

**Henry Gordon Academy, Cartwright  
presents**

**“Taking Care of Business”**

**Cast:**

|   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| Mr. Pardy, Member of Big Fat Hicks, Pilot, Member of ‘Nsync                                     | Chad Pardy              |
| Professional Labradorian, Narrator, Airline Clerk,<br>Member of Big Fat Hicks, Member of ‘Nsync | Ian MacDonald           |
| Mary, Mrs. Brown, Member of Genuine Redneck Jug Band, Passenger                                 | Violet Pardy            |
| Alexander J. Randolph III (aka Captain Cartwright), Doctor,<br>Member of ‘Nsync                 | Travis Pardy            |
| Jake, Convenience Store Clerk, Passenger,<br>Member of Genuine Redneck Jug Band                 | Jordan Brown            |
| Narrator, Dr. Unaguave-basachesa-unaguave, Holdup Man,<br>Passenger, Member of ‘Nsync           | Gary Pardy              |
| Host for Telethon, Nurse, Tourist, Passenger  | Shelli Dyson            |
| Jed, Patient, Tourist, Member of ‘Nsync,<br>Member of Big Fat Hicks                             | Roy Ward                |
| <b>Director:</b>  | <b>Jeanne MacDonald</b> |

## **“Taking Care of Business”**

*(Enter Jake and begins to set up the stage for the first scene. After interval, enter Jed, carrying box. Begins to help set up, glances towards audience, does a double-take and vanishes behind curtain. After a few seconds, peers around the edge of the curtain at the audience.)*

**Jed:** *(Hoarse whisper)* Jake! *(No reply, so tries again, louder)* Jake!!!

**Jake:** *(Looking up impatiently)* Yeah.....I heard you. What is it this time?

**Jed:** *(Pointing)* There's there's people out there!

**Jake:** *(Squinting out into the audience)* No kiddin' buddy. Are you sure?

**Jed:** What? Can't you see them? Look - out there -

**Jake:** *(Impatient)* Don't be a bigger fool than you can help! OF COURSE I can see them. We've been advertising the play now for weeks. People are here to see it.

**Jed:** But - but you didn't tell me there would be people coming! Not actual real people!

**Jake:** What - you thought maybe we'd have a virtual audience or something? Look, what is the matter with you?

**Jed:** There might be crickets out there. Crickets make me really nervous, Jake. I don't think I can go on stage if there are crickets out there.

**Jake:** Crickets? It's only April, Jed - you don't get crickets and grasshoppers and stuff like that until sometime in the summer -

**Jed:** No sir! Crickets can show up any time of the year. They go to the movies and plays and they sit in the front row and they say stuff like "this play really sucks" and "who told him he could act?" and sometimes they boo and they throw things at you and - lousy crickets -

**Jake:** You mean critics?

**Jed:** That's right - crickets! They're out there, I tell you!

**Jake:** Jed my boy, it's a bit too late to worry about that now. If you wanted to get bent

out of shape about crickets - I mean critics, you should have done it last week. Because we're starting up in about three minutes and you're going out there if I have to boot your butt across this stage and back - twice. Let's go.

*(Both exit. Curtain)*

**Narrator:** You know, people think that nothing ever happens on the coast of Labrador, especially in Cartwright. They think we're all out there, just sitting around, watching the dust settle on the crab pots. Or on a really exciting night we might have TV bingo. *(Pause, lean forward)* Well, they're wrong! You would not believe the changes that are happening down here. Now you take the tourists - since they started coming to town, there are all kinds of opportunities for someone with the right stuff... *(exit)*

### **Music : The Government Wharf**

*(Scene: The dock. Ned sitting center stage - talking to himself)*

**Ned:** Okay, let's see - I got my snowshoes. And I got my new knee rubbers with the red soles on 'em. *(Enter Mary)* And I got my cap what says Cartwright Labrador Shrimp Company Fisherman's Union on the front. I got my jigger and my snowshoes.

**Mary:** *(Staring)* Ned, no offence meant - but what the hell are you doing?

**Ned:** Oh hi Mary. Just getting ready, maid. The Bond will be here in a few minutes.

**Mary:** And what does the Bond coming in have to do with you losing your mind?

**Ned:** Lost my mind? What are you talking about? *(Looks at the material piled all around him)* Oh, well I know it looks a little odd. But this is what I'll be doing for the summer.

**Mary:** And what is this exactly?

**Ned:** Well, I'm your genuine, professional, typical Labradorian.

**Mary:** What?

**Ned:** You know, maid, when the tourists get off the boat, they'll be looking around for a real, honest-to-god Labradorian. At least, they'll be looking for what they think is a real Labradorian. And I'm it!

**Mary:** *(Sitting and looking him over)* Want to tell me how this works? Or do I have to guess?

**Ned:** *(Settling back comfortably)* Well, it's not a bad deal. I hang around the dock when the boats come in and I let them take pictures of me and I answer any questions they got. I just act like they expect a typical, genuine Labradorian to act. I do a bit of jigging over the edge of the dock. There's a pile of gear there that I load into my boat for one lot and unload for the next lot. "Yes by" - you got to say "yes by" a lot. And "how's ya gettin on?" and stuff like that. And I tell them all kinds of old stories and legends from Labrador.

**Mary:** Really? Where do you get the stories from?

**Ned:** Where do you think? I make them up myself. And stop looking at me like that - the way I look at it, there's not much difference between a lie made up 2000 years ago and one I made up yesterday.

**Mary:** You should be ashamed of yourself. *(Looks him over)* And what is that rig you've got there? All right, I get the cap and the boots and the shirt. And the jigger is in season. But what are you doing with snowshoes in July?

**Ned:** Well now, if anyone asks about the snowshoes, I just tell them that down here we use them to walk on water.

**Mary:** And they believe that?

**Ned:** Sure, or if they don't, most of them are too polite to say so. One guy wanted to see me do it, but I told him my water walking permit hadn't come in yet. *(Looks off stage right)* Oh wait a minute, here comes some customers now. *(Tosses jigger over the side of the stage and goes through the motions of jigging. Enter tourists)*

**Tourist 1:** Oh look! He's fishing! Isn't that wonderful!

**Tourist 2:** Gotta get a picture of that for sure. *(Cameras clicking)*

**Tourist 3:** What say we buy some fish from him on the way back?

**Tourist 1:** Oh yes. Let's. Imagine - fish fresh out of these unspoiled waters - so different from what you buy in the store. *(Tourists exit)*

**Mary:** He's got that right. And the main difference is that what you buy in the store is usually fit to eat. Ned, you don't really sell that fish to people do you? I mean,

who in their right mind would buy it?

**Ned:** Mary, you'd be surprised at what you can sell to people who don't know about the sewer line and the outfall. As long as it has only two eyes and one head...

**Mary:** That's gross! You's better hope that no one at the clinic finds out what you're doing. *(Gets up)* Well, I can't stay here gabbing to you all day. I have supper to get and lots of work to do.

**Ned:** *(Looks at his watch)* Yeah, I got a couple of hours yet before I can knock off for the day. And if the Bond stays late, I'll be getting a bit of overtime.

**Mary:** *(Stops and looks back at him)* Overtime??? Do you mean to tell me that you're actually getting paid for this - this - foolishness?

**Ned:** *(Indignant)* Of course I'm getting paid. You don't think I'd make this big a fool of myself for nothing, do you?

**Mary:** *(To audience)* It wouldn't be the first time.

**Ned:** Yes maid. The SADC thought I'd be a nice touch for the visitors, so I'm getting - oh a little bit over minimum wage, time and a half after 6 o'clock and double time on weekends.

**Mary:** *(Sarcastic)* Well, isn't it really nice to see my tax dollars at work. I'm off. Good luck with the job.

**Ned:** Ah Mary my dear, you don't need luck when you got the skills. *(Mary exits. Ned goes back to his bag)* Let's see, I got my six pack. And I got my husky. I got my flag..... *(Curtain)*

**Narrator:** I suppose you heard about our telethon. We needed about ten thousand dollars to finish fixing up the gymnasium and someone proposed that we try something like PBS does - people calling in and pledging money if they like the show. It wasn't a great success, mostly because the only talent we could find was - well you can judge for yourselves.

**Host:** And now the moment you've all been waiting for! All the charges have been dropped, so here from - somewhere south - for your entertainment - Cletus, Jimmy Bob and Big Hungry Joe - The Big Fat Hicks!

*(Music :probably "Dueling Banjos". Hicks play and dance. Curtain)*

**Narrator:** Well it wasn't a total loss. Someone called up offering 100 bucks if we'd take them off and put the program guide back on. And since that was the best offer we'd had all night we took it. Only \$9900 to go. *(Sits on edge of stage)* Of course, if you're looking for a few laughs, there's always politics. It's not always as entertaining as that last three-ring circus we had, but you sure get to meet some strange people. Remember that fellow - what was his name? Alexander J. something or other. He lost his seat in the last election and from what I hear he's gone a little peculiar..... *(exits)*

*(Enter A J Randolph III; goes to stage left, leans on podium, sadly counting a fistful of pennies)*

**A J:** In this life, one thing counts - in the bank, large amounts..... *(breaks down, recovers, to audience)* Oh hello, remember me? I used to be Alexander J. Randolph III and I was the member for - for - where was that district again? *(Thinks)* Nah, can't remember. Some little hole in the wall no one ever heard of. *(Starts counting pennies again)* I'm used to better things than this, you know. But I lost the election, the lawsuit, the car, the boat, the stocks, the hot tub..... it's not fair. You scrimp, you save, you steal, you skim a little off the top - and then you're in court and the judge is telling you that you owe some jerk one and a half million dollars. And what do they mean by slander? Everything I said about him was at least half true. *(Looks down at costume)* But it all turned out for the best you know. Because I found my true calling. I was crossing the runway at the airport and I got run over by a Dash 8. When I regained consciousness.....twelve hours later, I realized I have super powers! I am *(running in circles)* faster than a speeding bullet! More powerful *(strikes muscleman pose)* than the smell of the crab plant! Able to leap *(jumps in the air)* Earle Island in a single bound! *(Stops, leans over, hands on knees, panting)* Or.....I...will....as soon as.....I get that Slimfast stuff.....*(Straightens, puts hand to ear)* But wait! My super hearing tells me that there is someone in need of Captain Cartwright's help! Fear not - I am coming: the protector of the weak *(Exits)* the defender of the helpless, the terror of *(offstage, a thud and)* OWWWW!

**Narrator:** The scary thing is, he really does think that he's protecting the weak and defending the helpless, when what he's doing is scaring the hell out of everyone who sees him.

*(Convenience store: clerk is leaning on the counter, reading a magazine. Enter robber, looks around nervously, walks quickly to counter and pulls out gun)*

**Robber:** Okay, gimme all your money!

**Clerk:** *(Glances up, goes back to reading)*

**Robber:** Are you deaf? I said “gimme all your money”.

**Clerk:** Go away.

**Robber:** *(confused)* What? No, look here. I have a gun!

**Clerk:** *(Leans over the counter for a better look)* That’s not a real gun.

**Robber:** How do you - I mean, yes it is! Look it has a barrel and a handle and a trigger and - and - it’s loaded too! Yeah! It’s loaded with real big bullets!

**Clerk:** It’s a cap gun. I can see the red paper sticking out.

**Robber:** *(examines gun)* Damn. *(Lays cap gun on counter, searches pockets, produces water pistol)* All right. I don’t want to do this but this is my real gun. Now hand over all your money!

**Clerk:** That’s not a real gun either. It’s a water pistol.

**Robber:** No it isn’t - okay it is. But it’s full of acid. Acid so powerful it can eat through anything.

**Clerk:** Then how come it isn’t eating through the gun?

**Robber:** Because, because, shut up! *(Squeezes trigger too hard and squirts liquid on counter. Clerk tastes it.)*

**Clerk:** That’s grape Kool Aid.

*(Robber tosses water pistol on counter, searches pockets, pulls out a banana. Clerk reaches out, takes it and starts to eat it.)*

**Robber:** Hey, stop eating my - *(stops, looks sadly at clerk who is finishing banana)* You’re not going to give me any money are you?

**Clerk:** You’re really bad at this.

**Robber:** *(Defensively)* Yeah. But it’s only the first time. I could get better if I practiced a little bit.

**Clerk:** Tell you what - I’ll give you twenty bucks to go away and stop bothering me.

**Robber:** *(Suddenly more cheerful)* Really? That would be -

*(Captain Cartwright leaps onto stage. Clerk and robber both scream. Robber leaps over counter and they cower behind it)*

**CC:** *(Waving egg beater)* Have no fear, honest citizen! Captain Cartwright is here! I will save you from this vicious animal.

**Clerk:** Stay away from me, you fruitcake! *(To robber)* Do you have one real gun?

**Robber:** A real gun? Are you kidding? People can get hurt fooling around with those things.

**CC:** Stop hiding behind that counter, you cowardly outlaw! I will use my trusty death ray to put an end to your evil career!

**Clerk:** What death ray, you psycho? That's an egg beater and a pretty rusty one at that!

**Robber:** *(To clerk)* What is it with you? If he wants to call it a death ray, it's a death ray. Don't argue with that crazy person!

**Clerk:** Oh shut up! You don't even have a gun to lend me. What kind of holdup man are you? Just my luck to get some wuss who's scared of guns.

**CC:** *(To robber)* If you won't come out, I'll have to come back there and get you. No lawbreaker can hide from Captain Cartwright.

**Clerk:** That's it - I'm calling the cops!

**Robber:** *(Trying to hide behind the clerk)* Good Idea. Hurry will you? Here use my cell phone.

**CC:** *(Stops short)* the police? No, no - you can't call them. They don't seem to understand that I'm on their side *(Turns and runs offstage. There is a thud and a yell)*

**Robber:** *(Peering offstage)* He ran into the door. I think he knocked himself out - no - he's up again -

**Clerk:** As long as he gets out of here. Say, did he look familiar to you?

**Robber:** *(doubtfully)* No..... I mean, I know some weird people, but I don't know anybody that weird.

**Clerk:** Guess you're right. Say, I'm getting off in a few minutes. You want to go out and



get a hamburger or something?

**Robber:** Sure, I'm starved. A life of crime takes more energy than I thought. And look, you can keep your twenty bucks and I'll buy the hamburgers. *(Leans on counter)* So, do you think the Leafs will make it to the finals this year?

*(Curtain)*

**Narrator:** See what I mean? If it was left to me, I'd throw a net over him and haul him off to the clinic. Or.....maybe not. Have you met the new doctors they've got over there? Between them and that birdbrain of a politician, there's not much to choose. Cracked? My son, not the word.....

*(The clinic. Doctor and nurse)*

**Doctor:** You know, this is a really depressing job. You spend all your time around sick people.

**Nurse:** What?

**Doctor:** Think about that for a minute - all day long all you hear is "I have a headache", "I have a sore throat", "My neck hurts", "My back hurts", "I sliced off a finger in the paper cutter". My God, haven't those people ever heard of aspirin?

**Nurse:** Oh for - of course, you're going to be around sick people! You're a doctor!

**Doctor:** *(Sulky)* Well, I'm getting tired of it. I suppose the waiting room is full again?

**Nurse:** *(Goes to stage right and looks out)* Yep, pretty full. Do you want me to give them each an aspirin and send them home?

**Doctor:** There's no need to be sarcastic. Doctors can use a little sympathy too, you know.

**Nurse:** Sure. I'll keep that in mind. How about I send in your first hypochondriac for the day? *(Goes out)*

*(Patient 1 enters, takes a seat)*

**Patient 1:** Good morning Doctor.

**Doctor:** What's good about it? *(Stops)* Er - good morning Mrs. Brown. What seems to be the problem?

**Patient 1:** Well now, doctor, that's what I'm here to find out. I mean, if I knew what was wrong with me, I wouldn't need a doctor, would I? *(Laughs)*

**Doctor:** Ha ha ha *(To audience)* Okay, one of those. *(To patient)* No, I mean, why did you come to the clinic this morning?

**Patient 1:** I cam to see the doctor. That's you isn't it?

**Doctor:** *(stares at patient, fingers drumming on the table)* Let's try this again. You need to tell me exactly where it hurts.

**Patient 1:** Oh! Well, why didn't you say so in the first place? You really need to be clearer about those things, you know. I'm not a mind reader. I have a really sore throat. It's so bad I can hardly talk. It started over the weekend and I almost stayed home from floor hockey and darts. I was saying to Gert if it didn't get any better by -

**Doctor:** *(Loudly)* I'd like to take a look at your throat now. Open wide and say "Ah".

**Patient 1:** Ah

**Doctor:** Hmmmmm I see. Yes. You do have a little problem there. Normally I'd give you some throat lozenges for that, but the plane hasn't got in with our drugs this week. *(Stands back, speaks briskly)* Go home, have a cup of hot tea and no talking for - oh, let's say three days.

**Patient 1:** But doctor.....

**Doctor:** *(Holds hand up)* Oh ah, remember what I said. No talking. Oh and here you are *(fishes in pocket and hands over candy)* Peppermints. Just as good as throat lozenges and a lot cheaper. *(Ushers patient out and writes on pad. Nurse enters)*

**Nurse:** Did you just tell Mrs. Brown that she couldn't talk for three days?

**Doctor:** Yep.

**Nurse:** That was really cruel, you know - you might as well tell the poor woman not to breathe. She lives to talk.

**Doctor:** Really? I would never have guessed. Who's next?

**Nurse:** I'll send him in. *(Exits)*

*(Enter patient 2 on crutches)*

**Patient 2:** Hi Doctor. Remember me?

**Doctor:** *(Peers at patient, shakes head)* Sorry, I see a lot of people. *(Looks again)* You do seem familiar though.

**Patient 2:** Geez Doc I'm one of your best customers. Last year you sewed the tip of my finger back on when I caught it in the saw remember? And then you treated me for hypothermia when I got locked in the freezer. And for concussion when those containers of crab fell on my head. And there was that tetanus shot when I fell into the hold of the crab boat.

**Doctor:** My my...we have been seeing a lot of each other, haven't we? What happened this time?

**Patient 2:** *(reluctantly)* Weeelll, it's kind of embarrassing really. I was putting out one of those "Caution: Wet Floor" signs and I slipped. The ankle really hurts.

**Doctor:** You know, maybe you need to find yourself another line of work. You aren't having much luck with that job at the plant. What is it you do there exactly?

**Patient 2:** Safety inspector.

**Doctor:** *(Speechless for a moment. Recovers)* OOOKay. *(Looks at papers)* I have two more people to see and I don't think either one will take long. You wait in the examining room and I'll be right with you. *(Calls)* Nurse! Nurse!

**Nurse:** *(Entering)* You called?

**Doctor:** Could you please help this man to the examining room? And uh nurse? *(Quickly as man bends to gather up crutches)* Make sure there are no sharp objects, breakables or anything dangerous anywhere in his reach. Get it?

**Nurse:** Got it.

**Doctor:** Good. Send in the next patient please.

*(Patient 3 enters, hiccupping)*

**Doctor:** Good morning Mr. Pardy. And how are you today?

**Patient 3:** *(Hiccupping madly)* Not - so good - Doctor. I've - been -at this - all - night.

**Doctor:** *(Holding hand up)* Say no more! I've got just the thing to fix that for you. Just