

LES RIGOLETTES
NORTHERN LIGHTS ACADEMY, RIGOLET
present

“THOSE DARN RATS”

Cast

Rat 1 Ivy Campbell
Rat 2 Desiree Wolfrey
Rat 3 Marilyn Faulkner
Rat 4 Kristy Sheppard
Rat 5 Crystle Michelin
Rat 6 Patrick Shiwak
Rat 7 Genevieve Hayward

Technical support Rochelle Rich

Teacher Advisors..... Marie Rich
Sharon Hancock
Nicole Burt

Music *Every Breath I Take* by Police
I Wanna Be A Hippie by Great Green Globes
I'd Like To Buy The World A Coke by Cast
A Tango

Les Rigoltttes present a comical look at the cruel world of animal experimentation. You will learn, however, that it is not always the ANIMALS who suffer in the name of science.



THOSE DARN RATS

- Rat 1:** (*Speaking to Rat 2*) Desiree, you're losing weight bad girl.
- Rat 2:** They have me on aspartame. I've been drinking diet coke "Just for the taste of it" Not! What are you on?
- Rat 1:** Don't talk so loud! I've got a headache.... The MSG they've got me on tastes good but it feels like my head is going to blow off. (*Speaking to Rat 3*) Stop that coughing!!!
- Rat 3:** You're always complaining. I can't help it. They've got me on a pack of cigarettes every day.
- Rat 2:** Why don't you just quit. You know that cigarette smoking is bad for your health.
- Rat 3:** I can't, I'm forced to smoke. What's wrong with Rat 7, is he drunk? He's falling all over his cage.
- Rat 1:** Rat 7. He's on the pot program. He goes on a trip every night.
- Rat 7:** Whaaa! What's going on? What's happening? Hey! Did you say you were on coke?
- Rat 1:** (*Sings*) Diet Coke.
- Rat 2:** How lucky! I wish I could feel like that. I wonder how i can get off MSG and get on the "real" thing.
- Rat 3:** You've got to have friends in high places. Ya know what I mean. Most rats would kill to get in the pot program.
- Rat 4:** Well, I wouldn't. I feel you have to face reality and not seek escape. That's why I am proud to be connected with the Prozac project.
- Rat 5:** Hellooo! Get real! A drug is a drug! How did you get on this project?
- Rat 4:** I bribed the scientist.....I was in the right place at the right time.
- Rat 5:** I tried to volunteer for the Prozac project. I came from a dysfunctional family you know. I need it more than you do. Instead some stupid computer assigned me to water pollution. I drink 6 pts of dirty water every day. I can't drown my blues in that.

Rat 3: Where's Alvin?

Rat 5: Where have you been? They cut out his heart and gave it to Hazel. Hers gave out during the automobile exhaust test.

Rat 3: Poor Alvin.

Rat 5: He didn't mind. He was in the tranquilizer experiments. When they asked him for his heart, he thought they wanted his love.....Who's crying?

Rat 4: Rat 6. That's Rat 6. They have her on the pill. It's a shame, too, because she wants babies in the worst way. *(All rats giggle except Rat 6)*

Rat 6: Yes, I'd love to have kids.

Rat 7: Yeah! I'll volunteer for that program. I don't know about havin' them, but I'd sure like to make 'em.

Rat 4: Yeah well! If you could switch to Prozac, you wouldn't feel so frisky.

SCENE 2

(Scientist enters lab singing "I'll be watching you". Flicks on lights. Some rats cower away, some want to go)

Scientist: My, you're a twitchy little one today. Time for your nicotine fix, Puffy.

Rat 3: YESSSSS!

Other rats: Thought you were being forced to smoke Puffy!

Rat 3: Yeah....well I thought it over. When the teats are finished, I'll just quit. Look on the bright side. It's free.....for now.

Scientist: Well I've a treat for you today Puffy. MENTHOL double your dose!!!

Rat 3: YESSS! YESSS!

(Scientist takes Rat 3 out of cage to smoke. Rat 3 is shaking before he gets cigarette)

Scientist: Here you go, try this on for size. Most people would die for this kind of treatment.

Rat 3: *(Puff, cough, puff)* This is great!

(Scientist leads Rat 3 off stage. The song "Scratch" is playing as the rat exits. Scientist gets the next rat. Some rats such as Pot and Prozac are ready to go, others have hidden away, peeking out.)

Rat 4: Take me, take me!

Rat 7: No way man! Take me! *(Falls down)*

Scientist: Who will I take next? *(He goes along cages with pen)* Hey you in there, you look a little thirsty.

Rat 5: Who me? Yeah, dry as a whistle, just love the dirty water, can't get enough.....Are you nuts? Haven't you ever heard of BRITA..... but then you wouldn't be happy unless you were making my life a living hell.

Other Rats: Oh stop being such a whiner and go, will you?

Scientist: Come along, it's not your choice, boggy! We have to rush before the "dirt" settles.

Rat 5: Yeah, well I wouldn't want to wreck your experiment. *(Sarcastically)*

Cast: *((Sings "glob" song, puts funnel in Rat 5's mouth and pours water in. Rat 5 gargling ends with a belch, goes back for another rat.)*

Rat 4: *(Hauling on his hair, chewing on his tail, whining)* Why won't he take me? Nobody likes me! He's just going to leave me to perish in my corner.

Other Rats: Oh shut up! You're giving us a headache.....

Rat 4: I told you nobody likes me. I've got nothing to live for.....They're just waiting for me to die.....

Scientist: Now calm down.....we're almost there.

Rat 4: You hate me! Everybody hates me!

Scientist: *(shoves pill in rat's mouth, rat gulps it down)* One Prozac for you, one Prozac for me.

Rat 4: Hey! Trying to kill me or wha?

Scientist: *(shoves another pill in rat's mouth)* One for you, two for me. HA-Ha-Ha.

Rat/Scientist: *(together)* Hey “I’m good enough. I’m smart enough and gosh darn it, people like me!” *(High five. The song “Welcome to Paradise” plays. Scientist enters lab again.)*

Rat 2: *(At back of cage)* I’ve got a splitting headache.

Scientist: Come on little rat, I won’t hurt you.”

Rat 2: Leave me alone, get out of my cage.

Rat 7: Yah, yah listen to her. Come get me.

Scientist: I’ve got to get Twiggy next. *(Scientist takes Twiggy, who bites him)* Aahhh! What was that? I’m bleeding!

Rat 2: That’s what you get for taking me.

(Scientist drops Rat 2 who is screaming and running around room. Scientist catches rat 2 and takes rat behind screen. Scientist fills needle with diet coke and injects rat while everyone sings “I’d Like to Teach the World to Sing” and sways.

Rats: I’d like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony, I’d like to buy the world a coke and keep it company”.

Rat 2/Scientist: It’s the real thing!

(Scientist puts Rat 2 back and enters lab for Rat 1)

Rat 7: My turn? My turn now?

Scientist: Calm down. Take a chill pill.

Rat 7: Thank you, thank you. It’s about time you gave me something.

(Scientist takes Rat 1 who is in back of its cage complaining of chest pains.)

Rat 1: Ooww.....ooww.....

Scientist: Ooww.....ooww.....stop whining. Come with me, you’ll feel better after you take your MSG. *(Rat moans as scientist removes it from cage; scientist gives Rat 2 food, shakes MSC on food)* A little sprinkle of MSG on this dog food and voila, Dr. Ballard becomes fillet mignon.....OK little rat, open wide.

Rat 1: *(Eats food)* Mmmmmmmm, delicious!

Scientist: Hmmm, I wonder what this tastes like...the rat sure likes it. Maybe I'll try a little myself. *(Eats)* This is great! Off to the kitchen to thank the chef. *(Drags off rat. Scientist goes into lab to collect Rat 6)*

Rat 7: Is it my turn yet? What kind of joint is this anyways?

Scientist: I told you to take a chill pill - here take the whole bottle. *(Throws pills at rat)*

Rat 7: *(Gobbles up pills)* I'm not picky.

(Scientist circles rat 6's cage, singing the "Jaws" theme; grabs rat)

Rat 6: Get your paws off me you filthy rat!!!

Scientist: Stop squirming, you've been so moody since you've been on Birth Control Pills - you've mastered the art of PMS! *(Scientist takes Rat 6 who is squirming and shoves pill down its mouth)* You wait right.....*(goes to get Rat 7)*

Rat 6: *(Spits out pill)* Ooops.....Oh ooops.....I might fool up the experiment. I feel so baaaaad. Now I'm in the mood to tango.

(Scientist enters with Rat 7)

Rat 7: *(While coming in sees Rat 6)* There is a God. Hi darling.....want to tango? Where's the lights, music, action?

(A tango begins playing. Lights go down as they tango. Fades to black, rises to show Rats 6 and 7 sharing a joint and relaxing)

Rat 7: Oh baby, you're so hot.

SCENE 3 - 6 months later

(Scientist reporting to other scientists audience from a podium.)

Scientist: Thank you for your generous research grant. It was a million dollars well spent. My first experiment involved the extensive application of MSG on processed meat by-products commonly known as Dr. Ballard's. My findings conclusively indicate that dog food tastes great! Allow me to demonstrate. I wonder what happened to that rat anyways?

Rat 1: *(Working at a restaurant) Are you finished with this plate? (Rat gobbles up food but first sprinkles extra MSG from his own supply.)*

Diner: *(Angrily) I guess so! I'm going to get the manager!! (Stomps off to get manager)*

Rat 1: *Oww! This makes my head hurt! (Gobbles food) Ow! I've got a splitting headache.....Rats on this MSG. (Throws MSG on the ground)*

Scientist: *On my second rat "Twiggy" I administered large quantities of aspartame by injecting the rat with Diet Coke. Twiggy, a scrawny, moody, hungry little rat - cute though- but as I recall very sharp teeth. (Puts up finger with bandaid and looks at it) I have first hand knowledge. I know all too well what happened to that rat! Traitor!*

(Show Rat 2)

Rat 2: *(At home at the Coke plant) There's no place like home. And to think they purchased thousands of dollars of new bottling machines to fix those holes, when really it was just little ole me. (Bites hole in coke can) Lucky for them I'm off Diet Coke - Lord knows I had enough of that to last 3 lifetimes. There's nothing like the real thing!*

Scientist: *Anyways, my next little victim - I mean rat, was lucky enough to experience Prozac - wonderful drug. Oops (hand over mouth) BUT, the side effects- AWFUL! Mood swings, shut up!! Can't you see I'm trying to give a presentation, you IDIOT!! (very mad) But getting back to my presentation (very sweetly) other negative side effects include decreased self-image, denial.....oh the poor little thing - paranoid he is! Too scared to leave the laboratory so I kept him.....for further Prozac experimentation - yeah, that's it. So that we could investigate this wonderful, I mean mysterious drug.*

(Flashback at Rat 4)

Rat 4: *(In lab, in cage, freaking out, banging on cage, paranoid) Where is he? Where's my drugs? How come he's gone so long? I know he hates me! He's going to leave me to die, all alone!*

Scientist: *My next lab experiment tested the effectiveness of birth control. Throughout this experiment I administered birth control to a rat, then coupled the little darling with a mate. Made for some interesting observations! It was amazing! I'm the first scientist to prove the birth control pill 100% effective.*

(Flash to rat on birth control)

Rat 6: You know I'm not all that shocked that I didn't get pregnant. But I'm really proud of that scientist. He accepted me and pot rat for who we are. After all, this is the 90's and why shouldn't two grown males who love each other be together. (Turns to Rat 7 and blows a kiss; exits stage)

Scientist: Further along in my studies, I administered water pollution to yet another rat. My studies found that unlike puny, complaining, wimpy humans - rats are tough! Nothing could phase this little rat! He now lives in the sewer, for crying out loud. And to think, people throw their money away on bottled water - I mean - come on, did you know that Evian backwards spells NAIVE - hello, you have a tap!!!

(Flash to rat 5)

Rat 5: *(Living in sewer with BRITA in hand)* Thank God for BRITA! It stinks down here, but the water tastes great!

Scientist: I have happy news to report on Puffy.....the cigarette smoking rat.....he was up to 2 packs a day. Well, now Puffy is on the patch and has been successfully weaned off cigarettes. So, there's still hope for all you nicotine addicts out there.

(Flash to Rat 3)

Rat 3: *(Standing in cage covered with patches)* Thank God for these patches! They've REALLY helped me with my cigarette habit! *(Puffy rips off patch and takes out cigarette. Puffy rips off yet another patch to reveal another cigarette.)* Ooops!! Wrong patch! That's for later! *(Puffy rips another patch to reveal a lighter; lights cigarette; takes a puff)* These patches make life so convenient!

(Flash to scientist)

Scientist: The final stage of my experiments involved *(scientist sings)* mara-marijuana! Ooops! Unfortunately, this rat became quite addicted so don't believe those junkies who say that pot is non-addictive! This little bugger couldn't get enough - I had my dealer on the run 24 hours! Oops, did I think that or say it? Anyway, the rat's in rehab. In fact, rumour has it he's become a dealer in the Betty Ford Clinicyeah, that's it. You could say he's high on life.

(Flash to Rat 7. "I Wanna Be a Hippie" plays)

Rat 7: *(Alone on stage)* "I wanna be a hippie and I wanna get stoned on mara, mara, marijuana." I thought they were taking me to rehab. If this is Liz Taylor, I'm Michael Jackson. Sing with me Liz. *(Sings again and grooves.)*

(Back to Scientist, speaking at conference)

Scientist: Well, as I've made QUITE clear this evening, I'm a GENIUS! My experiments were resounding successes! I'm WONDERFUL!! I do it all in the name of science, of course. Well, I'd love to stay and chat with you folks, but I really have to get back to my Prozac - uhmmm, my Prozac rat, that is - I SAID RAT!!! So, before all you bloody animal activists in the audience kick up a big stink and get on my back screaming "ANIMAL ABUSER! ANIMAL ABUSER! , I'd just like to inform you that.....THOSE DARN RATS HAVE ALL THE FUN !!!!!!!!!!!!!

(Throws clipboard to the ground; fade to black.)