

**Labrador City Collegiate
Labrador City
presents**

“The Little Man”

Cast

Meg Simmons
Andrew Costello
Adam Coish
Katherine Schwab
Stacie Pardy
Candice Pawlett
Kristin Parsons
Patrick Neary

Teacher Advisors

Emerson Coish
Donna Walters

This play takes place in a small town restaurant called “Sam’s Place” in the ‘50’s. Let’s listen to a group of teenagers as they enjoy an evening in their ponytails and jeans.

“The Little Man”

(A small town restaurant in the '50's called Sam's Place. Everyone is in their places while narrator goes to stage left in spotlight and says:

Candy: This century's youth can all recall the fun and games in the local pool hall, the small town restaurant with its fries and coke and the corner store where you'd hear a new joke. Let's listen in on a group of young teens as they enjoy an evening in their ponytails and jeans.

(Lights up. Music starts playing - end of popular 50's tune - music fades out)

Sam: Hey you guys quit gabbin' and order! The fries are getting cold.

(Bonnie saunters over, pencil behind ear, chewing gum and blows a big bubble)

Bonnie: So you heard the man. What'll it be?

Pat: How about a cherry coke for me and my girl. *(Slides his arm around Peggy)*

Peggy: EWWWW!!!.....Now I gotta go home and wash!

(Andy and Cathy enter and Andy kicks the jukebox. A song plays for 3-4 seconds and fades low.)

Andy: Hey baby let's jive!

Cathy: Whatever you say sugar.

Candy: Man, they're so cool! And in love. *(Candy sighs)*

Joni: Well, you didn't see what I saw last night. I saw Andy with Mary Anne at the drive-in....and you know what they were doing?

Candy: Duh!...Watching a movie?

Joni: Not quite!

Candy: I heard it was really scary.

Joni: NO! *(Rolls eyes. Leans over and whispers to Candy)*

Sam: What? They were playing the sax?

(Andy and Cathy come over to the table. Andy takes a chair, turns it backwards and sits on it. Cathy moves into the table)

Andy: Honey, let's share a milkshake..... *(Shouts)* Bonnie, we're ready!

Bonnie: What?

Cathy: A milkshake with two straws.

Bonnie: Why don't you all order at the same time? *(Everyone shouts orders at the same time)* Darn kids! What have I got here, a bunch of comedians?

(Everyone laughs)

Pat: Hot dog and a coke float please.

Candy: I'll have a root beer and fries.

Joni: A cheeseburger and an orange soda.

Peggy: A banana split.....oh! and can I have extra marshmallow sauce please?

Candy: Great dancing guys!

Andy: Yeah we know.

Pat: Hey! I got a new joke.

Everyone: *(reluctantly)* Ok what is it?

Pat: What did one window say to the other?

Peggy: What?

Pat: Let's break for lunch! *(Laughs at the joke)*

Peggy: That's cheesy!

Candy: No, Kraft dinner's cheesy.

Pat: I'm gonna write that one down. *(Takes out pen and paper and starts writing. Bonnie returns with food)*

Bonnie: That'll be \$3.15

(Everyone searches in their pockets and pulls out yoyo's, jacks and marbles. Joni adds the money up.)

Joni: We only got \$2.85

Bonnie: Hey Sam, they're short on dough over here.

Sam: Guys, this happened yesterday! Ok, if you stick around and help me clean up, I'll let it go this time - but don't let it happen again. I got to make a living you know.

Cathy: You're so sweet. What would we do without you?

Andy: Yeah Sam, you're the best. We love this place.

(They clean up and leave. Sam turns on the radio as a song is ending. A McDonald's ad comes on)

Announcer: Coming to Burksville in two short months is a brand new restaurant that's sweeping the nation. That's right. McDonald's is coming to your town. Get your tastebuds ready for the BIG Mac.....the best burger you'll ever eat. We take pride in our fast, efficient service at a low, low price. GET READY BECAUSE MCDONALD'S IS TAKING YOUR TOWN BY STORM!!

Sam: *(Leans on his broom, a little worried but yet confident)* I've heard about that place. One opened up in Hortonsville last year right across from Uncle Bill's Burgers. Poor old Bill never lasted six months. But Bill was getting slack. He didn't have the loyalty I got. Sure, those kids love me. They would never let me down. I'll give them a run for their money, just wait and see.

SCENE 2

(Cast quickly change and with backs to audience assume a praying position. Lights come up and cast pray (As Moslems to Mecca) and chant "Ah mmmmm, Ah mmmmm, Ah mmmmm" This continues as a large M comes down in front of them. Everyone takes the Ronald McDonald mask on the floor in front of them up to their face and stands up, turns around and do a choreographed number as they sing "You Get More for Your Money.")

Joni: It's the end of the century and all across this great land change is coming - its close at hand. The small town merchant is an endangered breed. He's being

replaced by the “Big boys” greed. There seems little hope. The little man’s in a cage. If he wants to push burgers, it’ll be for minimum wage.

Pat: *(Shouts)* Hey, let’s go to McDonald’s I’m starved.

Cathy: I can’t believe it, McDonald’s is finally here.

Richie: I’m so excited. It’s like I’m on vacation.

Bonnie: I just love their nuggets, and their fries are the best ever.

Peggy: We’re now on the map! We’re not just some rinky dink town anymore.

Candy: We finally got McDonald’s! Yahoo!

Andy: Did you know half the kids are cutting class today?

(They all rush over to the big M. They look up at the menu choices.)

Bonnie: Have you tried the fajitas yet?

Cathy: This is so cool!

Candy: I know. We have to come here again tomorrow - like seriously!

Pat: Oh my gosh! Oh my gosh! Oh my gosh!

Peggy: Will somebody please shut him up!

(They line up and place their orders)

Pat: I’ll have a number 3 please.

Waitress: That’ll be \$4.85 please. *(Takes tray in robotic action and walks away)*

Cathy: We’ll have numbers 1 and...

Peggy: 6 please.

Waitress: That’ll be \$14.60.

Richie: I’ll have a number 9 please.

Waitress: That'll be \$5.29

Richie: But I only have \$4.75.

Waitress: Next please.

Richie: Can I just pay you back tomorrow please, ple.....

Waitress: Next please.

Richie: Please. Pl.....

Waitress: NEXT PLEASE!

Bonnie: I'll have a number 4 please.

Waitress: That'll be \$5.50.

Candy: We'll have a number 7 and.....

Andy: A number 6.

Waitress: That'll be \$12.55

(Everyone stands together looking for a table)

Cathy: There's a table over there, but it's only for four.

Andy: Guys, let's go - those people are leaving. *(They all crowd around the table)*

Pat: This tastes absolutely scrumptious.

Richie: How about sharing - I didn't have enough money so take a little pity.

Cathy: Guys, I just thought about something.

Pat: This could be dangerous.

Cathy: *(Glowers at Pat)* Now it won't be so exciting driving out next summer!

Candy: Remember how we'd dream of McDonald's before we'd go on holidays and make a mad dash for it as soon as we got there.

Andy: When I finish school I want to own one of these. Sure, it's a license to print money!

Pat: Who owns this McDonald's anyway?

Peggy: I don't know, some guy from Hicksville. Apparently this is his sixth McDonald's.

Pat: Wow, he must be rolling in dough.

Bonnie: Talk about rolling, old Mr. Boone, you know, Sam Boone, he used to own the first burger joint in Burksville where my folks grew up. He passed away last night.

Cathy: Yeah! Mom and Dad remembered him. They said they're going to his funeral. He was a sweet guy.

Joni: Apparently he had a really good life in Burksville before McDonald's put the squeeze on him and closed him down.

Pat: What did he do after that?

Cathy: Just odd jobs around town. They never had much but Mom said he always had a smile for everyone.

Andy: Yeah, too bad, so sad.

Peggy: I wish we had a Shopper's Drug Mart here. They got really cool cosmetics and I'd really like to see a Walmart come here. Our shopping is the pits!

Joni: Maybe I'll open a Subway - they say the franchises are pretty cheap compared to McDonald's.

Cathy: Guys, if these big stores come here, what'll happen to the ones we have now?

Bonnie: All's fair in love and war honey!

Candy: But mt dad owns the drug store. I'd die if that happens. Dad would be ruined. How would I get to university if he lost his business?

Peggy: Oh don't worry. That'll never happen.

Bonnie: Yeah, Dad said that old Sam Boone thought the same thing.

Joni: Guys, that's progress. We can't stop progress.

Peggy: Well maybe not, but it's still sort of sad, seeing things change like this.

Andy: It seems the only real winners are the big corporations. How can the little man compete?

Richie: Well apparently someone is trying to but Sam's old place, fixing it up and making a trendy historical landmark.

Candy: Maybe people will get smart and see what we're losing when these big chains move in, not everyone wants to become a clone of every other town we know.

Cathy: Eh, this conversation is getting really heavy.

Pat: Yes. Let's just eat and enjoy our food. *(Takes some off another's plate)*

Andy: Yeah! I agree. We are getting a little serious.

Peggy: I've got an idea for next weekend. Let's go over to Burksville and check out the opening of the new "Sam's Place" just for kids.

(Lights go down. Cast exits. Narrator comes forward into spotlight)

Pat: We've come full circle in this little play. We're back at Sam's and it's a bright new day. We're a little sentimental and our thoughts a little grim as we think about the changes that life threw at him. He moved out of the way when the big M moved in. For against big money he just couldn't win. He helped start this town and watched it carefully grow. He's part of our past that we hate to let go.

(Lights up. Teens come in and sit at the table. Kathy goes over and puts a coin in the juke box and a modern tune starts to play. The music quickly fades. Waitress comes to the table.)

Waitress: What will it be?

Joni: We'll all have Sam's special burger, fries and a coke.

Sam's grandson: Good evening. I'd like to dedicate this new "Old" burger joint to my grandfather Sam Boone. *(He holds up a portrait)* I'd like to invite Bonnie, our waitress, to sing a tribute to Sam. To remember the way it used to be.

(Song "The Little Man". Lights fade.)