

A Night at the Movies

by

Ike Riche Players
Mealy Mountain Collegiate
Happy Valley-Goose Bay

Cast:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Dan..... | Liam Smitheram |
| Lori | Meghan Williams |
| Meggie | Bailey Dooley |
| Susie | Rachel Goudie |
| Stepmother..... | Heidi Applin |
| Stepsisters..... | Emily Harris |
| | Rachel Snelgrove |
| Prince Charming | Jamie Felsberg |
| Priest | Quinten Taylor |
| Sparks | Bradley Baker |
| | Hannah Cooper |
| | Michael Gillett |
| Board Members | Mitchell Eddy |
| | Rodney Pye |
| Butler/Old Man | Aaron Cabot |
| Guards | Cameron Wilcox |
| | Matthew Gillett |

Written and directed by: Matthew Gillett

Lights/Sound: Rebecca Pike

Teacher Directors: Tara Kennedy & Jennifer Howlett

Synopsis:

Dan's new creation will revolutionize home movie viewing. The Genrenator can transform any movie from its original format to a genre of your choice. Unfortunately the world might not be ready for such a creation as chaos results when Dan's young daughter becomes entangled in the world of the Genrenator.

Scene 1

Spotlight on Dan and Guard on two chairs. Genrenator next to Dan.

Board Member: Next!

Guard 1 gets up and goes towards the board member.

Dan: *(fiddles with Genrenator and kneels next to it, stands)* Alright Dan! You've got this! You have a brilliant a product and flawless game plan! Ah, But what if they don't like it. I really should have worked on optimising space, I made it huge! *(turns abruptly)* No! Don't start doubting yourself now! Those pencil pushing executives will be eating out of your hand from start to finish! Besides, everyone knows third time's the charm, 12th must be three times as lucky! *(pauses and counts on fingers)* four! *(nods. Fiddles with the machine)*

Board Member: "Next!"

Dan: Whoa! that was fast.

Guard 1: *(runs through spotlight off stage crying)* Monsters!

Dan: *(Gives the guard a look, stares out to the audience with a look of terror)* Hmm, curious. *(pushes Genrenator through the door and into center stage as spot light follows him).*

Board Member: Ookay, please state your name and what you will be presenting today.

Dan: Uh, *(plays with papers)* My name is Dan and...

Board Member: Alright Dave, and what do you have for us today?

Dan: Oh no, sorry sir, my name is....

Board Member: Dave, we are very important business men here, or people, as my assistant keeps insisting I say now, we would appreciate it if you wouldn't waste our time.

Dan: Oh definitely not...

Board Member: Imagine if we had to know every wannabe entrepreneur's name. Do you understand how long that would take? We simply would have no time to get through all of the applicants!

Dan: Of course sir I completely...

Board Member: So please, please for our sake we ask that people stay concise and to the point at all times.

Dan: Uh....

Board Member: It's like we need a sign or something in the front office! Goodness, people just have no consideration!

Dan: Very true sir. (*pauses and listens*)

Board Member: ...Well?

Dan: Hmm?

Board Member: Are you going to stand there all day?!

Dan: Oh no, of course not sir. I was about to tell you about my machine.

Board Member: Well? What's it called? Spit it out!

Dan: I call it the Genrenator. It takes movies and changes them.

Board Member: Changes? Like colours? Boy you know we have a few of these!

Dan: No, no, no! I mean like changing the genre. My machine can hook up to any video player, be it VHS, DVD, Blue Ray, and with just a few clicks you can completely reinvent the movie you're planning to watch! It's so easy even a child could use it!

Board Member: The genre you say... A why would someone want that? If I want a comedy I'll watch a comedy, why would I want to change it?

Dan: ... fun?

Board Member: Dave... it is obvious to me you have put quite a lot of working into this, thing ... but I'm afraid you have not given any thought to the basic needs. Besides practicality, function, size, colour and price, this looks like a lovely toy. Sadly though, we won't be interested. Thank you for coming, but that will be all.

Dan: Oh but I'm not done! There's a whole section with item input! I promise you'll love it all if you see!

Board Member: I'm sorry, but that will not be needed.

Dan: I just wanted...

Board Member: You may leave.

Dan: But...

Board Member: Go!

Dan: Okay... *(Dan pushes the Genrenator out again, head hung low)*

Board Member: Next!

Guard 2: *(now sitting in the second chair)* Who! *(pats Dan's shoulder)* Don't look so glum chum! Here have a rubber band! It's shaped like a circle *(Dan smiles)* Well I'm off to my fame and fortune. See ya!

Dan: Good luck. *(keeps pushing off stage)*

Board Member: *(distant sounding)* Brilliant! You've got a deal!

Dan: *(turns shocked. Head falls again, turns and pushes off stage)*

Scene 2

Lights on stage right.

Late Friday night. Living room. Mother Stands on right stage with a bucket in one hand. As lights come up she moves to pick up another child's toy and places in the bucket. The room consists of a sofa mid stage facing audience, a TV facing the stage rear on the edge of the stage and a door. The door swings open and a man pushes a large box through the entrance appearing to be struggling with it.

Dan: *(upset and under breathe as he pushes the box into place)* Stupid contraption! *(kicks box)*

Lori: Welcome back dear! How did your meeting with the board go? *(Places bucket on sofa and moves towards husband)*

Dan: They hated it, Lori. They didn't even let me show them what it could do. It was all "too big" "too clunky" (*pushes Genrenator towards TV and sits on couch*)

Lori: Oh Dan, it's all right! It's not the end of the world (*sits next to him*) we can always sell the TV, and the car. I've always said I need to meet new people; maybe taking the bus will let me do that!

Dan : Ugh (*puts hands on forehead*)

Daughter enters stage right.

Meggie: Daddy! (*runs to mid stage next to arm of the couch that her father is sitting at*) Daddy! You're back! (*hugs him*)

Dan: Hello there darling! What are you doing up?

Meggie: Me and Susie want to watch the princess! Would you like to watch it with us?

Dan: I'm sorry darling, but Daddy had a really long day and needs to get some rest. Maybe Mommy would like to watch with you two.

Lori: Oh no! It's time for little girls to be headed to bed; it's long past bed time now.

Meggie: But Mommy we just want to watch one movie! It'll be really quick! Please Mommy!

Lori: I already said no. It's bedtime for you and Susie.

Dan: (*looks from daughter to mom, looks at Mom*) We can let her watch just one movie. Besides, I can show her what I've been working on for so long! May as well get one use out of it (*Mom frowns*)

Meggie: Please Mommy!

Dan: Pretty pwease (*begs exactly like daughter*).

Lori: (*glares them down hands on hips and sighs*) All right then, but just this one time!

Dan: Perfect! I'll get it all set (*Enthusiasm returns as he takes goes to the box*) And what film shall we be showing this evening?

Meggie: Cinderella! Susie's favorite!

Dan: A fine selection. The movie m'lady (*bows to daughter with hand extended*).

Meggie: Of course, good sir! (*hands him the case, and he punches in a few settings*).

Dan: This my dear is the Genrenator! It takes any movie and changes it completely! A few clicks and we can change the princess tale of Cinderella to just about anything! Hmm (*stops and rubs chin*) Let's try Random!

Dan and Meggie freeze.

Spark 2 and 3 enter and place two boxes down on left stage and then leave giggling.

Dan and Meggie move again.

Meggie: Hey! How did those boxes get on the screen?

Dan: That would be the program doing its job! I call it S.P.A.R.Q! System Preferences Applied Really Quick! (*clicks one last button*) There you are, all set. Now all is left is just for you and Susie to sit back and enjoy your movie!

Meggie: *(hugs dad)* Thank you so much. I'm sure she'll love it!

Lori: All right now, time to get Daddy something to eat after his long day. Now don't be up too late you hear. *(grabs Dan by the arm starts off stage)*

Dan: Tell me how you two like it in the end! Good night sweet heart!

Dan and Lori exit stage right.

Meggie jumps on couch with Susie (doll), she positions her doll on the chair arm then picks up the remote from the arm in two hands. Aiming it at the television she repeatedly hits buttons.

Lights left stage on and off as the remote is pointed at the TV.

Meggie: Oh my Susie, Daddy must have made a mistake. *(Gets up and heads towards the box; stops and looks back to Susie with an annoyed look)* No Susie, I'm not going to go ask him how to fix it, I can do this myself! Daddy needs to rest. *(reaches the machine).* Ummm. *(Looks at the console leaned over)* Ah-ha! *(clicks a button - nothing happens to the lights of stage left. Meggie walks back to the couch and picks up Susie. Walks to the box and places doll on top.)*

Meggie: You try and fix it then! I'm gonna get us some popcorn for the movie.

Meggie exits skipping, stage right.

A white hand appears out of the slot of the machine. Stretching up it turns then begins to feel for

the doll. Finding it, it grabs on and pulls it back into the machine.

Meggie enters stage right carrying a bowl of popcorn.

Meggie freezes with one leg up. Sparks 2 and 3 drag in actor doll from stage left and puts her centre left. Sparks 2 and 3 leave giggling. Meggie unfreezes.

Meggie: *Susie! (Drops popcorn on table and runs to the machine) Give her back you silly machine! That's my doll not yours! (Reaches inside the machine)*

Sound effect.

Scene Three

Meggie: *(Sticks head up, sits up and rubs her head)... Oww-wie. (stands and looks around in the dark) It's mighty dark in here. Did the power go out? (wakes to edge of stage into dim light. Touches the wall) Glass? Since when were the windows this big! And why is there a couch outside! Ugh, what happened? (stands up) Susie!! (Drops back down to hands and knees and starts searching around for Susie.) Susie, are you in here?*

Susie: Over here!

Meggie: *(stop and sits up) Who was that?*

Susie: Me, silly!

Meggie: Me who?

Susie: Raggedy, Ginger, missing a shoe?

Meg: *(wide eyes) Susie?!*

Susie: Bingo! Now would you mind coming over her and pulling my cord.

Meggie: Umm sure, where are you?

Susie: Just follow my voice! *(Meg walks)* Oh, um ... a little left... I mean right, no not that right! The other one, alright! Almost there now. Straight forward!

Meggie: *(Trips over Susie. Groans) Oww-wi!*

Susie: Eh, close enough, now would you kindly pull my help me up? I can't do it myself.

Meggie helps Susie stand up.

Spark 1 Snaps. Lights come on. Spark 1-3 enter Spark 1 in the lead. Susie and Meggie freeze on the snap mid pull. Spark one talks to others in nonsense as if to direct. Claps and nods and the other two race off. Spark 1 2 and 3 drag in one by one on the Step Sisters, Butler, Guard 1 and 2 (and extra dancers depending on stage). Finally drag in Cinderella in a dress and shoes. They see Maggie and instead take Cindy's shoes then kick her off stage and put them on Meggie. They giggle about it then exit. Spark 1 snaps on the way out.

Scene comes to life. Dancers dance ballroom style, music in the background plays quietly.

Susie: *(stands up and almost falls over)* Whoa! This is so cool! I can stand! On legs! Oh, and nice kicks.

Meggie: Hey Susie, does something look different to you? *(looks around at the dancers)*

Susie: Meggie look! I can walk! *(almost falls again)* Kinda. Needs work. But I can do it!

Meggie: Where did this all come from, there was nothing a second ago! *(pauses)* Will you stop that, it's just legs.

Susie: I'm sorry, were you the one being dragged by your foot every day by an overactive child for the past seven years?

Meggie: Heh, sorry about that. *(scratches back of head)* I just wanted know where we are!

Butler: Welcome to the Royal ball! You would be Cinderella, I presume?

Meggie: Huh? No mister, my name is Meggie.

Butler: Oh my, my apologies, Madame; there are so many guests here tonight. I'm afraid my old mind just does have the ability to remember names as it used to, Cinderella.

Meggie: Cinderella? No, no, no, my name is Meggie.

Butler: Yes, you said that, my dear. I did say Cinderella correctly, didn't I? Either way, I do wish I could stay but there are many more guests to great tonight, please, enjoy the ball! *(leaves the two and heads off stage)*

Susie: Well that answers our first question! I guess we're in the Royal Ball of your favorite movie Cinderella! Sadly, that leads to another bothering question... Why are we in the ballroom, this is the middle of the movie! We should be in the beginning.

Meggie: Movie? How did we end up here?

Susie: Oh the machine your dad made must have sucked us in, I suppose, when you reached in for me. Hmm. Meggie, did you rewind the movie all the way back after we watched it the last time?

Meggie: Hey! Why is it always my job to rewind it? I've never seen you do it.

Susie: *(Blank stare)* ...mmm... yeah... 'cause I'm a doll and I don't have ... Oh my gosh, fingers!

Meggie: So we got sucked into a movie we were watching just by touching a big box?

Susie: Yep. I wonder if I have toes too!

Meggie: This is so.... Cool! It's like having front rows seats to it all! I can't wait to watch it all.

Susie: Yeah, it'll probably be a lot closer than front row. Remember what that guy in the funny outfit called you?

Prince enters stage left.

Prince: Oh my heart, she's so beautiful! So gorgeous, so elegant! I must go introduce myself!

(Walks towards Meggie) Excuse me miss, it is I, Prince Charming and I was wondering if I may

...

Spark 1 snaps as it enters. 2 and 3 run to their positions. GENRE CHANGE. From NORMAL to WESTERN.

Sparks put cowboy hats on dancers and the prince. Giggles and they leave. Spark 1 snaps.

Prince: *(southern accent)* May I have this square dance, lil lassy?

Meggie: Uh no thanks, mister.

Prince: Oh come on! Just one little hoedown throwdown with me. You're lookin' mighty pretty today missy!

Meggie: I said no thanks. *(Prince puts arm around Meggie)* Ah! Stranger Danger! *(Jumps behind Susie)*

Prince: Oh now I didn't mean to fright you there missy, I just wanted to meet ya.

Meggie: Meet me my foot! *(runs away)* Stay away from me! Susie! Help!

Susie: Ten toes and Ten fingers, who'd a thunk it!

Meggie: Susie, Ah *(throws shoe at Prince)*

Susie: Okay alright. Hmm let's try this! *(Pushes Meggie off stage)* Hmm, looks safe. *(exits stage)*

Prince: *(picks up shoe, sniffs it)* this is not the end of me missy, I'll find you again! And then you'll fall madly in love with me, just watch!

Scene 4

Sparks arrange set. Stepmother and sisters 1 + 2. Meggie and Susie run from the back. Sparks exit. Snapping fingers on the way out, giggling.

Meggie: Susie, are you sure we went the right way?

Susie: I did say, "I THINK."

Meggie: Where are we now then?

Stepmom: And *where* do you think you're going? (*approaches Meggie*)

Susie: Oh not another scene! (*stepmom grabs meg*)

Meggie: SUSIE! (*Stepmom puts mop in Meg's hand*)

Stepmom: While you have been gallivanting through the castle playing princess the house has become a state!

Meggie: It looks great to me.

Stepsister 1 kicks over a garbage can, and stepsister 2 crumples up a chip bag and throws it on the floor.

Stepmom: Like I said, a state.

Meggie: Then why don't they clean it?

Stepmom: They're busy! The prince chose his bride last night and now he is going around the town trying to find her again. Considering it was dark he might be able to fall for one of these two...

Sisters 1 + 2: HEY!

Stepmom: These two darling beauties!

Stepsister 1: Considering you're in here cleaning, Veronica and I got you a little surprise gift.

Meggie: Now you're talking my language! Ha-ha!

Stepsister 2: (*comes in with a large garbage bin*) Surprise! (*pulls back the bin*)

Susie trips stepsister 2 and she goes back. Garbage goes off stage left.

Screech from off the stage.

Spark one comes in covered in garbage. Disgusted mumbling.

Spark picks up the next genre. Balleh walks off disgusted. Snaps.

Stepsister's hands over head.

Stepsister 1: Mommy, ground her! And her doll too. They're so mean. They're so mean!

Stepmom: That's it Cinderella! You are gone! Locked in the chamber until the prince (*hops to*

daughters) has married one of my daughters (*grabs Susie and Meggie and starts walking to left stage*)

Susie: I have a feeling that would be a long time.

Enter Prince Charming, jumping.

Prince: STOP! Unhand my princess, vile witch!

Meggie: Oh great, this clown again.

Prince: For you my love, I would jest any day!

Stepmother: Oh my good prince, this is not the girl you seek; she is but a peasant.

Prince: She wears the most interesting robes I've ever seen.

Meggie: They're called PJs.

Stepmother: (*beckons daughters they skip over*) Now here are ladies of your stature. Let me introduce Veronica and Diatress (*they curtsy*); my daughters.

Prince: They have their... father's... face?

Stepsister 1: Oh! Hee hee, thank you!

Meggie: Hello, still hanging here.

Stepmother: Not for long. Let's go get these ones acquainted.

Prince: I have searched all day for that girl. I don't plan on waiting now. (*claps twice*) Guards! (*Two guards come in*) Take my bride to the carriage, this woman is trying to steal her away (*guards nod, pick up Meggie and Susie carry off left.*)

Prince: Finally a bride, momma will be so proud! (*spins, skips off*)

Stepsisters tiptoe to Stepmother who puts up hands and disappointedly spins off backstage.

Scene 5

In the scene we have 3 rows of 2 seats starting from back headed from offstage to in. Row 1 Step Mom, Stepsister 1. Row 2, Butler, Guard 2. On the left/right divider is the podium. Behind it is the Priest.

Spark set this scene.

Spark 3 goes mid left stage smiling. Claps twice, then brings hands up.

Wedding music starts.

Spark 3 exits.

Susie is escorted in by guard and seated down on left.

Susie: Petals, pews and Priest. *(Stops walking)* Oh my, Meggie's not going to like this.

Guard pushes Susie the rest of the way to her seat.

Susie: Hrumph!

Susie and guard sit down in front; Meggie enters from stage left escorted by the butler.

Meggie: Why am I always being dragged around?

Susie: Hey Meggie! How are you? Doing okay?

Meggie: No! I'm in a movie! My doll is alive! And this old bag won't let me go!

Butler: Oh my dear, you look so beautiful today. The Prince found himself a fine wife.

Meggie: Wife? Susie, do you know what scene we're in now?

Susie: I do. But you won't like it.

Meggie: Probably not, but I'd like to know!

Susie: This is the final scene of the movie. This is where Cinderella marries Prince Charming, and lives happily ever after.

Meggie: But... But... I'm too young to get married to a weirdo like that!

Susie: Maybe you can marry a weirdo when you're older ... But I can't seem to do anything about this, and they all think you're Cinderella! *(Meg and the butler reach the front podium)*

Dan enters stage right.

Dan: Hmm, maybe Meg went to bed after all. Poor dear must have gotten tired. *(sits on the couch)* I wonder how the program did? *(sees popcorn)* Oh popcorn! *(Picks up popcorn and starts to eat)*

Prince: You look simply stunning.

Meggie: Oh, put a sock in it mister! Wait. Did you hear something?

Susie: *(looks over the crowd)* I think your dad just finished supper.

Meggie: Oh, we're SAVED!

Prince: I must admit I can hardly understand you sometimes, my Queen.

Meggie: *(runs to glass)* Hey! In here! Hey Hey!*(waves and jumps on the edge of stage)*

Prince: *(sighs)* Just start. *(signals to priest)*

Priest: Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today to join these two young loves in holy matrimony.

Meggie: *(continues waving)* In here, look!

Dan: *(puts down popcorn)* That's weird. *(leans forward to the TV)* Hmm... There are no changes

in this scene! *(jumps up and walks to the Genrenator while talking)* I'll just fix that! Hmm. Now what do we need to really stir this up!

Meggie: WHAT? No! Nothing more please!

Dan: That's it! I'll make it a good ole' fashioned Vegas wedding! *(types it in and hits enter)*
Spark 1 runs in and puts an Elvis wig on the Priest.

Priest: *(Elvis accent)* Now I ask you people: If anyone has any trouble in their heart about these two lil sweethearts getting hitched, I would ask you to please speak now.

Stepsisters and Stepmother rise suddenly.

Prince: *(turns to them, glaring)* Sit!

Priest: Thank you, thank you very much. Now to finish this shebang! Charms, you got the rings?

Prince: Yes Sir! *(points to guards then at Meggie then pulls a ring out of his pocket)*

Meggie: *(still trying to get attention of her father, gets grabbed)* Daddy!

Dan: *(Spits out his popcorn)*

Three yellow balls fly onstage from the audience.

Dan: Meggie?! How did you get in there!?

Meggie: It sucked us in when I was trying to get Susie out! Help! I don't want to be hitched by an Elvis!

Dan: One second, darling. I'll get you out of there! *(goes to the dashboard, types and hits enter. Bad sounds effect. Hits it again. Same sound effect. Hits it faster. Nothing)* Uh, bad news. It's doesn't seem to be responding anymore.

Priest: Do you, Prince Charming, take Cinderella as your wife?

Prince: I Do.

Meggie: Help!

Susie: Weeeeeee *(waving her arms, amazed by her own movements)*

Dan: Umm ... Umm ... Umm *(paces)* I've got it! *(picks up remote)* All right dear, *(speaking to the TV)* I think I've got it. This may get a bit hectic but just hold on!

Priest: Do you, Cinderella...

Prince: She does!

Priest: All right, I hereby pronounce you man and ...

Lights off. Sparks run in confused and move the priest and podium stage front. Then try to remove actors. Lights on.

Priest: Good evening there California, It's Ted here, bringing you the latest weather news! As you can see here we are going to have a spot of rain through the night...

Lights off. Actors Drop; Actors Rise.

Spark jumps to tap two guards. Then collapse.

Lights on. Sparks Screech

Guard 1: I'm sorry Beatrice! I just can't do it anymore (*overdramatic*) I know your history with... Jeff

Guard 2: No Steven! It isn't like that.

Lights off. Sparks 2 get another person. Lights on.

Sparks 2 freezes and falls down. Spark 3 taps the prince, mom and sisters.

Prince: Welcome to "WHAT'S THAT SMELL!" I'm your host Mr. Charm, now let's hear it for our three lovely contestants! (*cheering*)

Lights off.

Spark three puts hands up and gives up. Lies down.

Flashing lights and noises.

All actors fall down. Meggie and Susie left standing.

Dan: I think I did it, I fried the system!

Susie: Yeah, but what happens to us now?

Dan: (*stands straight*) I did not think that through.

Black out stage left.

Dan: MEGGIE NOOOO!

Silence.

Scene 6

Doll Susie flies in off right side.

Dan: No... Meggie... No. She's been transformed into a doll!

Meggie: No I haven't, I'm right here! (*Meggie comes out of generator*). Now could you stop crushing Susie, she doesn't like being manhandled like that!

Dan: Oh Meggie (*hugs her*) I was so scared you were hurt!

Meggie: Haha, no. That was actually pretty fun! Besides the marrying a prince thing.

Lori enters stage right (Back).

Lori: Dan, there's someone on the phone for you! I think it's one of those board members you spoke to earlier!

Dan: *(takes phone)* Yes?

Board Member: Hello, Mr Charmer?

Dan: Yes, that's me.

Board Member: Good, I'm glad I got in contact with you again. I'd like to apologize about earlier today. My co-workers can be a bit... excitable. Anyway, I was calling hoping you were still interested in making a deal with your machine? From what I saw earlier your machine sounds like nothing I've ever come across before, and I liked it!

Dan: Oh, thank you very much, sir!

Board Member: So? What do you say?

Dan: Of course! *(looks at daughter)* I may need to fix a few more bugs in the system before then but I'm definitely interested!

Sparks all groan on stage left.

Board Member: Perfect! Come in around eight on Monday and we can talk details!

Dan: I will sir! Thank you!

Board Member: *(laughs)* Alright Mr. Charmer. Have a good night now.

Dan: You too sir, goodbye! *(hangs up)* They want my machine! They reconsidered!

Susie: Thank heavens! *(speaking off stage right)*

All three look at doll in shock

Black out

Curtain Call. Organized by the Sparks.