

**Lake Melville Players
Northwest River
present**

“Smoker”

Cast

Mandy	Jennifer McLean
Lisa	Stacey Montague
Daniel	Teri Ann Blake
Smoker	Jeanien Cooper
Henry (trapper)	Bethany Blake
Friend 1	Teri Ann Blake
Friend 2	Jennifer McLean
Friend 3	Stacey Montague
John (ranger)	Alicia Chaulk
Mike (ranger)	Stephanie Tooktoshina
Tom	Alicia Chaulk
Jane	Bethany Blake
Joey (friend)	Stephanie Tooktoshina
Kelley (friend)	Alicia Chaulk

Director

Regina Feener

Light and Sound

Cody Powell

This play is based on the Legend of Smoker, a trapper who lived in Labrador in the 1900's. Today, his ghost is seen along the coast helping those in need. The play moves from the present to past to tell the story of Smoker's life.

Smoker

SCENE 1

One half the stage is dark, other side has a table, chairs and counter. It is a cabin scene.

Mandy: God, whens they sposed to be here by? Awfully slow inden they?

(Fire is crackling. She turns on music)

Lisa: Yea, I know, yup, they were spose to be here an hour ago.

Mandy: Wanna nother beer er wa?

Lisa: drunker the better, by, pass it over eh? How about a game of cards?

Mandy: Sure. It'll be boring if they don't get here soon.

(Takes out a deck of cards and discusses which game they will play. As time passes by, they get drunker waiting for their friends who still haven't arrived)

Mandy: How much booze left?

Lisa: One, two, four, five

Mandy: I hope they hurries up with the rest, we're gettin' pretty low.

Lisa: Well, it'll be a long wait if we're countin' the minutes. What da'ya wanna talk about? Hey, did you ever hear the ghost stories from down around here?

Mandy: I heard a few, I don't believe in that stuff. A load of garbage people talk about when they got nothin' better to do, that's all that stuff is!

Noise.....thump and crack

Lisa: *(Looks up quickly)* Did you hear that?

Mandy: You're only tryin' to get me scared, that's how you always are when you're drunk. Sometimes I think you're really strange, Lisa.

Lisa: No, seriously though, do you hear something?

Loud bang on door

Mandy: Who's that by?

Lisa: I dunno, Joey and them I spose.

Mandy: Hide the beer just in case.

Lisa hides beer and looks out the window.

Lisa: I dunno who that is. It's not Joey and them. They wouldn't knock. Sit up straight by. (Moves to the door, opens it a little and peeks out)

Daniel: Thank God there's someone here. My light broke. I couldn't see a thing and I almost froze to death.

Lisa: Well. I spose you'd better come in and get warmed up then. Where was you on your way to?

Daniel comes in , brushing snow off.

Daniel: (Looks around) You kids drinking or what?

Mandy: No, we just woke up. What are you doin' here?

Daniel: I was on my way back to Northwest from my cabin in Mulligan. My light give out on me and I went the wrong way. I had to stop to try to figure out where I was to.

Lisa: That's awful hard luck on a night like this. If you hadn't come across this place, you'd a been out in this storm all night.....wouldn't a had much chance of survivin' in this snow, not to mention the wind. Do you want something to eat or drink?

Daniel: Something warm to drink would be good. I'm not feelin' very good all of a sudden. (Leans back in his chair to rest for a minute)

Lisa moves around to boil the kettle. She staggers against the chair.

Daniel: I think it'd be alright for you to have a cup of coffee, too.

Lisa puts coffee and food on table and sits down

Daniel: Thanks, I didn't know anyone had a dog team around here. That's the first one I'd

seen in ages.

Mandy: Dog team? Whatta you talkin' about?

Daniel: Well that's how I got here. I was still trying to figure out where I was to when I saw buddy with his dog team.

Mandy: What happened?

Daniel: Well, I was stopped in the middle of nowhere.....

SCENE 2

Voice trails off; lights darken and light up on other side of stage. Daniel is sitting on his snow machine looking around through the dark.

Daniel: God almighty, I've got to be gettin' close to Northwest River by now, I've been on the go for hours. Gotta find some kind of shelter for the night. *(Gets off machine and fools around with light again. Nothing works. He bangs on the hood. Dogs howling)* Stupid machine! No good for nothin'! Piece of junk! *(Pulls his coat closer. Takes out a lighter to light a fire and tries to light one with some sticks he has with him. The fire won't light.)* Well, I'll have to keep goin'. I'll eventually hit something. *(As he gets on skidoo, he sees something off in the distance.)* What is that? Hey buddy! Over here, I needs some help! *(To himself)* Well you're my only chance so you're not gettin' away. *(Starts his machine and follows as the shadow moves across the screen. Yells)* Slow down, I can't keep up! What's that? Dogs? They're awful fast for a dog team. And all white? Must be the snow. I must be seein' things. *(He shields his eyes as he keeps going)* What a strange sight, and lookin so bright on an awful night like this. *(Shadow begins to fade)* Hey, wait buddy, you can't leave me here. *(Noticing a light off to the side)* Thank God, a light, I must be dreamin. *(Yells)* Hey buddy! Wait! *(He slows down and the shadow is gone)* Well, not much brains there to keep goin' in this weather, but if he's that foolish, let him go. I gotta get warm. *(Jumps off skidoo and rushes up to cabin to knock on door)*

Light fades and brighten on other side.

SCENE 3

Lisa is leaning against the table.

Mandy: *(laughs)* Yup, must've been old Smoker, white furs and dog team too. Yeah, that's who it was by.

Lisa: *(Looking serious)* That's not funny Mandy. He's always out there on the trail when there's a blizzard. Don't believe it if you don't want to but I know it's true and you'll know too,

Daniel: I didn't mean to scare anyone.

Lisa: You didn't scare us. Mandy don't believe the stories anyway, but I knows they're true. Do you want to hear a true story about Smoker?

Mandy: *(snickers)* true story? Too many beers for you tonight Lisa.

Lisa: Shut your mouth!

Daniel: I'd love to hear the story.

Lisa: *(Pours some more tea)* Smoker was a trapper who made his money trappin', all along the coast, but after a while, there wasn't much to trap.

Mandy begins to doze off. Lights fade and brighten to other side.

SCENE 4

Lights brighten to show a trapper on one end and Smoker on the other side. He is also trapping.

Smoker: Nothin' again today. I'm gettin' sick of this every day. *(Picks up brown paper bag and takes a drink as he continues to walk along and check trap line.)*

Trapper Henry sees Smoker and stands up

Henry: Hey Smoker, what are you doing? Havin' any luck with yer traps these days?

Smoker: Not much luck again today, too many darn trappers here now. Hardly enough to make a livin'. How about you?

Henry: Good days and bad ones. I got to live one day at a time, hey. Who's that woman I saw you with a few months ago, is she still around?

Smoker: Naw. No use me gettin' hooked up with any woman. I'm not the settlin' down kind. Got to keep movin', specially now since I started to make the smoke for my

friends, not just myself.

Henry: Oh, so you finally going to share with your buddies?

Smoker: I'll share alright, if they're willing to pay the price. You want some?

Henry: Well, I wouldn't mind tryin' to see what all the fuss is about.

Smoker: *(pulls out another bottle)* I'll give you a deal. How much you got?

Henry: *(pulls out money)* Will this do?

Smoker: That all you got?

Henry: You said you'd give me a deal, so that should be enough!

Smoker: Well, I know you'll be back for more. *(Takes money)* next time no deal.....a pleasure doin' business.

Trapper walks off and is heard telling his friends.

Henry: Hey, look at this. This is the best stuff on the go. You'll never have anything better.

Friend 1: Give us a taste. We'll see if it's good. *(Takes a drink)*

Friend 2: Where'd you get this from?

Friend 3: Was it Smoker? I heard he's setting up a still.

All taste and ask for more to drink and more information.

Henry: Well yeah, he's still around so if you want some, get it now. But watch out for the rangers, I heard they were around.

Friend 2: Come on, let's go find him and see if we can get our hands on some of that stuff.

As they move away, the police enter.

John: Hey Mike, can't wait for this winter to be over with. All this snow and cold gets tiring after a while. Sure, there's no way to catch anyone when we got such a big area to cover.

Mike: I know what you're saying but the ice will be breaking up soon. I wouldn't mind if we could just catch one or two of the ones we're after.

John: Well, ... speak o' the devil! Isn't that the man himself? Isn't that Smoker?

Mike: Sure looks like 'en John boy. We'll have to get a closer look. (*Sneaks towards Smoker to the side of the stage*)

John: May as well go check to see if it is him. I don't think we'd be that lucky, even though there's reports of stolen goods around here.

Mike: You never know what you might find when you're not lookin'. Heard he's a real hard case. I'm half frightened to see if it's him or not.

John: You stay put, if any trouble happens, come over quick. (*Goes over to Smoker*)
Excuse me sir, how's it going? Any luck with the fur this year?

Smoker: Not bad at all officer, you knows how it is, luck has nothing to do with it. So what's the deal? Is there a problem?

John: You wouldn't know a fellow who goes by the name of Smoker now would you?

Smoker: Well, yes sir, that'll be me alright, the one and only.

John nods for Mike to come over.

John: Well Smoker, boy, we're gonna have to search you for your moonshine, the ole smoke. There's a warrant out for your arrest. You've been a wanted man for a long time. Some reports are starting to come in to say that you've set up a still to make your alcohol. They say a lot of people are buying it. But you know there are a lot of people who are not very happy about that. We're going to have to take you with us and you better not put up a fuss.

Smoker: Me, put up a fuss? (*laughs*) I ain't got no smoke boys, and even if I did you ain't gonna find it here.

Mike: We heard you been selling some pretty bad moonshine and people around these parts have been calling it smoke. They say that it's pretty potent and a lot of them have been getting sick.

John: That name smoke for the moonshine gives us a pretty good idea of who'd be making that moonshine, right? We know you're not out here checking your trapline every day. Why don't you make it easier on yourself and tell us where

you put your still. The judge might let you off a bit easier if you admit to what you're doing.

Smoker: No, I ain't boys, and I ain't goin' to put up no fuss, as you got no evidence on me. I know how the law works, but if you're really interested, you might just check up around Sunday Hill.

John and Mike look at each other, puzzled.

Mike: You're giving yourself away a little too easy. What's the catch?

Smoker: Oh, I got a few fine bear traps set up around there. Must be at least fifty. You'll be lucky to find anything and come back with both legs.

Mike: Well, that's a chance we're just gonna have to take now isn't it? *(Handcuffs Smoker)*

John: We'll take him in. I think we've done enough lookin' around here. It's not worth losing a leg or two over something stupid.

Smoker: *(laughs)* I guess you're right. But feel free to come back anytime and have a look. I'll have a nice welcoming committee there for you. *(Laughs)*

Police take Smoker and walk to back of stage.

SCENE 5

Lights dim and brighten on other side of stage.

Lisa: Smoker went to jail, but they had to let him go again. They had no evidence to keep him on. He came back to live in the same area but he moved around a lot. He said he'd never get caught again and he never did. He trapped until he got enough animals with white fur that he could make a white coat. He stole enough white dogs to make up a dog team. He even painted his sled white. You couldn't tell the difference between him and the snow. He kept on selling his smoke to the people who wanted it. I don't think it made people sick..... he wouldn't have kept sellin' it if it did.

Mandy: Ah, it's all just foolishness. You're always tellin' people them old stories.

Daniel: You know, I heard stories about Smoker before but I never really believed them. I think I'm starting to change my mind though. How did he die?

Lisa: believe whatever you want. But everyone should believe it. One spring, when he was travelling on the ice sellin' his smoke, Smoker was crossin' a river and he went through. A couple of days later, someone saw his sled but no one ever saw Smoker alive again. But people see him now.

Mandy: Don't believe her, that's foolish talk that's all. Smoker never did anything good anyway.

Lisa: Smoker did some rotten things when he was alive but he's makin' up for them now. That's why he's always helping people who are lost, so he can make up for some of the bad things he did. I'll tell you a story my mom told me about Smoker. See, it happened like this

Lights dim and brighten on other side.

SCENE 6

Lights brighten to outside a cabin.

Jane: I'm tired of you always complainin' about everything.

Tom: It's not me who's always complainin'. That's your department, not mine. You were the one who said you'd come down here to the cabin for a week. It's not my problem if you're bored and wants to go home. It's only another day anyway.....I'm sure you can find something to do.

Jane: I didn't mind comin' down here but I didn't know you'd be gone off huntin' all the time leavin' me here by myself. There's no sense in me comin' here if that's the case.

Tom: Well, it's not a big thing you know. It's freezin' out here. Come on inside, we can talk about it in there. I can't ever think out here...it's too cold.

Jane: You go on in. I'll be in in a minute. I just want to get some fresh air by myself.

Tom goes inside. Jane walks around and then sits on the woodpile. Jane looks up and sees a shadow. Shadow moves across the screen.

Jane: *(Stands up)* Must be someone coming to visit. I don't know who it could be way down here though there are no cabins for mile and miles.

Jane walks towards the end of the stage. Tom comes outside.

Tom: Jane, I put some supper on. Come on in now! Jane? Jane! Where are you? Where did she go, I wonder? (*Walks around*) this is no joke, Jane. It'll be getting dark soon, and you know there's wild animals around here. (*Pauses*) She's got to be around here somewhere! (*Looks around and goes back inside*)

Jane comes back as Tom is coming back outside.

Tom: Jane, thank God! Where's you go? I thought you'd gone off and got lost. You been gone for four hours. I been drivin' around on skidoo like a crazy man. I got all kinds of people lookin' for you. I thought for sure you were dead. (*Puts his arms around her and hugs her*) I got to get you inside, you must be froze.

Jane: (*Quietly*) Tom, I had the most amazing day. My father was here.

Tom: What? Smoker? He's been dead for years. What is wrong with you? Are you alright? It must be the cold, now your mind is ramblin'.

Jane: It's not the cold, but it was my father. He was here, on his sled and with his white dogs. Even his coat was white, just like my mother used to tell me.

Tom: Jane, you gone mad? Come inside and get some rest.

Jane: I know it sounds awful strange, but it is true. I find it hard to believe too. But he took me for a ride on his dogteam to Rigolet.

Tom: Jane, you were gone for four hours. Rigolet is a six hour drive away. There's no possible way you could get to Rigolet and back in four hours. You would hardly be able to do that if you had a whole day to travel. I don't know what happened to you out there, but I think we should go home right away.....you needs to see a doctor.

Jane: (*Angrily*) I don't need no doctor! I just needs you to listen to me.

Tom: OK! What else? What's the rest of the story? Jane, were you drinkin'?

Jane: No Tom. I was sittin' on the woodpile after you came in from outside. Then I thought I heard dogs barking, but when I looked around, I didn't see anything. When I looked again, I saw him. I thought it was someone comin' to visit first, then I thought it looked like something strange so I got up to have a look. It was my father. He stopped his dogteam. God, what a fright.....I tried to call out to you but I couldn't speak. It was like I was in a trance or something. I don't even

remember gettin' on the sled. But all of a sudden, there I was, on the sled and I felt so peaceful and happy!

Tom: But Jane.....

Jane: Don;'t stop me now. Before I knew it, we were in Rigolet?

Tom: OK, so what did you do in Rigolet?

Jane: We just stopped outside the town. My father started to tell me that, that was where he met my mother. He told me he was sorry he couldn't be with us when I was a child. I didn't even feel afraid when I was talking to him. He told me that he did some terrible things in his life but that now he was trying to make up for some of it by helpin' people who were lost in storms and by warnin' people about storms that were comin'. It did feel like a dream, but I knows it happened. It is true!

Lights fade and brighten on other side.

SCENE 7

Mandy: *(As he is waking up)* Ah Lisa, you tells that same ole story all the time. You gonna keep tellin' it til everyone believes it?

Lisa: Believe what you want, Mandy, I really don't care.

Daniel: Well, it sounds pretty strange to me. I'll certainly be on the lookout for anything out of the ordinary from now on.

Noise

Mandy: *(Hears the noise)* What's that? Must be Joey an them, or it might ever be your ghost Lisa. *(Laughs. Dogs are heard barking)* Them fools brought that stupid dog with them. It'll have to stay out in the cold then.

Lisa: *(Gives Brad a disgusted look)* Well, go and have a look!

Mandy: I can't believe they even made it in this storm. *(Goes to door, opens it and looks out. Looks shocked. She sees Smoker standing off in the distance)*

Lisa: Well, who is it? You look like you're havin' a heart attack!

Mandy: Can't be! (*Whispers*) It's him! (*The friends they were expecting appear and Smoker disappears*) Did you see him? Did you see Smoker?

The two friends enter the cabin and start wiping off the snow.

Joey: What? You mean the guy who helped us get here? Is that his name?

Kelley: Yes, we wouldn't have even got here if he hadn't come along! He led us right to the cabin. But when we called out to him he kept right on goin'. He's gonna get lost. I can't believe how fast the weather changed. The weather was good when we left home.

Mandy: (*quietly*) No, he won't get lost. It's him, the ghost Lisa is always telling stories about...Smoker. I believe it now.

Joey: Ghost? You mean that guy who showed us the way? I thought it was one o them fellas who just got a dog team.

Lisa: No, Mandy is finally right. (*Hurries to the door and opens it.....looks around. Sees a shadow move. Calls out.*) SMOKER! SMOKER!! (*pause*) Wait!! Grandfather!!

All others look at each other in surprise. Lisa rushes out of the cabin.

Mandy: (*Rushes to the door and looks out*) Lisa!! Lisa!! (*Turns to the others*) She's gone!!

Lights fade to black and music plays again.....same as beginning of play. All eyes move to Lisa with a surprised look. Lights fade, dogs bark and music plays.