This will pass. There are just so many things for them to become involved in. Children are curious.

Ethel: I am afraid now that we are gone, they will forget about us forever.

Lucy: I don't think so. Come & listen.

(They move over to the girls.)

Sybill: The hardest part was when anansiak visited atatsiak's grave in Hebron for the last time. Mummy said she cried & cried.

Millie: Gee poor old woman. Imagine, somebody coming in here today and telling us we've got to leave Hopedale and not come back no more.

Amalia: God! Where would we go? What would we do? I couldn't leave here! My family is here! My friends! My roots are here!

Sybill: And that's exactly how they felt. Leaving their home, the only place they knew for their whole life. And they had no choice. They had to go. Make no wonder they talked about the old days so much. Their bodies might have moved but their spirit stayed in Hebron.

(The ghosts move behind the girls)

Amalia: Gee! There's that breeze again. Don't you feel it?

Millie: You're probably getting the flu that's all. Just put on another sweater.

Sybill: Come on let's get up to the pool hall before it closes.

(They leave, lights fade)



Janice Udell, Visual Artist

Scene Three

Pool Hall. The three girls are dancing as the ghosts enter offstage.

Lucy: My oh my look at the way they dance today.

Ethel: Dancing that's not dancing. It looks like they're having a seizure!

Lucy: Remember when we used to go to dances?

Ethel:-- What fun eh? (**Ghosts step dance**) Oh yeah. All the young people in the village would go. What a time. Remember David and his accordian?

Lucy: Yes and the harder he would play the harder we would step 'er down. It's a wonder the foundation didn't break in under us.

(The two women laugh)

Ethel: Oh I can see it now. (**She walks around**) David on the accordian, the boys on one side of the hall and the girls on the other.

Lucy: Remember how shy the boys used to be. How long we would wait for one of them to come over and ask us for a dance?

Ethel: You remember that time you wanted to dance with Jimmy Tooktashina so bad that you went over and asked him?

Jucy: Oh my, the poor feller almost wet his pants. But when he got going, you couldn't stop him.

Ethel: Those were the days. (**Pause**) And now look at them. Jumpin' and floppin' around like a bunch of fish out of water.

Lucy: Sometimes it scares me. I mean, just look at the way they're moving. You know where this is going to lead. Ethel what happened? Where are their morals?

Ethel: I know, I know. If the elders saw us moving like that, they would ban us from the village. We wouldn't be able to show our face.

Lucy: They're all lost Ethel. They have no direction. No leadership. I see the future and all I see is dispair if things don't change.

Ethel: What's wrong with our people? They don't care anymore? Their spirit is dead. How did this happen?

(Lights fade on ghosts) (Girls stop dancing)

Amalia: Ahh come on. It's only 1:00 a.m. It's early! One more song! Come on one more. Ah, stupid man. (Ghost passes by Amalia)

Sybill: Leave it alone Amalia. Come on lets go home before our parents come after us.

Amalia: Do you guys smell that?

Millie: Smell what?

Amalia: I don't know. It's like perfume or something. I swear it's the same perfume anansiak used to wear.

Sybill: You really are crazy Amalia. First you feel cold breezes and now perfume. What next? Ghosts?

Amalia: I'm not kidding you guys. I really smelled her perfume. Ever since we went to the graveyard the other day, weird things have been happening to me.

Millie: Oh stop it you're scaring me Amalia. Sybill tell her to stop!

Sybill: Amalia the weather's changed. It's fall now it's colder. You probably got a chill the other day when we were in the graveyard.

Amalia: O.K. so what about the perfume? Explain that smarty pants!

Sybill: There were about 60 girls here tonight. Anyone of them could have been wearing that perfume. That's what you smelled.

Amalia: I spose you're right. Come on let's get out of here.

(Girls leave. Amalia lingers behind then leaves.)

Scene Four

Classroom/World Geography class.

Millie: Sybill do you have your geography questions done?

(Girls perform cat's cradle)

Sybill: Of course I do. I always do my homework. Why are you asking?

Millie: Can I see yours. I'm afraid I might have my questions wrong or they don't make sense.

Sybill: Why are you always afraid Millie? Ask the teacher. Don't always depend on me.

(Amalia walks in and joins them)

Millie: Amalia do you have your questions done?

Amalia: Why do you want to know? It's none of your business anyway.

Millie: Hey don't eat my head off. I only asked you a question.

Sybill: Amalia what is with you? You've been a real pain to be around the last couple of days.

Millie: Ah don't notice her, it's PMS again.

Amalia: Shut up Millie. How did you get to be such an expert. Your only got your period last year. Little girl.

Sybill: Knock if off Amalia. That's not fair. Whatever's bugging you, that's no reason to take it out in Millie.

Amalia: I'm sorry O.K.? I'm just a little touchy here lately.

Millie: Are you still on edge about the graveyard?

Amalia: Ever since we went there all I can think about in anansiak.

Sybill: So?

Amalia: I never really thought about her before but now I feel like I should have and that I've missed out on something.

Millie: You know the other day anansiak came over to the house and I started talking to her about Hebron. Boy, you should have seen her. She was laughing and really

having a good time. Made me feel good.

Sybill: I used to be the same way with anansiak too. We used to talk for hours about everything.

Amalia: You two are lucky. You've got memories. I've got nothing. I guess its like they say: you don't know what you've got until you lose it.

Millie: I think your grandmother knows you care Amalia. But its just so weird to hear you talk that way.

(Two ghosts enter & stand behind the girls.)

Amalia: You think maybe I'm beginning to grow up?

(Lights fade on the girls) (Ghosts talk)

Ethel: Oh Lucy can you believe it! Amalia cares. She really cares.

Lucy: Of course she does. She never really forgot you she just misplaced you.

Ethel: Misplaced me?

Lucy: You see in her world there are so many things pulling at her that she forgot what was really important.

Ethel: That's the trouble isn't it. The world they live in places so much pressure on them and they don't know where to turn. They don't know who they are. They're just so lost.

Lucy: But you know when I see our grand-daughters it gives me hope for the future. They'll be our leaders one day and they'll do us proud.

Ethel: They need to be strong. There are so many challenges facing them.

Lucy: Education. Work

Ethel: Family. Career.

Lucy: Children.

Ethel: Husbands.

Ethel & Lucy: Voisey's Bay!

Lucy: Oh don't get me started on that!

Ethel: Who are those people? Where did they come from?

Lucy: A bunch of money hungry, greedy land rapists. I'd like to...

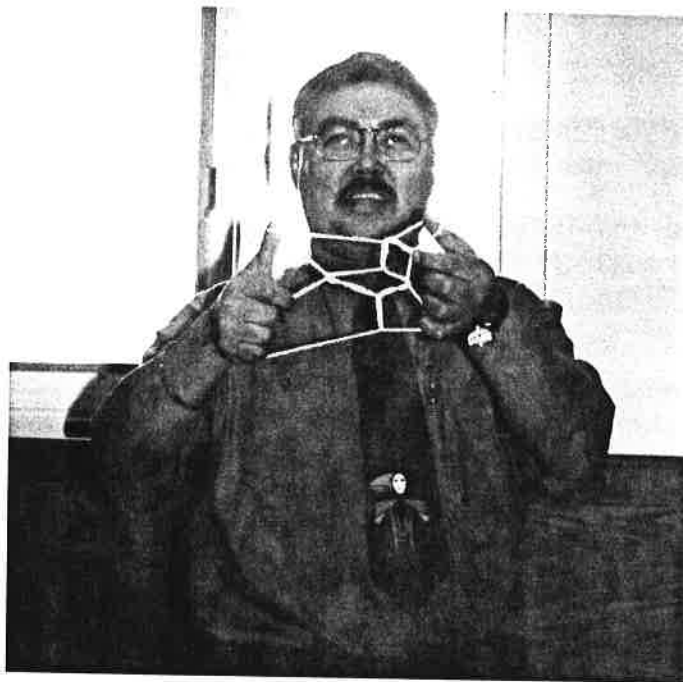
Ethel: Lucy! Lucy! Calm down or you'll have a heart attack! Don't die on me.

Lucy: Ethel. I'm dead already.

Ethel: Oh yeah. You're right.

Lucy: Come on. I hear there's another one coming. Maybe it's someone we know.

(Lights fade as the ghosts exit)



Michael Kusugak, string games

Scene Five

Graveyard.

Amalia & Sybill visit the grave of Amalia's grandmother.

Sybill: How come Millie's not here?

Amalia: Her and Alfred again.

Sybill: Here in the graveyard?

Amalia: No, behind the fishplant in a box.

Sybill: How do you know?

Amalia: Her father caught her.

Sybill: Oh wow!

Amalia: Yeah, I don't think we'll be seeing her for the next few weeks.

(The girls walk around)

Amalia: Can you believe I'm actually here? It wasn't all that long ago I didn't care or ever came here.

Sybill: But you're here now & you do care. That's what matters. Sometimes we need a wake up call to get us to realize what we have.

Amalia: What about the others? When will they wake up? What if they don't? What if it's too late for them?

Sybill: I don't know Amalia. Some never will wake up I'm afraid. But you know something? Someday we're going to be adults and it'll be up to us to lead our people.

Amalia: What if we don't grow up?

Sybill: What do you mean?

Amalia: Look over here. Cathy Kairtok. She was only 20 years old. I don't want to end up like that.

Sybill: Amalia, she had a lot of problems. She had a baby, her parents were dead and she had all that pressure at university.

Amalia: And that gave her the right to kill herself? Don't you see what I mean? She didn't fit in. She didn't know if she should stay in Hopedale or leave. She was too smart to stay here but she couldn't fit in outside.

The only way out of it for her was a pill bottle.

Sybill: But we have to learn from that. We have to take our culture & learn how to use it in the world today. Cathy couldn't do that but we can. We're strong.

Amalia: Promise me something Sybill.

Sybill: Sure, anything.

Amalia: Promise me that no matter where we go when we leave here or what we turn into, that we'll always be there for one another.

Sybill: Sure I will. I promise. Better yet let's make a pact to always come back here every year to these graves for our own reality check.

Amalia: Promise.

(The girls hug)

Sybill: It's getting colder. I'm gonna head on home. You coming?

Amalia: You go ahead, I'll be there in a minute.

Sybill: See you!

Amalia: See you!

(Amalia fixes flowers on the grave)

Amalia: I'm sorry Anansiak. I didn't listen to you earlier! I hope you forgive me.

(Amalia gets up to leave. Suddenly she feels she isn't alone.)

Amalia: There's that breeze again. (She turns around to see her grandmother) Anansiak! How can this be happening? O.K! O.K! I'm dreaming. This isn't real. I fell and hit my head. I'm not going crazy.

Ethel: It's me (grand-daughter). Don't be afraid. I have very little time here so please listen. I've been watching you these last few days & I am so proud of you. Your future is so wonderful and you will experience many things. Just know that I am with you always. I am never far away.

(Ghost fades away but drops a scarf)

Amalia: Anansiak! Anansiak! Wait!

(Amalia picks up the scarf)

Amalia: Good bye Anansiak. I love you.
(Inuktitut)

Lights fade: The End!



Bonita Slander, writer