

**Les Rigolettes
Northern Lights Academy, Rigolet
presents**

“Beside Myself”

Cast

**Marilyn Faulkner
Jonathan Boone
Janelle Boone
Desiree Wolfrey
Dennis Shiwak
Edith Sheppard
Kristy Sheppard
Chesley Wolfrey
Timothy Pottle
Patrick Shiwak**

Teacher Advisors

**John Hicks
Sharon Handcock**

A not-so-motivated student at Northern Lights Academy manages to clone his sister to win the school science fair. No one is able to foresee the trauma his successful experiment creates.

Beside Myself

Act I Scene I

(Staffroom. Mr. Peewee enters in obvious need of a break. He yawns, goes to the coffee machine, puts in three spoonfuls of sugar, takes two pills from a case and takes them with coffee. Goes to chair and puts his feet up. Takes another swig of coffee, yawns and shuts eyes in total relaxation. Enter Mr. Haywire, the principal. Very stressed out, very birdlike, carries clipboard. Tries to get Mr. Peewee's attention. Finally.....)

Mr. Haywire Ah..... Mr. Peewee! *(No response) (louder) Mr. Peewee! (No response, then shouts) MR. PEEWEE!!*
(Mr. Peewee awakes with a start. Stares straight ahead with eyes bugged. Feels pills, coffee, sugar...)

Mr. Peewee *(Shouts) Yes! Who is it?*

Mr. Haywire *(Mockingly) It is I Mr. Peewee, your principal.... and I suppose you're on a preparation period.*

Mr. Peewee *(Needs to think) Yes...Yes...Yes!*

Mr. Haywire *(Business like) Now, Mr. Peewee, I want an update on your Science Fair Projects.*

Mr. Peewee *(Confused) Ah... science fair, science fair, ahh..... let me...*

Mr. Haywire Mr. Peewee, you are aware of how important these fairs are to our school ???! What have you got?

Mr. Peewee Oh... don't worry, our school will be well represented at the Regional Science Fair. *(Tries to go back to sleep)*

Mr. Haywire *(Angry) Mr. Peewee, you will be evaluated this year, and your performance in the Science Fair will be an important part of it!*

Mr. Peewee *(Stands up) Well, now that you put it that way...(thinks) ... I have two excellent students working on a project right this minute!*

Mr. Haywire Good, I am very glad for you. Now, who are they and what are they working on?

Mr. Peewee Krista and Julie are working on root growth.

Mr. Haywire Root growth....root growth! Mr. Peewee, nobody is doing root growth anymore!

Mr. Peewee It's not your regular root growth experiment, they are testing growth rate increases caused by using... ah..... monkey dung as fertilizer!

Mr. Haywire *(Still stressed)* Monkey dung! monkey dung.... and I suppose you have a source for this monkey dung?

Mr. Peewee *(Very confident)* Of course, we get it from Marine Atlantic, you know *(sings)*
 "Get anything
 At anytime
 And on time
 With Marine Atlantic."

Mr. Haywire *(Very threatening)* Look... I don't care if you use fossilized camel turds, just make sure that this project is outstanding. Do you understand me, Mr. Peewee?

(Blackout)

Act I Scene II

(The science lab. The "excellent" students, Krista and Julie are "working" on their Science Fair Project. Krista is doing her nails and Julie is reading a teen romance. Enter Tim and Danielle.)

Krista Oh Julie, look who just came in, it's Mr. Scientist.

Julie Hello Mr. Lobotomy.

Danielle Why don't you two just give it up?

Krista Why should we? What do you care?

Julie Don't tell me you're helping him with his project.

Tim Never mind them Danielle, we just came to get a petri dish.

Julie Why do you need an old dish? You know you're not going to win the science fair

anyway.

Krista Yeah, you may as well quit now!

Danielle I don't think so, Miss Know-It -All!

Krista What did you say to me, Small fry?

Danielle (*confidently*) I bet you we'll win this Science Fair. (*Julie and Krista both laugh*)

Julie Bet..... what have you got to bet with?

Danielle I'll...I'll bet my pet mouse, Mischief.

Tim (*Upset*) No Danielle, don't bet Mischief, he will.....

Danielle (*staring hard at Krista*) Don't worry Tim, I know what I'm doing.

Krista Bet eh? Hmm...Mischief is kinda cute. It's a deal, I'll put up my nail polish collection.

Danielle OK, fine!

Tim Com'on Danielle. Let's go. (*They exit. "Excellent students go back to their previous activities."*)

Julie He is so weird!

Krista Isn't he though. (*Enter Mr. Peewee*)

Mr. Peewee Hi girls! How's the project coming along? (*Girls are caught off-guard*)

Both Oh Mr. Peewee! How nice to see you!

Mr. Peewee Yes, it is isn't it! It must be my new shirt.

Krista I love the colour. It brings out your eyes.

Mr. Peewee So, how's the project coming along?

Krista Great!

Julie Really good!

Mr. Peewee What are you using for fertilizer?

Julie (*Stunned*) I don't know what fertilizer is.

Mr. Peewee You know, the stuff that makes it grow.

Krista Oh, you mean dirt!

Mr. Peewee (*losing patience*) No. No not dirt, it's called soil, soil. But what are you adding to it?

Both girls Nothing!

Mr. Peewee Well, I want to say you are using monkey dung.

Julie Monkey dung, what's that?

Mr. Peewee Monkey dung, you know monkey droppings, number two, unuk?

Krista Does it smell?

Mr. Peewee You aren't going to use it, you just say that you do.

Both girls Oh, we get it!

Krista That's OK Mr. Peewee, we'll do anything for you.

Mr. Peewee Well thanks girls - this science fair is more important to me than you realize. And, now girls, is anyone else doing anything?

Julie Yes, Tim and Danielle were in looking for something.

Mr. Peewee Tim...Tim... you don't mean...?

Krista That's right sir, the weird one.

Mr. Peewee Oh Lord no! What did he want?

Julie Some kind of dish.

Krista Yeah, it starts with a “p”.

Mr. Peewee You mean a petri dish.

Both girls Yeah, that’s it!

Mr. Peewee *(moving downstage thoughtfully)* Now I wonder what he’s up to.

(Blackout)

Act I Scene III

(Tim’s basement. Tim comes into the basement carrying Mischief and a petri dish. Puts the mouse into the cloning machine. Adds things to the petri dish and then puts the dish into another part of the cloning machine. He starts to get ready to run his experiment when he hears his sister calling to him.)

Danielle Tim...Tim are you down here? Tim do you know where Mischief is?

(Danielle enters the basement just as Tim hits the start button on the machine. Music starts. Tim works and dances feverishly. Mixes, writes, pulls levers, dances, all while looking at his stopwatch! After one minute Tim switches off the music and stands breathing hard.)

Danielle *(laughs)* What on earth do you think you’re doing?

Tim *(Still breathing hard)* Oh nothing, just a little experiment.

Danielle Do you have Mischief? Don’t tell me you used him in this experiment.

Tim OK then, I won’t!

Danielle Where is he? Tim, if you’ve hurt Mischief I’ll never forgive you.

Tim Just relax, you know I would never hurt Mischief.

Danielle Tim, tell me where he is.

Tim Well, he should be in that machine over there.

Danielle *(as she moves towards the machine)* Honestly, if you’ve hurt Mischief...
(Danielle looks into machine, looks over at Tim, then back to the machine.)

Tim!...Tim, you're not going to believe this! Tim listen to me!!

Tim **What do you want Danielle?**

Danielle **Tim, there are two mice in this machine. (*Tim goes over to the machine. Danielle takes out a mouse and hands it to Tim. She then brings out another one which she examines. They move downstage.*)**

Tim **(*Very excited*) It worked! It worked! (*Hugs Danielle*) Danielle, do you know what this means?**

Danielle **Does it mean we're going to win the science fair?**

Tim **It means a lot more than that! Famous scientists have been trying to clone things for years and I've done it!**

Danielle **So I won't have to give Mischief to Krista?**

Tim **Danielle, never mind the science fair, we are going to be famous!**

Danielle **But Tim, which one is Mischief? They look identical to me.**

Tim **They are identical, that's what cloning means.**

Danielle **I can't wait to see the look on Krista's face when I tell her.**

Tim **No Danielle, let's keep this a secret until the Science Fair.**

(*Fade to black*)

Act I Scene IV

(*The science lab*)

Krista **Julie, I don't think our project is doing as well with this new fertilizer.**

Julie **Well, what do you expect using this dried dog poo. And it stinks....**

Krista **Yeah and old burnout Peewee said it wouldn't stink.**

Julie Just remember Krista, his whole career is riding on our project.

Krista Yeah, we wouldn't want to see him lose his job, would we?

Julie No, they might replace him with a teacher who really cares and makes us work!

Krista Talk about work, we better! I think I hear someone coming! (*Enter Mr. Peewee, looking glum*)

Both girls Hello Mr. Peewee!

Mr. Peewee Hello girls.

Krista Our experiment has really taken off since you suggested we use monkey dung!

Mr. Peewee Well thanks girls, I just hope it is enough.

Julie What do you mean Mr. Peewee?

Mr. Peewee I'm just worried, you know how Mr. Haywire is, he keeps saying he wants something more creative.

Krista We could add something else to the soil, like maybe sea urchin roe.

Mr. Peewee No, I don't think that will help, just do your best. Any more word on Tim's project?

Julie No, we haven't heard a thing.

Krista I don't think they have a project.

Mr. Peewee Oh well, let me know if you hear anything. (*Mr. Peewee exits. Later Tim and Danielle enter. This time they are looking for bristol board and markers. Krista and Julie agree to try being "nice" to get information.*)

Krista (*Winks at Julie and goes over to Tim and Danielle.*) Hey guys, it's so nice to see you here! How's your project coming?

Danielle It's coming just fine thank you very much.

Julie Is there anything we can help you with?

Tim (*Sincerely*) No thanks, we just came to get some bristol board.

Krista So what is your project about?

Danielle We're keeping it a secret until the science fair.

Julie Top secret eh? More likely you haven'y got anything.

Krista Yeah, what should I buy to feed Mischief after I win him next week?

Danielle I wouldn't worry about it if I were you!

Krista Why? Is your project that good? Would you say it's creative?

Danielle It certainly is creative!

Tim Danielle, don't say anything more.

Julie Why Tim? You don't want to be embarrassed.

Danielle We won't be embarrassed.

Krista Well, I think you guys are just clowning around.

Danielle (*angry*) Not clowning Krista, it's called cloning.

Tim Danielle, be quiet!

Julie (*To Danielle*) Cloning, I bet you don't even know what it means.

Danielle I do so, and Tim actually cloned something.

Krista Oh sure! And what did he clone, a new boyfriend for your mother?

Tim (*Now mad*) No Krista, I cloned Mischief, now we have two mice!

Krista You don't expect anyone to believe you do you? All mice look just the same. You just bought another mouse. Come on Julie, let's leave these losers.

Julie Better pack up that mouse Danielle. (*They exit*)

Danielle They're right Tim. No one will believe us, but I have an idea. Listen.....
(*Fade to black*)

Act I Scene V

(The Science fair. Whole cast is assembled on the school stage. They are being addressed by the school principal.)

Mr. Haywire I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for coming out today and helping us recognize the excellent work of our Science teacher, Mr. Peewee, and the four students who are competing here today to represent our school in the regional fair to be held next month. It is wonderful for me to see how the quest for scientific knowledge is combined with the student's sincere desire to share and support each other.

(Applause)

Mr. Haywire Now, I'm sure that you all know our distinguished judges and I am sure they will each have something to say before they decide the winner here today. So, without any further delay, I would like to introduce you to the students taking part in this year's science fair. First, we have Julie and Krista *(applause)* who have spent countless hours developing a unique experiment on root growth using some pretty interesting fertilizer. *(Applause)* Next we have Tim assisted by his sister Danielle. *(Whispered comments, no applause)* They have decided to keep their project a secret until they actually demonstrate it to the judges and yourselves here today. *(Clears throat disbelievingly - gives black look at Mr. Peewee)* And now the judges will start their difficult task.

(Judges gather around Julie and Krista. There are lots of smiles and head nodding. They then move on to Tim and Danielle who are standing in front of a sheet drooped over their machine. Mr. Peewee and Mr. Haywire are hanging around nervously in the background.)

Judge 1 So Tim, could you explain what you are going to show us today?

Tim Yes, my sister Danielle has agreed to allow me to clone her using my special cloning machine. *(Tim whips off the sheet to reveal the incredibly crude looking machine)*

Judge 2 *(skeptical)* Just how does this process work?

Tim Very simply, we take a DNA sample from the person we wish to clone and add it to the culture in this petri dish and place it in this machine for a certain length of time.

Judge 3 How do you know how long?

Tim It depends on how big the thing is you wish to clone.

Judge 1 Is there anything else?

Tim I play special music while the machine runs.

Judge 2 Well, let's see this experiment.

Tim OK, stand back. *(Tim takes fingernail from Danielle and runs the experiment. Danielle watches as before. Music stops. Danielle goes over to the machine and opens door. Clone breaks out of the machine. Audible gasps from all. One judge faints as lights fade. Clone looks inquiringly around. Slow fade to black.)*

Act II Scene I

Video plays.

Act II Scene II

(As the video ends the journalists grab Katie and her family for an interview. Mr. Peewee tries to join the group. He flashes identification.)

Journalist Excuse me Miss, I'm doing a story for People magazine. I was wondering if you could spare an hour or two for an exclusive interview.

Mr. Peewee Of course she could but you will need some background. My name is Mr. Peewee, that's P.E.E.W.E.E. and I'm the teacher responsible for....for this creation.

Journalist Yes, well, thank you, but I was hoping to do just the clone and her family.

Mother Excuse me. Her name is Katie.

Mr. Peewee Yes but without my expert guidance and coaching....

Journalist Could you all just come over here? Now then, the question all people want to ask you is....How does it feel to be a clone?

Katie *(She is shy, sweet and quiet)* Well, I feel good, healthy and strong. I seem to have a lot of Danielle's thoughts and feelings, and she's a good kid.

Journalist How would you describe your feelings at birth?

Katie The best way I can describe it is to compare it to a person who just came out of a coma after four years.

Journalist Why four years?

Tim Well Danielle is 9 years old and we figure that Katie is about 13 physically.

Journalist How do you explain the age difference?

Tim We think she was in the machine too long.

Journalist Now Ms. Cain, how has the \$250,000 that Tim won changed your life?

Mother Well, we have all been busy since Katie's arrival. I've had to leave my job at Northern Store and I've received 7 marriage proposals.

Journalist So Katie, do you feel like you belong?

Katie I feel very close to my family. Tim and I have even started to fight and everyone seems....

Journalist *(cutting her off)* I guess the bottom line here is do you have an MCP number?
(Music and fade)

Social wkr Excuse me Ms. Cain. I'm from social services and I would like to speak to you and Katie for a few moments.

Mother Look, we're kind of busy. What's this all about?

Social Wkr I'm from Child Protection Services and we need to determine if you are able to give Katie a good home.

Katie *(Shows first signs of frustration and anger)* Are you serious? She's my mother. This is my family!

Mother Danielle, will you and Tim go on ahead. We will meet you in a bit.... now, just what is it you want to know?

Social wkr Well, we've heard that you quit your job and are now unemployed.

Mother (*impatient*) I took a leave from my job in order to travel with my family to meet the media and other people who are interested in Katie. What else?

Social wkr We've also heard that you are seeing many different men.

Katie Come on Mom, we don't have to listen to this.

(*Music fades*)

Doctor I've checked her over Ms. Cain and I can honestly say I've never examined a healthier specimen.

Mother Well thank you Doctor. That's good news to hear.

Katie Yes, I feel like Pinocchio; that it's too good to be true.

Doctor Well miss, you seem to be perfectly normal and healthy to me.

Katie Thank you, Doctor.

Julie Krista, look. There's Danielle and Tim and Katie! Let's go talk to them!

Krista You can if you want to, but I'm not.

Julie Why not?

Krista I guess they just aren't my kind of people.

Julie Maybe I'm not either! Hey, Katie, Danielle wait up. (*Krista snubs them and stomps off.*) Tim, Danielle, I want to apologize for how I've been treating you. I'm really sorry.

Tim That's OK Julie, we understand.

Julie And Katie, do you suppose I could have your autograph?

Katie Sure

Edith *(Cutsie)* You can have mine too if you want.

(Music fade)

Jonathan Look, this shouldn't take too long ... we're from the Federal Government and we need to know more about your experiment.

Chesley We've reviewed your notes and we have tried to simulate your experiment several times and nothing happens.

Jonathan *(intimidatingly)* Look, we want to know what it is that you're not telling us.

Tim Honestly, I don't know. When Katie broke the original cloning machine the experiment hasn't worked since.

Chesley You don't understand. If knowledge of your procedure falls into the wrong hands...well anything could happen.

Jonathan Yes, they could clone anyone. Imagine two Brian Tobins fighting for control of Churchill Falls power!

Chesley *(vert seriously)* We don't need that.

Tim I'm sorry, I can't help you.

(Music fade)

Oprah Hi everyone! *(Waves to audience)* Today we are going to get to the bottom of the great cloning incident. So first, I'd like to introduce you to Katie the Clone and her.....ummmmmm family, all the way from Rigolet....wherever that is.

Mr. Peewee It's up in.....

Oprah Sit down Mr. Peewee! This brilliant, highly unusual science student hare built a cloning machine and amazingly cloned his sister at a school science fair...

Mr. Peewee Of course, with my extensive knowledge and expert guidance, miracles were bound to happen!

Oprah Sit down Mr. Peewee! So Katie, how does it feel to be a clone?

Katie Well, it.....

Oprah It must be a horrible experience. I mean, being born, having no past, no memories, a family that you hardly know. Life must be so lonely, you poor, poor thing.... *(During this last speech, Katie begins to look ill and ends up flat on the stage with all gathered around. Fade to blackout)*

Act II Scene III

(Scene opens with Tim sitting in a chair watching over Katie who is asleep. He checks her temperature with his hand and her pulse. Danielle enters, goes up to Tim and Katie, then draws Tim away down stage.)

Danielle How is she Tim?

Tim Her fever is up and her pulse is still weak and irregular, but there's not much change since she got home from the hospital.

Danielle Do they know what's wrong with her?

Tim They couldn't find anything. They just said she should rest in bed for a few days.

Danielle Tim, one of the mice is dead.

Tim *(Not hearing)* They think she's been doing too much...what did you say?

Danielle One of the mice is dead. I checked their cage while you were at the hospital. One is dead. Tim do you think...

Tim Oh no! Oh no! Danielle I don't know what to think, it could be the original Mischief who died. He was getting kinda old.

Danielle Tim, I'm scared.

Tim Danielle, let's not say anything to Mom or Katie. They don't need to know this.

(They exit. Mother enters with Mr. Peewee and Mr. Haywire. They quietly check on Katie, then move down stage.)

Mr. Haywire Miss Cain, Mr. Peewee and I want to tell you how sorry we are to hear of Katie's illness. She has become a very important member of our school.

Mother Thank you Mr. Haywire. She certainly has added to our lives.

Mr. Pewee Our whole staff is very concerned for her Ms. Cain.

Mother Thank you Mr. Peewee. Katie would be pleased to hear this. (*Danielle's voice is heard off stage.*)

Danielle Mom, the doctor's here. (*Mother leads in the doctor and the journalist. They go to Katie. The journalist gives her the copy of People Magazine and some flowers. He then moves down left. Doctor begins examination. Meanwhile Tim and Danielle are joined by Julie and Krista. They all wait nervously as doctor finishes his examination and comes down center stage with Mother.*)

Mother Well how is she Doctor?

Doctor I must say in all my 36 years of practice, I have never seen a case as bad as this. It's very, very serious.....

Mother Doctor please tell us.

Doctor It's the worst case of the flu I've ever seen!

Katie The flu! Gee! I feel better already!

FINALE