

**B L Morrison School  
Postville  
presents**

**“Something To Be Proud Of”**

**Cast**

**Niki.....Raeann Manak  
Josh.....Hayward Sheppard  
Dan.....Andy Jacque  
Jenna.....Jenny Ford  
Miss Hall.....Vanessa Burden  
Jessica.....Rebecca Jacque**

**Teacher Advisors**

**Nancy Hall  
Brandy Gillette**

**This play is about two students from Postville, Labrador who get chosen to go on a student exchange trip to Ontario. Just after arriving, they meet two students who, by their ignorance, make the two Labradorians realize that their culture is indeed, something to be proud of.**

*Lights appear on Niki, sitting in her room, reading.*

Niki: I wonder who they'll pick for the student exchange thing in Ontario. Oh well, I guess I'll find out tomorrow. Maybe I shouldn't have even signed up. I dunno if I really want to go.

*Lights dim, reappear on Josh and Niki at school.*

Niki: *(Holding a sheet of paper away from her face)* Oh Josh, I can't look. I wanna go and I don't wanna go.

Josh: *(Holds out his hand for the paper)* Here. Let me see. Maybe we both made it. That wouldn't be so bad. I mean, come on, it's only for two weeks. It may be fun.

Niki: *(Gives him the paper)* You're right! I mean, I'm looking at this all wrong. I signed up in the first place because I thought it would be fun and it probably will be.

Josh: *(Reading the paper in his mind, starts to laugh)* Well Niki, I dunno know about the student exchange thing, but you made the girl's basketball team. *(Laughs)* See. *(Holds up paper to Niki's face)*

Niki: *(Looks at the paper)* Huh?

Josh: You took the wrong sheet. This one is for basketball.

Niki: *(Smacks her forehead)* I'm such a dummy! They're not gonna pick me for the student exchange trip. What am I even worrying for? I can't even pick up the right sheet off the bulletin board and I offered to represent B L Morrison in Toronto?

Josh: You're not that bad. *(Pats her on the back)* I mean, you made the basketball team! *(Laughs)* But seriously, don't worry about it. You go and get some lunch at the canteen and I'll go get the RIGHT sheet. I'll meet you back at the lunch room with the results.

Niki: OK! I'll see you in a few minutes then.

*Josh walks off the stage. Lights dim and reappear on Niki sitting at the table drinking a vanilla coke.*

Josh: *(Walks in)* You're not drinking Vanilla Coke again? You're gonna have a stroke or something.

Niki: Never mind that. Did you get the paper?

Josh: No! Got run over though. It seems like everyone is interested in who's going on that trip. The sheet just went up and everyone's grabbing for it. It's like a stampede out there!

Niki: And that's how you got run over?

Josh: No! The football team was coming in for lunch and I just happened to be in the way.

Niki: Oh poor Joshy! Are you OK?

Josh: *(Holding his head)* I think so! But I don't think that Benjamin needs a helmet. His head is hard enough! I did get a peek at the sheet though and I know who's going!

Niki: Oh yeah? How did you manage that?

Josh: I snuck a peek when Adam was pounding my head against the bulletin board. I think it was the third time my head hit it that I saw the two names in bold print.

Niki: Well?

Josh: We made it Niki, you and me!

Niki: Are you serious?

Josh: Yup! *(Niki hugs Josh and is screaming)* Hey, hey, hey be gentle. Wasn't I just telling you about almost being mauled out there?

Niki: *(Giggles)* Sorry.

Josh: It's OK! Oh yeah, I almost forgot, on my forth bang against the wall, I noticed that we made the Drama team too.

Niki: Who cares. It's only Goose Bay! We're going to Toronto!

Josh: I like Goose Bay and drama is the perfect time to go. I mean, girls are suckers for the Drama Festival! I might meet some new ones to add to my MSN.

Niki: Yeah, but you gotta be able to act to go to drama.

Josh: I can act! I made the team didn't I?

*(Both walk off stage. Lights dim and reappear on Josh and Niki sitting at desks)*

Niki: What are we doing here? Detention? No...it can't be detention, Shane's not here.

Josh: It's not! Ms Hall wants to talk to us about the trip. Something about getting our culture involved. Yeah right! Who wants to hear about fishing and hunting and boring old stuff like that? They'll only laugh at us anyway.

Niki: Culture? Isn't that like when my grandfather asks me to go for rides on his dog team instead of taking the skidoo?

Josh: Yeah! And when my grandmother tells me stories about the old days in a language that I don't understand.

Niki: Oh OK. I get it now. It's like hunting and fishing and stuff?

Josh: Yeah.

Niki: Well why don't they call it hunting and fishing and stuff?

Josh: Who knows? I think it's just to make it sound important or something.

Niki: Yeah, probably.

*(Ms Hall walks in)*

Ms Hall: Hello kids! I've got a staff meeting so let's make this quick. Here's the deal, you two have been picked for a student exchange trip where we send two of our brightest students and receive two of Toronto's brightest students and if we like them better than you we'll keep them. Just kidding!

Josh: Good! I'm not living in Toronto! They've got crime and pollution and stuff like that. Who needs that?

Ms Hall: That's just an example of something that you shouldn't say to anyone out there. I'll trust that you will remember that, Joshua! We're not aiming to offend anyone.

Josh: It's Josh! And don't worry about us, we'll be on our best behaviour. Oh yeah, Miss, I asked my father if he can come along with us on our trip as our chaperone and he agreed.

Ms Hall: That's great! Just remember kids, we aim to prove to them that Labradorians value their education, and that through online courses and distance education, our

students are just as capable as theirs. Culture is also very important. Academically there is no difference between our students and theirs. But culture is what we are trying to get across here. The different way of life. We have a culture to be proud of and most of all, try to get along and have fun.

Josh: *(Stands up)* As Yoda, the Great Jedi Master said “Do or do not! There is no try!”

Ms Hall: Excuse me?

Niki: Don’t mind Josh. He’s a huge Star Wars fan.

Ms Hall: Anyway, any questions?

*(Josh & Niki look at each other)*

Josh: No miss. You have been very helpful. Thank you. *(Pats teacher on the back)*

Ms Hall: Very well. I must be going. I’ll be late for my meeting. *(Turns around and walks out. Reveals a sign on back that says “kick me”. Niki and Josh laugh)*

Niki: Culture/ Yeah right! I’m gonna do some major shopping out there. That’s for sure. Who needs culture when you have your daddy’s credit card?

*(Lights dim, reappear on Josh, Niki and Dan at Postville airport)*

Josh: It’s at least 20 minutes until the plane leaves. Let’s sit down over there. *(Points at chairs. All sit down)*

Dan: I can’t believe you got Ms Hall to let me chaperone you guys. Josh, how in the world did you ever pull that off?

Josh: Oh that? That was simple. I just told her that my dad was coming along.

Dan: *(Sarcastically)* Brilliant, Josh, just brilliant.

Josh: I know. I know. No need to thank me.

Dan: Don’t worry, I wasn’t going to. Do you have any idea the yelling I’m going to have to listen to when we get back?

Josh: *(Puts his hand on Dan’s shoulder)* The force be with you.

Niki: Huge Star Wars fan, don’t ask.

Dan: Wasn't gonna.

*(Lights dim, reappear on sign "Welcome to Toronto". Josh, Dan and Niki enter)*

Niki: OK, Ms Hall said there would be two girls here waiting to pick us up.

Dan: Oooo, girls? *(Looks around)* But how are we supposed to know what they look like?

Josh: Ms Hall said they would be carrying a sign that says "Josh & Niki" on it.

*(All look around. Jenna and Jessica enter, carrying a sign that says "Josh & Niki".)*

Niki: *(Points to girls)* Here we go.

Josh: Hi there. I'm Josh and this is Niki.

Jenna: Hi, I'm Jenna and this is Jessica. We were sent to pick you guys up. Who is this guy? *(Points to Dan)*

Josh: This is Dan. He's supposed to be our chaperone, but I don't think you'll see too much of him. He just came for the free trip.

Jessica: Well, let's go pick up your luggage and we'll be on our way.

*(All walk to other side of stage)*

Jenna: And you guys are the students from where?

Niki: Postville, Labrador.

Jessica: Huh? Oh that was supposed to be a joke. *(Jessica and Jenna laugh)*

Josh: No actually it wasn't.

Jessica: You're really from Labrador? But you look so clean.

Josh: Thanks.....I think.

Jessica: I'm sorry. It's just that, well.....Labrador? I mean, come on!

Jenna: I just gotta ask, do you guys really live in igloos? *(Laughs)*

Dan: *(Looks at Josh and Niki and then back at Jenna and Jessica)* Duh, we live three igloos down from the post office.

Jessica: Of course not, Jenna, don't be so insensitive. They can't live in igloos. What would they do in the summer when the snow melts? I mean, you guys live in teepees, right?

Niki: *(Mocking Jessica)* Ha ha, NO!

Jessica: What about running water?

Jenna: Oh no Jess, don't use big words. *(Laughs)* Besides, they probably have a nearby stream or something, right?

Josh: Excuse me?

*(Josh, Dan and Niki turn aside)*

Niki: This is exactly the kinda thing that Ms Hall told you to stay away from, remember Josh. She said don't offend anyone. Now they're offending us.

Josh: Yeah. First time I ever felt like hitting a girl. You might have to hold me back Dan.

Dan: I don't know about that Josh. *(Rolls up his sleeves)* I feel like taking a whack at them myself.

Niki: Come on now guys. Be serious. True, they have no right to judge us, but it's only because they don't know what we are all about. It's up to us to shoe 'em.

Josh: Fine! You show 'em. I'm gonna wait right here. I'm not getting in a car with them! *(Crosses his arms)*

Niki: Alright, I will. *(Walks over to Jenna and Jessica. Both are giggling)* Hello again. Are we ready to go?

*(Jessica speaks some weird language)*

Niki: Huh?

Jenna: Oh we're sorry. We thought you understood that. *(Laughs)*

Niki: That's not fair, you guys. We know we're from a different place than you, but

that's no reason to make fun.

Jenna: We're only joking with ya! Not like we mean anything by it.

Niki: Yeah, well, it's pretty hurtful stuff and we'd like you to stop.

Jessica: Wow! Talk about sensitive!

Jenna: Yeah, like totally! I mean we're not the ones who kill animals for food.

Jessica: Eww, they actually do that? That's so gross. Not to mention cruel.

*Josh and Dan walk over)*

Josh: That's not how we see it. To us, it's not about killing animals and watching them suffer. It's about respecting old traditions. Our grandparents lived off the land and it served them very well.

Dan: Yeah, and I'm proud to be learning my native language in school. This is my last year and even though it can be a pain sometimes, I'm going to miss it.

Niki: And the next time my grandfather wants to take me for a ride on dog team, I'm gonna go.

Josh: And I'm gonna listen to my grandmother's stories. I bet I could learn a lot from the old ways.

Dan: Don't you girls see? It's not about what we don't have. And yes, we do have running water. It's about what we do have: a heritage to be proud of.

Josh: We came on this trip to learn more about your culture, but I think that in many ways we've already learned more about our own.

Niki: You know Josh, I think you're right. I mean, I thought we'd be going home all bummed out, realizing that all the things we don't have. But I'm already starting to appreciate the things we do have. And I'm not talking about MSN. I'm talking about background and a real sense of belonging.

Jenna: You guys have MSN?

Josh: Yeah! You gonna make fun of that now?

Jessica: I think that's really cool!

Dan: Really?

Jessica: Yeah!

Jenna: So, do you guys have cable?

Dan: No, we all have satellite dishes.

Jessica: Wow! You're really higher up in the world that I thought.

Josh: Yeah! I guess so.

Jenna: And I think it's really great that you have all that culture stuff to be proud of.