

**Henry Gordon Academy
Cartwright
presents**

“The Time In Goose Cove”

Cast

**Jennifer Keefe
Krista Williams
Amanda Learning
Leanne Walsh
Leah Noseworthy
Holly Greenleaves
Jenna Martin
Alicia Pardy**

Teacher Advisors..... Theresa Learning, Joanne Green

This play was developed alongside a project To Live Is To Dance. It incorporates a wedding dance taught by Ned Garner and Alexandra Conover, two jig-a-jig dancers from Maine.

“The Time In Goose Cove”

SCENE I *(The scene opens with two old people sitting in a kitchen. Nan is sitting in a rocking chair by the stove, knitting. Pop sitting to kitchen table looking out the window.)*

Pop: Mother, put the kettle on. I gets a cup of tea.

Nan: *(Getting up and moving towards stove)* Yes Dad. Do you want something to eat too?

Pop: Yes, I'll have some raisin buns. Better let the tea sit for a while. They don't make tea like they used to.

Nan: *(Speaking from the pantry)* Yes dad, I knows and the price of tea is somethin shockin. *(Nan returns from pantry with plate and places it in front of Pop on the table.)* Now, down to Fequet's tea bags are on sale for \$2.78 a box.

Pop: That's a lot of money for what we gets on old age pension.

Nan: *(Fixing tea at the stove)* Yes Dad. Stop complainin it's better than being on the dole. *(Picks up kettle and pours tea into the cup)* What are ya lookin at?

Pop: Watchin Floss with a piece of paper in her hand. What's she lookin fer?

Nan: *(Looks closer out the window)* She got one of dem flyers. There must be somethin going on.

Pop: Thas a funny thing. We didn't need no flyers to let us know what was goin on. In our day everyone knew what was goin on.

(The door opens and Eli enters)

Eli: Oh just in time for tea, Mom!

Mom: Yes my son. Sit down I gets ya a cup. *(Leaves the kitchen to get a cup)*

Pop: Eli, what's Floss at out there?

(Mon enters again with a cup of tea and more buns for Eli)

Eli: Aunt Sar and Uncle Joe is havin open house. They's been married for 50 years, come this Friday. Floss said they're goin have a party.

Pop: *(Looking at Mom)* I remember the night they got married. Do you Mom?

Mom: *(Laughing a little)* Yes I sure do Dad. What a time we had! It wasn't like it is now, ya know Eli. We didn't have none of them fancy stuff that people haves today. Sit back now Eli, enjoy ya cup of tea, while we tells ya about it.

Pop: I'll let ya talk about the women's stuff for a bit.

Nan: I was expecting to help Sar out a bit ya see, so I went down to Sar's house early that mornin. I couldn't believe my eyes. Sar came out in the kitchen. Her hair was in curlers with a flour bag on her head.

(Scene closes. Lights down)

SCENE II *(The scene opens to a young Martha (Mom) who is visiting with Sarah on her wedding day. Sarah's sister Jessie is sitting at the table. Sarah enters the scene with her hair in curlers and is looking quite a mess.)*

Martha: Sar, who did ya hair?

Sarah: *(Very upset)* Mom put it up for me and we couldn't find a silk slip so we had to use the flour bag. Whas I goin to do now?

Martha: Sit down by, I takes a look. *(Removes the rollers from Sarah's hair)* Jess, get me a brush and comb. I tries to fix this.

Jess: *(Gets up to get a brush and comb and returns to the table)* Good luck if you think you can do something with that.

Sarah: Oh be quiet! Go do somethin will ya. Help Mom with the cookies. *(Martha is brushing her hair)* You sure you can do something with this? I swear Martha, this is a bad omen. I can feel it in me bones.

Martha: Don't be so foolish by. Everything will be alright. Where's your wedding dress to?

Sarah: *(Calling out to Jess)* Jess, go up to Ethel's and get the weddin dress. *(Looking at Martha)* She said I could borrow hers.

Martha: Yes by, she bought that from the Eaton's catalogue. You'll be right fancy maid!

(Scene closes. Lights fade)

SCENE III *(Scene opens with Nan and Pop and Eli sitting in the kitchen. Nan in her rocking*

chair. Pop and Eli sitting at the kitchen table)

Eli: Did ya get her hair fixed Mom? Women gets right upset over that stuff ya know Dad.

Nan: Yes by. Got her hair fixed up right proper. But while we was tryin to get Sar straightened away, Uncle Max came in. That was Sar's father and he tol us that Joe never had nar suit to wear.

Eli: Nobody bought suits then or what?

Pop: No me son. Couldn't afford to but em. So this is where I comes in Eli. Twas me who went with Joe to find a suit.

(Scene closes. Lights down)

SCENE IV *(Scene opens with Sam going to Joe's house. Joe is sitting at the kitchen table.)*

Sam: Ya ready to go Joe?

Joe: Don't see the point. Dad and Kev have been over half the harbour lookin. Didn't find a thing.

Sam: What about the school teacher? Anyone ask him?

Joe: No I don't think. You can't be serious Sam. The school teacher! I can't as' him. No way, by!

Sam: I'll go up and ask him. You stay by me, looking right shy.

Joe: Ya sure by. You can do that.

Sam: Yes come on. We goes up to the teacher's house. Them government people, they all have suits. After that we'll go down to the hall an' put the tables and chairs out.

(Sam and Joe leave to go to the teacher's house. Scene closes. Lights down)

SCENE V *(Scene opens in the kitchen with Nan, Pop and Eli)*

Eli: So, did you get the wedding dress Mom?

Nan: yes, Jess came back with the wedding dress. I made Sar try it on for me. And it was alright I did too.

Eli: Didn't fit right or what?

Nan: No me son. The dress was too big. Way too big. We had to send for Aunt Elsie to come fix it as best as she could.

Eli: How did Aunt Sar feel about that?

Nan: By did she screech! You wouldn't believe the racket she made. Old Aunt Lucy that lived next door, she came running across the garden and barrelled in through the door. She thought somebody died.

Pop: *(Chuckling)* Yeah, we thought somebody died too, when Joe tried on that teacher's suit.

Eli: What did you do Mom?

Nan: Well, we sent Jess down to get Aunt Elsie and I tried to do what I could with the dress. It was such a sight for sore eyes.

(Scene closed. Lights down)

SCENE VI *(Scene opens in Sarah's house, trying on the wedding dress for Martha)*

Jess: Well, here it is. The latest in wedding fashion right from the Eaton's catalogue.

Martha: *(Laughing)* Be good Jess. It will be your turn one of these days.

Jess: The man I marries, will be able to buy me a new dress. I don't want to borrow nothin from anyone. *(Whispering)* I don't think this is going to fit.

Martha: Sar, come out here and get the dress. You need to try this on. I want to see it so I knows what to do with your veil.

Sarah: *(Comes out and takes the wedding dress)* You want me to put the shoes on too?

Martha: Naw, that's alright. Just put the dress on.

(Sarah leaves the room)

Jess: *(Looking out the window)* Where is Joe and Sam goin to?

Martha: My glory, they's going to the teacher's house!

Jess: Kev said that Joe was havin' trouble finding a suit. You don't think, Martha!

(A loud scream comes from the bedroom)

Martha: My gosh, Sar! What's wrong?

Sarah: It don't fit! It don't fit! It don't fit!

Jess: Told ya!

Martha: Be quiet. Come out Sar and let me see.

Sarah: *(Comes into the kitchen crying)* What am I goin to do Martha?

Martha: There now, don't fret. It doesn't look that bad. Straighten yerself up now. Let me take a closer look.

Jess: Good for a costume for Halloween.

Martha: *(Look at Jess with a hard look)* Jess, go down and get Aunt Elsie and run as fast as you can. There goes Sam and I think he's heading that way.

Sarah: You think Aunt Elsie can fix it?

Martha: Aunt Elsie can fix anything. Calm down now and have a cup of tea. Everything will be fine.

(Scene closes. Lights down)

SCENE VII *(Scene opens in kitchen with Nan, Pop and Eli)*

Pop: How did you know where I was goin'?

Nan: The way you was walkin! By gosh, you were a man with a mission! Besides you had Joe Hancock's suspenders in your hand. You don't need to be that smart to figure it out.

Pop: Yeah well, you weren't that quick about it. Me and Jess got there at the same time.

Eli: What happened then Dad?

Pop: Me and Jess went into Aunt Elsie's. She was busy decorating the wedding cake. She looked at Jess, then me. Nothing fits does it she said. Alright I'll go up to see

Sar first then I'll come along to see Joe.

Eli: Did she get everything ready?

Nan: Oh yes Eli. Sar was the prettiest thing you ever saw the day she got married. That woman worked a miracle.

Pop: Her miracle wasn't that great on Joe. But he had his suit and he was ready to go. Even started to get a bit nervous then.

Eli: So what happened after that?

Pop: Well, in order to get Aunt Elsie to work her wonders me and Jess had to agree to help her out. Me and Joe went down to the hall and started getting that ready while Jess helped out with the wedding cake.

Eli: How did you get the wedding cake to the hall?

Pop: We carried it in our hands.

Nan: Aunt Elsie got away with that didn't she? I'm really surprised that she let you touch her cake.

Pop: She had no choice. When we left her house, she was mumbling about tucks and bustles. Whatever that is.

Eli: Did they make it to the church on time?

Pop: Yes me son. But the minister didn't.

Eli: Where was the minister then?

Nan: We didn't have our own minister you see. He had to come up from Paradise River. Somebody was supposed to go to get him.

Pop: Well, I can't do everything. Find a suit, get it fixed and go pick up a minister too!

Eli: Dad, what did you do?

Pop: I told Kev to go get him.

Eli: Did he forget to or what?

Nan: No he didn't forget. He was just 20 minutes late getting him here. I figures he stopped along the way and had a visit or two with some people. Probably had a drop of spirits too!

Eli: So what happened after they were married?

Pop: That's when the time started. Time to take out your scuffin shoes by. Grab a pretty girl and scuff till you can't scuff no more.

Nan: *(Laughing)* Joe scuffed her up didn't he by?

Pop: Yep, right through the floor of the stage.

Nan: The school teacher, he threw a fit.

Pop: Kept yellin and complainin about the Christmas concert.

Eli: Who would the teacher get upset over somethin like that?

Pop: Well Eli, the school was only one room ya see. So whenever the youngsters wanted to put on a show, they used the hall. So when Joe went through the stage floor, he threw a fit.

Nan: Never mind now. We'll tell ya the story Eli.

(Scene closes. Lights down)

SCENE VIII *(Scene opens to the community hall where the wedding dance is happening)*

Martha: By gosh, Sam, this is some time we're havin.

Sam: Yes by, tis.

Martha: Look, Joe is up on the stage! What's he doing?

Sam: getting ready to do his dance by the looks of it.

Martha: Sarah is going with him!

Sam: Didn't know she could step dance. You?

Martha: After the day she's had, Sarah could do anything.

(Music starts as the dancers hit the stage. Shortly after a loud crash is heard)

Sarah: Joe! Joe! Are you alright?

Sam: *(Runs towards the stage)* Joe me son, are you alright?

Sarah: He must be dead Sam! He's not answerin.

Joe: *(Pops his head up)* By golly Sam! That's scuffin isn't it, by? Scuffed the floor right out from in under me.

Teacher: Joe Toomashie, you better get this fixed! I need this for the Christmas concert!

Sarah: Joe, are you alright?

Joe: Yes Sarah me darlin. I'm just fine. *(Looking at the teacher)* Don't worry sir, I will get this fixed up right nice.

Teacher: That's not all Joe. That's one of my good suits you are wearing.

Sarah: Don't worry about that sir. I'll clean it up right proper, you'll see.

Sam: Fine job dancin Joe. You should go to Paradise next week for the contest. The prize is a Sunday dinner.

Joe: That's not a bad idea, Sam. I just might do that.

Sarah: Never mind that Sam Mugford. Come on Joe, it's time for us to be going home. I need to throw my bouquet.

(Scene closes. Lights down)

SCENE IX *(Scene opens back in kitchen with Nan, Pop and Eli)*

Eli: *(Laughing)* That was quite the story, Dad.

Pop: Yes, those were the days me son.

Eli: Did Sarah get to throw her flowers?

Nan: Yes by, she did. I caught them and one year later I married your father. That reminds me, I think I might still have them flowers. I must go have a look. *(Leaves the kitchen)*

Pop: Women, the silly things they keep. Eli, get a fresh cup of tea. All that talking has made me parched. *(Continues looking out the window as Eli goes to the stove)* Eli, is that Len Learning there with a new boat?

Eli: *(Looking out the window)* Yes Dad it is. Bought her in Goose Bay last week. Come the spring he's going to use her for crab fishing.

Pop: Went to Goose Bay to buy her? You know Eli, in my day we built our own boats.

Eli: *(Sitting down with a fresh cup of tea)* Is that right Dad?

Pop: Yes me son. But that's a story for another day. How's Sammy gettin on in St. John's?

Eli: Alright Dad. Says he's going to be a fisheries officer when he's finished gettin his education. No more fisherman in the family Dad.

Pop: Fishing is not what it used to be Eli. Not what it used to be.

(Scene closes. Lights down)