

**Our Lady Queen of Peace School
Happy Valley-Goose Bay
presents**

“That’s Life”

Cast

Mr. Workhardly	Dennis Brown
Kate	Randi Simms
Janice	Alena Clark
Tiffany	Shelley Saunders
Jason	Stella Cooke
Joyce	Amanda Blake
Brad	Jodi Green
Gabriel	Sherri Lee Elson
Mary	Heather Greenleaves
Edward	Andrew Crawford
Guidance Counsellor.....	Jocelyn Rumbolt
Brandy	Kelley Stuckey

Crew

Lights & Sound	Nova McCoy
Student Director	Jennifer Pottle

Teacher/advisor

John Hicks

Jason, a student in Junior High, has more than his fair share of problems in his life, but with the help of his friends and a few caring adults, we are confident that he will make out alright.

“THAT’S LIFE”

SCENE 1 : THE CLASSROOM

Mr. Workhardly: Well, that concludes my lesson for today except for returning that test you wrote last week. Some of you did alright, and some of you didn’t...but, that’s life!

(He hands out tests. Bell goes for recess.)

Kate: So, Jas, what’d you get? I got a 79!

Jason: Oh, I got an 89.

Janice: I didn’t know doorknobs could pass a math test!

Tiffany: Well, like I say, miracles happen every day!

Brandy: Shut up, you two! Leave him alone!

Kate: WOW! You really got 89! You even beat me! Your Mom’s gonna be so proud of you!

Jason: No she won’t.

Brandy: What do you mean? You passed the test, right?

Jason: No, I never passed the test, I got 41.

Janice: Well, that figures! He’s failed every other test lately. Why should this one be any different?

Joyce: You got 41 and 89 on one test! How cool! So, if you add them together, what do you have then?

Tiffany: You idiot! He got 41!

Joyce: You’re the thick headed one! He just said he got 89 **and** 41!

(Tiffany looks away snobbishly, rolling her eyes.)

Brandy: Please get you grades up, Jason. I really don’t want to go on to the next grade without you.

Jason: If I do fail, I'll be going to summer school.

Joyce: What time of the year is summer school?

Janice: In the summer, you moron!!

Gabrielle: Why are you always insulting someone?

Janice: Excuse me, did I hear something from little Miss Depressant?

(Gabrielle looks away.)

Kate: The summer will be no fun without you, so please get your grades up.

Jason: I just can't help it!

Brad: Would you like some help, Jas?

Jason: No thanks. That's not my problem.

(Bell goes to end recess and class prepares for the next class as lights fade.)

SCENE 2 : JASON'S HOME

(Jason arrives home from school.)

Jason: Hey, anyone home?

Mary: Yes, we're in here. How was school? Did you get the math test back about order of operations, or BEDMAS, or whatever it is?

(Jason opens a coke, taking his time before answering her question.)

Jason: Well Mom, I hate to say this...**again**, but....

Edward: You failed, right????

Jason: How did you ever guess?

Mary: You have to take this seriously or you're going to end up in summer school.

Jason: I know, Mom. I've heard it every time I've failed!!

Mary: Well, your ears can't be working because it seems to be going in one ear and out the other!

Jason: Very funny, Mom!

Edward: Son, you will have to start to pull up your grades.

Jason: Yeah, I'll eventually get some help. Someone....

Edward: Eventually???? As in this year or next??

Mary: Edward, you have to take this seriously because if you don't our son is going to fail!

Edward: Yes I know, but he has to hear about this too!

Jason: What? Hear what?

Edward: Son, your mother and I have decided we can't go through this arguing any longer.

Mary: Jason, we're getting a divorce!

Jason: This can't be happening!

Edward: Well, it's for the best Jason.

Jason: For the best? You mean it's good for you and Mom, but what about me?

Mary: Jason, don't be selfish!

Jason: Selfish, you're the ones being selfish!

Edward: Would you rather us to be happy or miserable?

Mary: It will only make things worse for you to hear us arguing all the time!

Jason: Why can't you just get along? Why do you have to do this to me? (*Storms off as the lights begin to fade*)

SCENE 3: PHONE CALLS

(As lights come up, Jason picks up the phone and dials)

Brandi: Hello.

Jason: Hi Brandi?

Brandi: Yeah, this is me.

Jason: Brandi, I.....

Brandi: Jason, talk to me! What's wrong?

Jason: Mom and Dad just told me they were going to get a divorce! I don't know what to do! I mean, it's not every day your parents say they are splitting up!

Brandi: Jason, I'm so sorry! What can I do? Is there anything? Anything at all?

Jason: I really don't think there's anything anyone can do. All this arguing, my head hurts!

Brandi: You need to seriously talk to someone, Jas.

Jason: I don't feel like talking! I have absolutely nothing to say!

Brandi: Well, why did you call me?

Jason: because you're my girlfriend and I thought you had a right to know!
Please don't say anything to anyone! Please?

Brandi: I won't but whatever you want to say, you can tell me.

Jason: Well there's nothing for me to tell you!

Brandi: Jason please! Talk to me!

Jason: Brandi, it's none of your damn business! Let me deal with it on my own!

Brandi: *(Starting to get angry)* I was only trying to help!

Jason: Well, I don't need your help! *(Hangs up and Brandi immediately phones*

Kate. Brandi is almost crying)

Kate: Hello.

Brandi: Hi is Kate there?

Kate: Speaking.

Brandi: I'm not supposed to tell anyone this, but I'm worried.....

Kate: Brandi, what is it? You know you can tell me anything!

Brandi: It's Jason, he just called me. He found out his parents are getting divorced.

Kate: Oh my God! Is he alright?

Brandi: He sounds pretty shaken up.

Kate: This probably explains why he's having such a hard time in school lately. Is there anything I can do to help?

Brandi: I don't think there's anything any of us can do?

Kate: There's got to be something. Let me think about it.

Brandi: But what?

Kate: Maybe you should try talking to him.

Brandi: I tried that and believe me it didn't work!

Kate: He'll have to talk sometime.

Brandi: Maybe he needs to see a counselor or something?

Kate: Hey, that just gave me an idea. I'll work on it and let you know about it tomorrow in math class.

Brandi: What is it? Tell me now.

Kate: Tomorrow, I'll tell you tomorrow. Now go to bed and get some sleep. Goodnight.

Brandi: Thank you Kate, I knew I could count on you! Goodnight.

SCENE 4: MATH CLASS

(Mr. Workhardly is explaining a problem on the blackboard)

Kate: *(Whispering)* Psst Brandi!! *(Passes a note to Brandi)*

Janice: *(Raising her hand)* Ah, Mr. Workhardly!

Mr. Workhardly: Yes Janice? You have a question?

Janice: Kate just passed a note to Brandi.

Gabrielle: Rat!!

Janice: Did I just hear something from that mute object back there?

(Gabrielle just ignores her)

Mr. Workhardly: OK girls, that's enough! *(Turns to face Brandi)* Is this true, Brandi? Did Kate pass you a note?

Joyce: Note? What's a note?

Tiffany: You know.....something you write on paper from one person to another person..... you moron!!

Joyce: What's a moron?

Almost everyone: You!!

Mr. Workhardly: So Brandi, did Kate pass you a note or did she not?

(Brandi looks at Kate. Kate shakes her head "No")

Brandi: Yes sir.

Janice: See, I told you so!

Mr. Workhardly: Brandi, let me see the note please.

(Brandi gives the note to Mr. Workhardly who prepares to read it)

Tiffany: Read it out loud sir. I want to know what goes on in their dull and boring lives!

(As Mr. Workhardly begins to read the note, Kate gives Brad a worried look)

Mr. Workhardly: *(Reading aloud)* Hey Brandi, what's new? Nothing much here! You don't have to worry about Jason! I am going to ask Brad if he'll tutor him in math and I'm sure he will because he's Jas's best friend. See ya, Kate. P.S. About that other stuff you told me last night.....

Brad: Mr. Workhardly, I need some help.

Mr. Workhardly: *(Very surprised)* My this must be a doozy of a problem. I don't remember you needing help before!

Brad: Yeah, you bet!

Janice: Did you hear that? Jason is finally getting help!

Tiffany: Miracle, isn't it?!!!

Kate: Shut your mouths!

Brad: Mr. Workhardly, I really would like to help Jason.

Mr. Workhardly: That's great, Brad. I couldn't think of anyone better!! I know you'll do an excellent job! AhJason can I see you outside for a minute?

(Outside the classroom)

Jason: Did you want something sir?

Mr. Workhardly: *(Holding the note)* Jason, would you like me to arrange an appointment for you with the guidance counselor?

Jason: No! Why?

Mr. Workhardly: Well, the P.S. in this note indicates what could be a serious problem for you.

Jason: Brandi and Kate are just all worked up over nothing.

Mr. Workhardly: Come with me! I think it's time I told the whole class what I was about to tell you. They have a right to know.

Jason: Sure, Mr. Workhardly.

Mr. Workhardly: *(Back inside)* Class, there's something I feel I should tell you because it might cost me my job.

Joyce: What a bummer! Why? We think you're cool!

Mr. Workhardly: Thank you for that, Joyce. A few months ago I let the school board know that I am homosexual. Some board members aren't too happy about me teaching their kids. So, whatever happens, I just want you to know that I think you are the greatest! And if you ever need someone to talk to please come to me, because I know exactly how hard it is to say something you want to say, but can't because you feel too confused or frightened. I've been there.....

SCENE 5: JASON'S HOUSE

(Jason and Brad are studying math)

Jason: Which goes first, exponents or brackets?

Brad: First brackets and then exponents.

Jason: Damn!! This is very frustrating! I'll never get this.

Brad: Do you want me to explain that stupid BEDMAS again?

Jason: What do you think?

Brad: First brackets, then exponents, then to division and multiplication in the order they appear and the addition and subtraction in the order they appear. Do you understand that much?

Jason: Shut up Brad! Yes, I do understand.....now!

Brad: Are you sure, Jas?

Jason: Give me a question to do, and we'll see.

(Brad gives Jason a BEDMAS problem)

Jason: OK check that over!

Brad: Guess what?

Jason: What?

Brad: You got the problem right!!

Jason: Cool!!

(In the background, a door slams)

Mary: Shut up Edward, just shut up!

Edward: I would expect you've been acting like such a bag lately!

Mary: Quiet! I think Jason has a friend over!

(They enter the kitchen where Brad and Jason are looking embarrassed)

Edward: Hi Brad, how's it going?

Brad: Not bad sir. Jason and I were just finishing up here. I even think he's starting to learn some of this! So, I'll see you tomorrow, Jason.

Jason: See you later Brad.

Brad: Yeah, later.

Mary: Brad. I'm sorry you had to hear our pleasant conversation.

Brad: That's okay, ma'am. *(Leaves quickly)*

Jason: God, why don't you two go out in the front yard and let everyone hear you?

Edward: Jason, your mother said we were sorry, it's just that there's so much going on right now.

Jason: Tell me about it!

Mary: Jason, don't talk to us in that tone of voice.

Edward: Son, there's something else we need to tell you.

Jason: Oh man, what now?

Mary: Jason, the divorce is final and your father has accepted a new job in Labrador City. He'll be leaving tomorrow morning. Jason, it's for the best!

Jason: Yeah, the best! The best for you two, but what about me?

Mary: Jason, we've been through this before, please don't be selfish.

Jason: I'm being selfish? What about you? I'm sick of this! I'm leaving!

Mary: Jason! You come back here this minute!

Edward: Let him go, Mary. God knows we all need to get away.

SCENE 6: PARTY SCENE

(Scene opens with the girls singing the Kit Kat song)

Kate: Hey Brandi, where's Jas? He's over an hour late.

Brandi: He said he had a lot on his mind and he might be a little late. He should be here any minute now.

Janice: So, the math genius is thinking, that must be putting a strain on his puny, pathetic, transparent brain!

Kate: Could you just leave him alone for a change?!!

Tiffany: It's hard for us to stop! We're so used to it!

Brandi: Well, drop the habit.

(Jason walks in looking very depressed)

Kate: Hey, it's about time!

Joyce: Wow! Like do you ever look glum!

Janice: What's wrong Jas, your dog die?

Jason: Shut up, Janice! Don't say anything else!

Tiffany: Gee, Jas, fail another test?

Brandi: Give it up you two!

Kate: Hey, I know what we can do! If this won't make him smile I don't know what will! (*Starts singing "It's My Party"*)

Jason: Yeah, that's nice but I guess it's not what I want to hear.

Brad: So, what's happening Jason?

Jason: Well, nothing much, it's just that the divorce is final and Dad is going away to start a new job in Lab City tomorrow.

(Joyce starts singing "I'll Be There For You")

Jason: Enough singing please. I mean thanks and all, but.....

Kate: Jason, we know what you're going through. We just want to help.

Jason: How could any of you possibly know what I'm going through? You don't, you couldn't..... (*moves downstage alone. Janice is the first to follow*)

Janice: Jason, I'm so sorry, I had no idea you were having such a hard time. I'll never say anything negative to you again. I'm so sorry for putting you down.

Tiffany: I can't believe I was so mean to you! I'm really sorry about your aparents. Janice and I sorta know what you're going through. Our parents have no interest in us at all! I think that's why we're always putting everyone else down.

(The girls and Jason embrace)

Gabrielle: Jason.

Jason: Yeah?

Gabrielle: You're not alone.

Jason: What do you mean?

Gabrielle: I went through the same things as you, but instead of talking to someone or getting help..... I took things into my own hands.

Jason: I don't get it.

(Gabrielle lifts up her sleeves to reveal scars)

Jason: Oh man, are you alright?

Gabrielle: Yeah, I'm okay now, are you?

Jason: Yeah, I'll be alright! Come on everyone, let's get back to the party and talk. It's getting cold out here.

SCENE 7: HOME SCENE

(Jason walks in from school)

Jason: Hey, Mom are you home? Is Dad gone?

Mary: *(Depressed)* Yeah, I'm home. Could you come here please?

Jason: Where are you?

Mary: In the kitchen.

(He walks in and his Mom is sitting down with a box of tissue and a cup of tea at the kitchen table)

Jason: What's wrong Mom? Are you alright?

Mary: Sit down Jason. There's something I have to tell you.

Jason: *(Sits down)* What is it Mom?

Mary: Well, it's your dad.

Jason: Is there something wrong with Dad? Where is he?

Mary: Jason, your dad is gone to a better place.

Jason: What do you mean?

Mary: Well, your father was in a car accident today on his way to his new job.

Jason: No, this can't be happening!

Mary: Jason, I'm sorry to have to tell you this! It shouldn't have happened this way! Nothing should have!

Jason: *(Sadly)* I know Mom!

Mary: Are you going to be alright?

Jason: Yeah. What happened?

Mary: He was driving up the Trans Labrador Highway and collided with a transport truck.

(Jason stands up to leave)

Mary: Where are you going?

Jason: I'm going to the hangout. I won't be too late. *(Hugs his mom and then leaves)*

SCENE 8: HANGOUT SCENE

(Jason enters)

Everyone: Hey Jason.

Jason: *(Depressed)* Hello guys. How's it going?

Brandi: Jas, what's wrong? I know that look anywhere!

Janice: Are you mad because me and Tiffany are here?

Gabrielle: *(Stands up)* Maybe it's me. I'll leave.

Jason: No it's not you! Sit down please. I have to talk to you. All of you!

Tiffany: I can tell this is bad!

Brad: What's up Jas?

Kate: If you want to talk we'll listen.

Joyce: I can see it now, this is gonna be a bummer!

Jason: *(Sits down by Brandi)* Man, I hate this!

Brandi: Hate what? What's wrong?

Jason: *(Sadly)* My dad was in a car accident.

Brandi: Are you alright?

Kate: Oh my God!

Brad: Oh man!

Janice & Tiffany: Anything we can do?

Joyce: Told you it was gonna be a bummer!

Gabrielle: We're here for you!

Jason: I'm gonna be alright. He passed away and I'm gonna go to the funeral. Thanks for being there for me but there's not much anyone can do!

Tiffany: I'm really sorry Jas. If there's anything we can do just tell us.

Jason: Thanks.

(Lights fade)

SCENE 9: GUIDANCE COUNSELOR'S OFFICE

(Jason and his mom talking outside the office)

Mary: Remember, tell the guidance counselor whatever you want to. I know there's a lot you have to say. *(Leans over and tries to kiss him on the cheek but he pulls away)*

Jason: Mom, I'm too old for that now!

Mary: I just hate to see my little boy growing up!

Jason: I'm not a little boy anymore!

Mary: I know. Don't forget....

Jason: *(Cuts her off)* I know, don't forget to tell the counselor everything. *(Goes inside. The counselor is at the desk)*

Counselor: Have a seat Jason.

(Jason pulls up a chair and sits down)

Counselor: Your teacher has filled me in! Jason what you've been going through lately is very complicated for someone your age. Actually it's hard for anyone at any age.

Jason: Yeah I know. It seems like it's all my fault. If I done better in school maybe they wouldn't have argued so much. Maybe dad would still be here today.

Counselor: It's not your fault. Life is very strange sometimes. You never know what to expect.

Jason: Yeah, but with my dad gone, who am I going to go to for advice?

Counselor: There's always your mom, your friends and me, but I think you should go to a support group meeting. I'll set one up for you.

Jason: What kind of people are going to be there?

Counselor: People who need help just like you.

Jason: Thanks. I'll definitely be there. *(Pushes out his chair and leaves. The counselor is jotting notes, then picks up the phone)*

SCENE 10: SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

(Jason and Gabrielle sitting next to each other with a few more people sitting down with them and the guidance counselor)

Counselor: Today we'll have open discussions and whoever wants to talk about

anything or add anything is free to speak their minds. Is there anyone who would like to go first?

Gabrielle: *(Whispering)* Come on Jas, it's now or never. Well not exactly never but you'll probably feel a lot better.

Jason: Yeah, you're right Gabrielle. *(Speaks up to the group and counselor)* If no one else minds, I'd like to go first.

Counselor: Go right ahead Jason. Don't be shy.

Jason: Okay, here it goes. *(Stands up)* My name is Jason and I'm 15 years old. I've been failing my math class and I think it's because I've had a lot on my mind. My parents just suddenly started to fight constantly and they decided to get a divorce. Then my dad accepted a new job in another town. On his way there he was in a horrible car accident and he was killed. I'm here today because my friends and I seriously thought I needed to tell my story. I know I haven't went into much detail but thank you all for listening.

Counselor: Congratulations Jason! You just took a large step to the road to recovery. I'm very proud of you and I bet your mom and friends are proud of you too!

Jason: Thanks again. I needed to talk and get everything out in the open.

Gabrielle: Way to go Jason.

Jason: *(Hugs Gabrielle)* Thanks for coming Gab.

(Lights fade)

The End