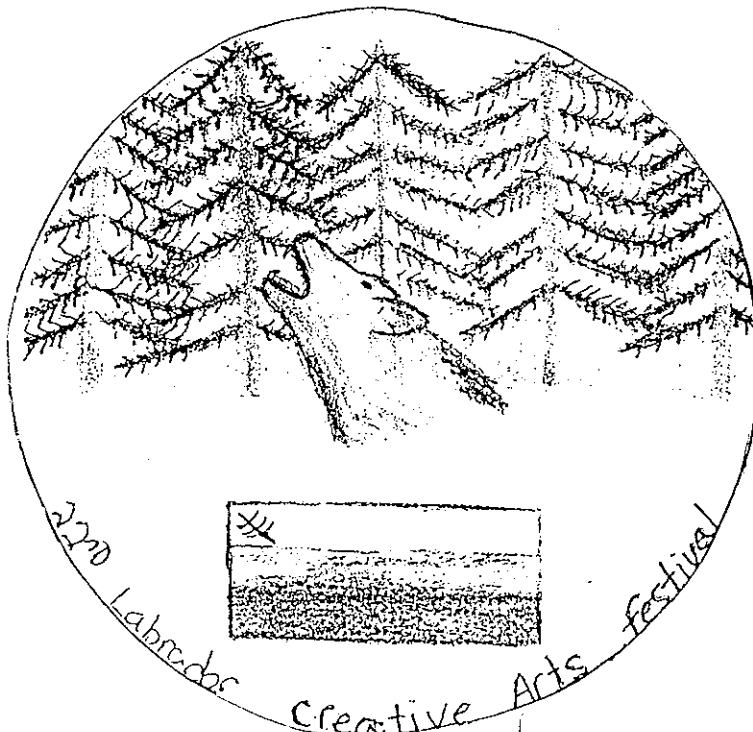


LAKE MELVILLE SCHOOL
NORTH WEST RIVER
presents

“THE HAUNTED SCHOOL”

Cast

Clayton Derek Montague
Sergeant Tony Montague
Chief Assistant Ryan Montague
Assistant Detective Michael Montague
Students Justin Blake
Denley Blake
Amy Parsons
Kim Monimie
Natasha Michelin
Mitzie Rich
B.J. Blake
James Obed



Johnnie Lucy

THE HAUNTED SCHOOL

(Play opens with 3 policeman and the school janitor Clayton coming on stage.)

- Clayton:** This is our school gentlemen. I've been told that you're to be given complete freedom to investigate the incidents listed in your report. I must say, though, I don't think there is a lot the police can do about a haunted school.
- Ch. Det.:** If it is haunted! I myself place very little credence to the idea of ghosts and spirits and things that go bump in the night..
- Ass. Det.:** We shouldn't be too quick to dismiss the supernatural in this case chief. There have been some historical occurrences which have pointed to the existence of a supernatural world.
- Chief:** Historical! Hysterical more like it. I'm sure that all these events will have a logical explanation: one that won't involve troublesome spirits.
- Clayton:** Well, I think you're in for a big disappointment. Everyone here knows that there is a ghost haunting this school. I doubt if you can prove otherwise. Anyway I leave you to continue your investigation. I'll be around should you need anything.
- Chief:** Thank you Clayton. No doubt we shall call on you from time to time. *(Clayton moves off stage)*
- Ass. Det.:** A haunted school. The place does have kind of a spooky feel to it.
- Chief:** Oh posh! I'm not going to waste my time chasing ghosts. We'll start at the beginning and interview everyone involved with each incident. Sergeant, read the first incident listed in the report.
- Sergeant:** The incident occurred on Sept. 11th at approximately 11:15 a.m.. Three students, Justin, Amy and Denley were putting away some equipment after a gym class when they saw a black shadow moving across the back of the gym near the wall. They ran from the gym screaming and returned seconds later with some other students who also saw the shadow.
- Chief:** Are these students here today?
- Denley,
Amy, Justin:** Yes, we're here.
- Chief:** Tell me exactly what the shadow looked like.

Amy: It was very large, black and it moved really fast across the floor.

Denley: It was horrible. I'll never forget it as long as I live.

Ass. Det.: It must have been a terrible sight, a black phantom moving silently across the gym.

Chief: How did it move? Did it walk or run?

Amy: No it didn't move its arms or legs. It just kind of glided across the floor.

Justin: It was really creepy.

Chief: Very interesting and since that time no one has entered the gym.

Justin: That's right. All gym classes and sports have been canceled. Our gym teacher Mr. Feener has had nothing to do since then.

Denley: Yeah, he's pretty bored. He just hangs around and plays with jigsaw puzzles all the time.

Chief: Well, we must see what we can do. Shall we go and investigate?

Amy: Not me. I'm not going near that place.

Ass. Det.: This is the gym. I get the cold shivers just being here.

Chief: That's because the heat has been turned off since they closed the gym. *(They look around)* It looks like a normal school gym to me. Nothing is out of place.

Sergeant: Chief come and look at this.

Ass. Det.: It's a film strip projector and there's an overhead transparency with it. *(Picks up transparency and looks at it.)*

Chief: Well, it looks like we've found your phantom.

Ass. Det.: Why yes, it all fits. The class had just finished and the lights were dimmed. Someone must have been hiding in the corner. They had the projector on and they moved the transparency across the overhead. It would look like a huge black shadow against the far wall.

Chief: You're finally starting to sound like a detective. It would appear that someone

wanted to drive people out of the gym although for what reason we shall have to discover. Let's continue with the investigation. *(Move to center of stage)*
Sergeant, what was the second incident?

- Sergeant:** It occurred two days later on Sept. 13th at 2:30 p.m. students Natasha and Mitzi and Kim were in the washroom when they witnessed it in the mirror.
- Chief:** Are you the students referred to in the report?
- Girls:** Yes.
- Chief:** In your own words can you describe what happened?
- Mitzi:** We were in the washroom. We had just come from class. I was washing my hands at the sink when the lights went out.
- Kim:** I thought she turned off the lights. I yelled at her and looked over towards the mirror. That's when I saw two red eyes, staring back at me.
- Natasha:** We ran out of the bathroom and got some teachers. They went in and saw the eyes too.
- Chief:** Has anyone seen the eyes since?
- Mitzi:** No, no one has been into the washrooms since that day. The students go home to use the bathroom now.
- Ass. Det.:** It must make for a lot of disruption of class.
- Natasha:** I don't mind, I live right across town. It takes me an hour to go home and back. It's better than sitting in school.
- Chief:** Let's go and have a look. *(move to washroom area at right side of stage)*
- Ass. Det.:** Everything looks fine to me. No eyes here.
- Chief:** This must be the mirror where the eyes were seen. *(Examines mirror)* It looks like someone has tampered with it. *(Lifts mirror off wall and examines it)*
- Ass. Det.:** It's a two-way mirror and the wall has been carved out behind it.
- Chief:** Flashlights! They must have been left on. The batteries are dead. When the lights were on nothing would have been seen, but when the lights were turned off, the

light from the flashlights would shine through the mirror and look like a pair of eyes staring out.

Ass. Det.: Yes, a clever trick. First the gym, then the washroom, but for what purpose? What could be the motive for this?

Chief: On this point I'm not completely sure. Come, we must continue with our investigation. *(Move out to center of stage)* I believe the third incident took place in the hallway here. Sergeant, what does the report say?

Sergeant: This incident took place on sept. 17th at 8:55 a.m., the final bell had rung and the students were heading fro class. A deep voice was heard in the hallway by a number of students.

Chief: Any of those students here today?

James & BJ: Yes, we were there.

Chief: Tell me what happened.

BJ: We had just put our coats away and we were going to class when we heard a voice in the hallway.

James: It was a spooky voice; loud and very deep. We couldn't see where it was coming from.

Ass. Det.: What did the voice say?

BJ: It said "I'm coming after you" and "Leave this place now"! We were terrified.

Ass. Det.: That must have been an awful experience.

James: Yes, everyone avoids the hallways now. Since then no one uses their lockers anymore. We just take our coats and boots to class.

Chief: Let's take a closer look at the lockers. *(Move to back of center stage to look at lockers)*

Ass. Det.: A loud voice. It must have come from somewhere.

Sergeant: Chief, I've found something here! *(Takes a tape recorder out of the locker and gives it to the chief)*

Chief: A tape recorder. A very simple explanation. The recorder was left on and timed to play when the students would be around.

Ass. Det.: Yes, this is also designed to drive students away. But why? Who could possibly benefit?

Chief: There has to be a common motive for each of these incidents. Let's look at the facts. The gym and washrooms are closed. The hallways are virtually empty, no one goes near the lockers. *(Stops pacing and looks at Clayton who has been on and off stage cleaning around the school)* Only one person could have benefitted from all this disruption. Clayton! *(Turns and points to Clayton)*

Clayton: No, no. Not true.

Chief: Yes, you work very hard around here. Who else would want to scare students away. You would have less work to do with the gym and washrooms closed.

Clayton: But that's not true, I love my work. I miss having to clean the gym, washrooms and lockers. You must believe me. I live to clean.

BJ: No, he's right. You're always complaining that our sneakers leave black marks on the gym floor. Sometimes you even chase us out of the gym.

Kim: Yeah, you used to take all the paper towels out of the washrooms because you said we used to waste it and leave it lying around.

Clayton: All right! All right! I confess, the place was a mess. I could never keep ahead of my work. I would clean all night long. The school would be spotless. The next day students would come in and mess it up again. What was I to do? I figured the only way to keep the place clean was to keep the students out.

Ass. Det.: You almost got away with it. You had half the school closed to students.

Chief: Yes, luckily a little common sense and logic soon exposed the weakness of your plan. Take him away, Sergeant. *(Policeman and Clayton leave followed by the students)* Well, my friends you were so eager to believe in spirits and ghosts. I hope this shows the folly of your beliefs. Everything that occurs in nature has a logical explanation. Sound judgement and good sense can solve any problem.

Ass. Det.: Yes chief, you were right. All this talk of the supernatural and phantoms was just a smokescreen. I guess if you had listened to me we would have all gone on a wild ghost chase. *(They laugh and walk off stage. A black shadow comes on stage and looks at retreating figures. Shakes its head, laughs and leaves stage.)*