

**Grade 9 Team**  
**St. Michael's School, Happy Valley-Goose Bay**  
presents

**“The Court of Judge Upright”**

**Cast**

<b>Judge Upright .....</b>	<b>Jamie Abbass</b>
<b>Defense Lawyer .....</b>	<b>Chris Brake</b>
<b>Prosecutor .....</b>	<b>David Marentette</b>
<b>Wife .....</b>	<b>Katie Burkhart</b>
<b>Child 1 .....</b>	<b>Stephanie Williams</b>
<b>Child 2 .....</b>	<b>Megan Rowe</b>
<b>Baliff .....</b>	<b>Adrienne Manuel</b>
<b>Joe MacDonald .....</b>	<b>Trevor Attwood</b>
<b>John MacDonald .....</b>	<b>David Murray</b>
<b>Jacob MacDonald .....</b>	<b>Christine Campbell</b>
<b>Jonathan MacDonald .....</b>	<b>Nathan Mealey</b>
<b>Cheek-slapper .....</b>	<b>Adam Hapgood</b>
<b>Goalie .....</b>	<b>Andy Hewlett</b>
<b>Hairdresser .....</b>	<b>Leann Antle</b>
<b>Artist .....</b>	<b>Natasha Devries</b>
<b>Phoner .....</b>	<b>Lindsey Wiseman</b>
<b>Old Lady .....</b>	<b>Trina Roberts</b>
<b>Speaking Spectator .....</b>	<b>Kim Brown</b>
<b>Court Reporter .....</b>	<b>Vanessa Reid</b>
<b>Curly Singer .....</b>	<b>Katelynn Woodhead</b>
<b>Band 1 .....</b>	<b>Natalye Cabot</b>
<b>Band 2 .....</b>	<b>Jessica Blake</b>
<b>Squirring Juror .....</b>	<b>Natasha Roy</b>

**Spectators/Jurors**

**David Barnes, Brandi Cole, Michael Harris , Kiera Morden, Chris Snow, Marco Trebing, Alisha Viscount, Marta MacDonald, Jodie Michelin, Patrick Stratton, Paul Walsh, Natauja Whelan**

**Teacher/Advisors**

**Mary Abbass, Leo Abbass**

**This is a story of a man who thinks that no one can do the wonderful job he does. After a bizarre day at work, he realizes that no one is indispensable.**

## “THE COURT OF JUDGE UPRIGHT”

### SCENE 1

*(Judge comes down to the kitchen where he finds his wife and two children eating breakfast.)*

**Judge:** *(To wife)* Good morning darling! How was your night?

**Wife:** Wonderful honey, except for the fact that all last night I was dreaming about Paris.

**Judge:** Now dear, you know that we went on a vacation last year. We spent too much money then.

**Wife:** It won't cost that much money!

**Child 1:** *(Goes over and kisses his dad on the cheek and says)* Please!!!

**Child 2:** School's almost over. We got to tell everyone in school that we are going on a big trip to Paris.

**Judge:** Now John, you know that I don't like it when you do that. I have to work. You know what kind of position I have. I am a trusted judge, an elected official, a representative of the people of this country. It is my job to dole out justice, to make sure that the criminals pay their dues. I can't shirk my duty. The court needs me. I don't think they can do without me. The place would fall apart without Judge Upright to make sure the laws are followed and the price is paid for breaking them.

**Wife:** Yes dear. You know honey, if we go to Paris, you and I can catch up on a few things.

**Judge:** Now dear, be civilized! Not in front of the kids. Anyway, I have way too many duties at court. I have a job to fulfill and I will not neglect my duties. I am an honorable man.

**Wife:** *(To children)* He'll come along soon.

**Judge:** Well, I'll better be off. *(Goes over and kisses his wife on the forehead and heads out the door.)*

## SCENE 2

*(In the courtroom. The judge is at the center back. To his right are twelve chairs for the jury and to his left are the lawyer, four defendants, prosecutor and the four plaintiffs. The defendants are dressed in plaid jackets, jeans and baseball hats. The plaintiffs are obviously band members and are all carrying instruments. Toward the front of the stage right a court artist is setting up. A bailiff and a court reporter are getting ready for court. As the scene opens, all are milling about quietly.)*

**Bailiff:** All rise for the Right Honorable Judge Upright. *(All rise. Judge enters courtroom and looks around with a pompous air. Judge sits and then the others sit)*

**Judge:** Yes, well let's proceed.

**Bailiff:** Case of McDonald Brothers versus the Blarney Band Members.

**Judge:** Very well. Bailiff, you may call the jury. *(Bailiff goes off and brings back jury members, one of whom is dressed as a hockey player. Judge looks at the hockey player sternly and then says:)* You may proceed.

**Defense:** Your honor I would like to call Joseph McDonald to the stand please.

**Judge:** Proceed.

**Bailiff:** Mr. Joseph McDonald please come to the stand. *(The brother slowly stands and limps toward the stand whimpering in fake pain and finally manages to make it to the seat.)* Mr. McDonald, please raise your left hand, I mean your right hand, I mean, wait now - *(sings)* you put your right hand in, you put your right hand out, you put your right hand in.....oh yes, please raise your right hand and swear after me....

**Joe:** No sir.

**Bailiff:** No sir? And why not?

**Joe:** me mother, bless her soul, raised me to be a good kid and she told me time and time again "Joe it ain't right to swear, no, it ain't right to swear". So I won't be doing no swearing here today>

**Bailiff:** OK Joe. Raise your right hand and repeat after me: "I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so help me God!"

**Joe:** Could you say that again? I wasn't too good in school.

**Judge:** *(getting exasperated)* never mind, never mind. Go on with the questioning.

**Defense:** Now sir. Please state your name.

**Joe:** me name is Joe, bye, everybody just heard him call up Joe. They're not stund you know. *(Points to audience)*

**Defense:** Thank you. Were you present at the crash that occurred on February 9, 1998, and if so what were you doing?

**Joe:** Yes bye, I was there when the cars crashed. And I was in the car with my other brothers. There's John over there *(John waves)* And Jacob over there *(he waves)* and Jonathan too. He's the oldest, and he never lets us forget it, right boys?

**Brothers:** Yeah, yeah.

**Judge:** There will be no further interruptions - no talking to members of the court. Do you understand? I think I should take a moment here to remind you all of the seriousness of a trial. We are all here in the interest of justice. We must give the court its proper respect. Where would we be today without the wonderful judicial system that is in place? We must all be reverent when we enter these hallowed halls and think of the truly amazing things that happen here. Please let me remind everyone to show respect. Is that clear, Mr. McDonald?

**Joe:** You can call me Joe bye. We all knows each other here.

**Judge:** *(upset)* Proceed.

**Defense:** What were you doing in the car at the time just before you crashed?

**Prosecutor:** Objection he - he- he's - he - h's um. I know there is a name for it. Just let me check my manual. *(Takes out a book and starts flipping through it. Meanwhile one of the jurors starts slapping his cheeks .Judge looks at him sternly and then says)*

**Judge:** Objection overruled if you can remember what the accusation is called then please speak up. Defense, you can resume with your examination.

**Defense:** Please answer my question.

**Joe:** Um could you repeat the ah question. I told you me memory is not that good.

**Defense:** *(quickly and somewhat angrily)* What were you doing in the car at the time just

before the crash?

*(Juror slaps his cheeks)*

**Judge:** *(looking at juror with a stern face)* What are you doing?

**Cheek-slapper:** Are you blind, man? What does it look like I'm doing?

**Judge:** *(getting really annoyed, speaks mockingly)* What does it look like I'm doing? Well, it looks like you're trying to disrupt this trial.

**Cheek-slapper:** Well, we need some excitement. This case is boring! Besides my mamma always told me that life is like a box of chocolates, ya never know when you're going to get. Well, something like that.

**Judge:** Is your momma here in the courtroom today?

**Cheek-slapper:** No sir.

**Judge:** Well, then, *(yelling)* CUT IT OUT!!!!

**Cheek-slapper:** My mamma said it's rude to yell in public.

**Judge:** Would you like me to do it somewhere else?

**Cheek-slapper:** No, that's okay. Like you said before, my momma isn't here.

**Judge:** Good, now do we have an agreement - you will stay quiet for the remainder of the trial. And you will apologize to the court.

**Cheek-slapper:** I will try to remain quiet for the remainder of the trial.

**Judge:** You aren't done yet....

**Cheek-slapper:** Oh.....sorry.

**Judge:** *(to lawyer)* PLEASE continue.

**Lawyer:** *(waking up)* What were you doing in the car at the time of the crash?

**Joe:** Well, bye, I was cruising down the highway with my cool shades on and the music cranked up, eh you know way up. There is nothing better than alternative music blaring and cruising eh? Just so you know I was doing the speed limit and

wasn't drinking. Then from out of nowhere, these guys in the blue Volkswagon pull off a side road to the left and smacked right into the front of us. Me brand new truck, right boys, (*sniffing*) we saved up for that truck a long time, right boys, it's not fair, it's not fair, it's not fair.....

**Brothers:** Right boy, right (*glaring and shaking hands at the band members*)

**Judge:** Control yourself and I told you - You are not to speak unless you are answering the question. Then stick only to the facts.

**Lawyer:** Thank you. Your Honor I'm through with my examination.

**Judge:** Ok ah, Prosecutor, you may begin cross-examination.

*(John starts whistling "Jack Was Every Inch A Sailor" very lowly. Judge looks around. John stops)*

**Prosecutor:** You weren't drinking but were some of your brothers?

**Joe:** Of course not. We're not old enough.

*(John and Jacob are whistling now. Judge glares over. They both stop.)*

**Prosecutor:** So, you like alternative music huh? Well I am more of a country person myself.

**Lawyer:** Objection, your honor. I do not see that my client's taste in music is relevant to the case.

**Judge:** Objection sustained. Continue.

*(John, Jacob and Jonathan are whistling now)*

**Judge:** (*very irate*) Will you cut that out! (*Brothers put their heads down. Judge getting very exasperated*) Do I have to remind you that this is a court of law?

**Brothers:** Yes, your honor, I mean , no, your honor.

**Judge:** Proceed.

*(The goalie is starting to get restless, is looking at his watch)*

**Prosecutor:** Ah well Joe, may I call you that? (*He nods*) Was your car in good condition? I'm asking because if your brakes were damaged or something else then I would have

a stronger case.

*(Goalie starts tapping his watch)*

**Lawyer:** OBJECTION... the prosecutor is leading the witness.

*(Goalie taps his watch louder)*

**Judge:** Objection sustained. *(Glares over at goalie)* What is your problem sir?

**Goalie:** C'mon man. Hurry up! I gotta catch a game!

**Prosecutor:** Well, excuse me, and I'm trying to cross-examine a witness.

**Judge:** *(pounding his mallet)* Order in the court. Order in the court. Now you, *(points at juror)* please be quiet so the lawyer can finish cross-examining his witness!

**Goalie:** But your honor, I have to be at this game. It's the championship and everyone knows I'm the best goalie around.

**Judge:** *(starting to get frustrated)* The law clearly states that anyone who is called for jury duty must attend, no matter what you have to do.

**Goalie:** But, your honor.....*(gets cut off by the judge)*

**Judge:** No buts about it! Now sit down and let the lawyer finish.

**Goalie:** Oh fine, but my coach is going to be mad.

**Judge:** PLEASE PROCEED! *(Drinks water, fans himself, rubs his hair)*

**Prosecutor:** Was your car in good working condition?

*(Hairdresser juror gets out of her seat and stands behind one of the jurors and starts fiddling with her hair - Judge doesn't notice this)*

**Joe:** Yea, it was brand new. That is why we took this to court. We loved that truck. It was the best truck we ever had. We saved up for it a long time. Right boys?

**Brothers:** Right Joe.

**Judge:** *(notices hairdresser juror)* What do you think you're doing?

**Hairdresser:** I'm fixing her hair.

**Judge:** You're fixing her hair? What do you mean you're fixing her hair? This isn't the right time to be fixing anyone's hair.

**Hairdresser:** Well, I couldn't wait any longer, your honor. Her hair has been bothering me ever since I got here. You see your honor, I'm a hairdresser. I own that little shop down on the corner. We do men's hair too if you would like to drop over some time. I might even give you a discount.

**Judge:** Sit down and be quiet!

**Hairdresser:** But your honor, I didn't mean any disrespect to the court. It's just that bad hair does something to me. I don't know what comes over me but.....

**Judge:** *(Cuts her off)* BE QUIET!!! *(tries to compose himself, drinks water, brushes back his hair)* Now, can we proceed?

**Artist:** *(puts up his hand)* Excuse me, your honor, but does anyone have a pencil sharpener I could borrow? *(Everyone turns to look at him)*

**Judge:** This is a courtroom! We don't tolerate outbursts like that. Please have a seat. Now, let's get back to the case.....

**Artist:** Excuse me, how exactly do you expect me to draw with nothing to draw with? All I need is a sharpener....

**Judge:** Fine, next outburst you're out of here.

*(Bailiff hands Artist a sharpener)*

**Artist:** Thank you. *(Judge glares at him)*

**Judge:** May I take a look at your work?

**Artist:** Sure. I know it's around here somewhere.....ah, here it is.

**Judge:** *(Looks at picture. It is a cartoon picture of the judge with whiskers, and a hat like an old man)* What does this have to do with the case?

**Artist:** Oh! You wanted the pictures of the courtroom! Of course. they're around here somewhere....

**Judge:** I'll come back when you're prepared.

**Artist:** *(drops sheets all over the floor)* OOOOPS!

*(Judge walks away angrily)*

**Judge:** *(resumes seat)* Let's continue, please.

**Prosecutor:** So, do you like to drink alcohol?

**Joe:** Yes boy. It was great with the music blaring in my new car just chugging it back.

**Prosecutor:** Oh, but I thought you weren't drinking and that you weren't old enough.

**Joe:** Well, I...i.um.....just a little *(a cell phone rings, and rings, and rings, and rings)*

**Judge:** Will someone answer that phone please? *(Judge stares hard at her all through the call)*

**Phoner:** Hello. Hi honey. No honey, you can't make fries and gravy. I told you I don't like you using the stove when I'm not home. No, you're not going to use the stove. No, I don't care what your father said. Now, you just do what you're told. No, you can't have Ken and Harry in. How many times do I have to tell you you are not allowed to go around with those two hoodlums. They're not a good influence.

**Judge:** Ahem!

**Phoner:** Honey, I gotta go now. Bye!

**Judge:** Bailiff, remove that phone from the lady, please. Prosecutor you may continue.

**Prosecutor:** So, Joe you were drinking?

**Joe:** Well, maybe a little, just a little bit of home brew, bye, not very potent stuff. Right boys?

**Brothers:** Right Joe. *(Judge glares)*

**Prosecutor:** Aha, changing your story now huh? You're guilty, aren't you? Aren't you?

**Defense:** Objection, your honor, he is bullying the witness!

**Judge:** Sustained. Prosecutor, watch yourself.

**Prosecutor:** My cross-examination of this witness is complete, your honor.

**Judge:** Call your next witness. (*Old lady walks into the room and raises her hand. Judge is very upset*) Yes madam, what can we do to help you? You can see court is in progress. This is a very serious situation. We have people on trial. What is your problem?

**Old Lady:** Excuse me sir, I was here yesterday. You see a friend of mine from the Sleepy Old Folks Home had a problem with the man in the next room. You know how men are , you honor, just no respect for a woman's privacy.....

**Judge:** (*interrupting*) Please get to the point.....why are you here interrupting my court?

**Old Lady:** Well, I was here yesterday, to support my friend from the Sleepy Old Folks Home. That's where I stay, your honor.

**Judge:** Enough, ma'am. Why are you here?

**Old Lady:** Oh I'm sorry, you see I took my teeth out and I believe I left them over there.

**Spectator:** I think I found them. Here you are, lady.

**Old Lady:** Oh thank you, young man.

**Judge:** NOW DO WE THINK WE CAN RESUME THIS CASE?

**Reporter:** Oh no.....

**Judge:** Miss Take, what is it? Is there a problem with your computer?

**Reporter:** I broke my nail. (*Wailing*)

**Judge:** So, it will grow back! It's not the end of the world you know. Can we get back to work?

**Reporter:** I just bought them yesterday!

**Judge:** You will survive, Miss Take. PLEASE GO ON.....

**Defense:** We would like to call Curly Singer to the stand.

**Bailiff:** Mr Singer, please place your left hand, I mean your right hand, I mean (*sings "you put your right hand in, you put your left hand out*) Would you please place

your right hand on the Bible and repeat after me “I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me God”.

**Singer:** I swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, (*grooves*) and nothing but the truth, so help me God.

**Judge:** Mr. Singer, may I remind you that you are in a court of law and you are to conduct yourself in a non-frivolous manner.

**Singer:** Sorry, your honor.

**Reporter:** Your honor.....

**Judge:** Yes, Miss Take

**Reporter:** Uhh....how do you spell.....

**Judge:** Listen, Miss Take, I don't know and I don't care and I don't have time for this.

**Reporter:** I just wanted to know how to spell “frivolous:

**Judge:** Well, Miss Take, get a dictionary.

**Reporter:** But how can I look it up if I don't know how to spell it.

**Judge:** GO.....

**Reporter:** You've never been this mean to me before.....

**Judge:** (*breathing loudly*) F-R-I-V-O-L-O-U-S

**Reporter:** thank you, your honor, that's all I wanted to know. Just one more thing....

**Judge:** WHAT IS THAT?

**Reporter:** Excuse me.... could you repeat that, please? And speak a little slower.

**Judge:** Look, I am not repeating anything. Just listen up next time. You are driving me crazy.

**Reporter:** Fine. (*To herself but loud enough for others to hear* “SOMEONE GOT OUT ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE BED THIS MORNING”)

**Judge:** Please proceed with the case. We are running out of time.

**Lawyer:** Mr. Singer, what were you doing before the accident happened?

**Singer:** We was driving down the road at the speed limit and none of us was drinking.

**Lawyer:** What were you doing?

**Singer:** We was going to a major gig and because of these simpletons who came blasting around the corner full tilt we was late. The next thing I knew I was in a hospital with my buddies. All because of these Old McDonald had a farm guys.

*(One juror starts to show signs of needing to go to the bathroom)*

**Lawyer:** They weren't speeding but you were because you were late for your gig, weren't you?

**Band 1:** Y-yes we were late but....

*(Juror starts to cross and recross his legs.)*

**Prosecution:** *(interrupts)* That's enough. He is upsetting the witness.

**Lawyer:** I'm through.

**Judge:** Prosecutor, you may begin with your cross-examination.

**Prosecutor:** Who was driving at the time?

**Singer:** My partner, Willy.

**Prosecutor:** And is he responsible, reliable and lawful?

**Singer:** Ah yes, and he has never had a criminal record.

**Prosecutor:** I rest my case.

**Judge:** You didn't prove anything.

**Prosecutor:** Didn't I?

*(All this time the juror is physically uncomfortable, now stands up and squirms)*

**Judge:** No, you didn't.

**Prosecutor:** Well, let the jury decide.

**Judge:** Does the defense have a closing argument?

*(The defense nods and points his finger at Brother 1 and says)*

**Defense:** Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, does this person look like a drunk? NO. Nor does he look insane. Look at these faces. I demand justice. Do your civic duty and grant Joe McDonald and his brother Jason, and his brother John and his brother Jonathan the money they deserve.

**Juror:** Your honor, I have to go to the bathroom, please.

**Judge:** *(totally upset)* CAN'T YOU WAIT FIVE MORE MINUTES????

**Juror:** No, your honor, I can't.

**Judge:** Very well, we will have a five minute recess, during which I would expect everyone to compose themselves, get rid of any stress you have and then we will be able to finish off and go home. Do I make myself clear? *(No response)* Do I make myself clear?

**All:** Yes, your honor.

*(Judge and squirming juror exit. While judge leaves room, one juror stands up and sits on floor with her body contorted and lips outstretched. Another couple of jurors start practicing Tae Kwon Do moves. Another juror does the splits. The band members pick up their instruments.)*

**Singer:** He said to get rid of stress. Let's play a tune.

*(They start to play Titanic tune. Juror who did splits comes over and starts singing the song. She sings nicely for about twenty seconds, then everyone joins making a racket. Whistlers are whistling along and one guy is playing the spoons. At this point, the judge enters the courtroom. He starts to tear his hair. He goes up to his desk and pounds his gavel.)*

**Judge:** STOP IT! STOP IT! STOP IT I SAY. CASE DISMISSED. I AM GOING HOME.

*(Everyone cheers, except for the band members. They all leave the room)*

### SCENE 3

*(Mother is at home with the two teenaged kids, sitting around the kitchen table.)*

**Mom:** I think I heard your father's car pull up. *(Runs and pretends that she is looking out the window)* it's him. I wonder what he is doing home so early. It's not like him.

**Judge:** *(enters, tie is askew, hair a mess)* Honey, where are those tickets?

**Mother:** *(in disbelief)* You mean the tickets to Paris?

**Judge:** yes.

**Mother:** They're here darling.

**Judge:** Well, let's get packing. You might say I've changed my mind. I need a vacation in the worse way.

**Girl:** Oh thank you Dad. I can't wait to set up my plan of what to tell the kids at school.

**Boy:** I would kiss you again, but the first time was only to get something.

**Mother:** Just a thought dear, what made you change your mind?

**Judge:** Never mind dear, never mind, it was just one of those days.....

*(All go out with Mother and Kids singing "Alouette, etc").*