

Northern Lights Academy
Rigolet

Bad Luck

By

Les Rigolettes

How exactly do students take their plays from the page to the stage? Rigolet's play, *Bad Luck* imagines what it was like to write, rehearse, and perform an original play. The play within the play (*Campfire Storytelling*) was created by Rigolet students in 2006 for the 31st Labrador Creative Arts Festival. *Bad Luck* also explores the journey of Harriet, who is desperate to go home to Labrador to be with her friends at the festival. However, things don't go according to plan for Harriet or her friends. Just imagine what could happen to the creative process with a little bit of bad luck.

The play within the play is "Campfire Storytelling" Rigolet's play from the 31st Labrador Creative Arts Festival (2006). Cast: Chelsea Shiwak, Emily Wolfrey, Dinah Wolfrey, Pam Campbell, Jennifer Michelin and Roxi Wolfrey. Teacher advisors: Gail Wolfrey and Marie Rich

ACT I

Scene 1

The students are sitting at their desks in their classroom.

DEVON

I'm so nervous.

SAMANTHA

I know, I am too.

HARLIE

Yeah, really though.

DEVON

I hope there is not too many big kids.

VINCENT

Nah, that don't matter. I hope there are girls.

NATHAN

I hope we write a good play this year.

HARLIE

Me too.

ALISON

Last year was wicked eh?

SAMATHA

Yes eh.

VINCENT

Remember the year Sherman Downey was a visiting artist?
He was awesome.

Vincent plays one of his songs on his iPhone and some of the students sing along while others play air guitar.

ALISON

Remember the clowns that came to our school?

HARLIE

Yeah, they taught us how to juggle.

SAMANTHA

Remember the contortionist?

(CONTINUED)

MR. JACQUE

Alright, perfect. Keep brainstorming and I'll see you tomorrow. Now get.

Scene 2

Harriet is sitting in her living room reading. Samantha is in her bedroom about to call Harriet on the phone.

Phone rings.

HARRIET

Hello?

SAMANTHA

Oh my God guess what?

HARRIET

What, what, what?

SAMANTHA

I made it to drama!

HARRIET

Wicked! I wish I was still there to make it.

SAMANTHA

I know eh. Wait, you know what? You should try and come here to see us on the stage. It's the big 40th celebration.

HARRIET

I wish I could but my parents will say no.

SAMANTHA

Just ask them.

HARRIET

They are just gonna say no.

SAMANTHA

You're never gonna know if you don't try.

HARRIET

Hold on, I'll ask my mom.

Yells to her mom. Mom enters.

MRS. POTTLE

What?

GRANDMA
Ello?

HARRIET
Hey grams, can you do me a favor?

GRANDMA
Anything for you my little crumb on the side of my plate.

HARRIET
Gram, I told you not to call me that.

GRANDMA
Sorry my sugar plum.

HARRIET
Can I have a loan?

GRANDMA
Why?

HARRIET
I want to come to Goose Bay and see my friends perform their play.

GRANDMA
Yes my honey duck, not a problem. I can send one of them what do you call it? Money computer things.

HARRIET
e-transfer.

GRANDMA
Yes, that. I'll send it out today my little turtle nose.

HARRIET
Thanks grandma. Don't tell mom or dad, thanks, loves you, bye.

GRANDMA
Bye pumpkin nut.

Scene 3

Students are back in the classroom. Nathan runs in waving paper.

NATHAN
I did it! I finished our script! It took me all night, but I did it.

ROCKY Be careful out there, wouldn't want Old Mother Buck Saw to get you.

MYRTLE

You don't believe in those super-natural ummm ph- ph .
. .

MR. JACQUE

Phenomena.

ROCKY Ananaga told me that Mother Buck Saw is real.

CIND Did you hear about the man who saw a creature coming out of the water that had big dangling eyes, a long forked tongue the length of your arms, and . . .

Y

MYRTLE

Oh for goodness sake, the man had chemically induced hallucinations that was the cause by.

ROCKY

Yeah he was on acid.

MR. JACQUE

Ursula runs back in, everyone jumps.

Music starts and we see the students at warp speed reading the rest of the play.

ALISON

It's pretty cool.

SAMANTHA

It's kind of short isn't it?

VINCENT

Better than nothing.

DEVON

I liked it. It had all of our ideas in it.

TEACHERS

I think it's great. I'll photocopy it and you guys can read it over tonight and we will cast it tomorrow.

SAMANTHA

Sorry sir, I'm trying.

MR. JACQUE

It's okay just keep going.

HARLIE

Did you hear about the man who saw a creature coming out of the water that had big dangling eyes, a long forked tongue the length of your arms, and . . .

*Enter monster wearing dangling eyeball glasses.
The monster trips and falls.*

ALISON

Watch your feet!

HARLIE

I can't see with these eyes.

MR. JACQUE

Are you okay?

HARLIE

I'm fine.

MR. JACQUE

Alright, lets keep going.

MYRTLE

Oh for goodness sake, the man had a chemically induced hallucinations that was the cause by.

ROCKY

Yeah he was on acid.

Ursula runs back in, everyone jumps

URSULA

Bear! Bear! Bear!

CINDY

Thank God, I'm so thirsty.

MR. JACQUE

Cheat Out.

ROCKY You wouldn't want to drink that unless you had a really big blender first.

ROCKY Would you just light the match already.

*All gather around to light the fire and have
wieners and marshmallows.*

NATHAN

Hey guys have you ever heard the story.

Vincent sits on the log prop and breaks it.

DEVON

I worked on that all day!

ALISON

Now we have to make it again. Ain't nobody got time for that!

MR. JACQUE

Don't worry about it now. Let's go back and take it from the thunder sounds.

Cue elephant sound.

SAMANTHA

Who's in charge of sounds?

VINCENT

Sorry my bad. I must have downloaded the wrong file.

MR. JACQUE

Okay, I think we need to stop for today. Why don't you guys go home and practice your lines and your cues and we will try this again tomorrow.

Scene 6

Harriet and Samantha are once again in their homes. Samantha calls Harriet.

Phone rings.

HARRIET

Hello?

SAMANTHA

Is Harriet there?

HARRIET

Speaking.

Calls Samantha. Phone rings.

SAMANTHA
Hello?

HARRIET
Guess what?

SAMANTHA
You're grounded till the snow melts?

HARRIET
No, I am in trouble though. Grandma sent the money to mom and she was mad, but I still get to go.

SAMANTHA
Huh? You're coming. Yes!!!

HARRIET
Coming home to the Big Land.

Scene 7

Students are at their tech rehearsal.

ALISON
I always forget how big this stage is.

SAMANTHA
And how many seats are in the audience.

DEVON
It's not that bad.

NATHAN
You won't see anyone when the stage lights are on.

MR. JACQUE
Alright guys, we only have two hours for our tech rehearsal. So let's make the best of it. Let's start from the top.

SAMANTHA
Wait Sir, Vin isn't here.

MR. JACQUE
You're joking right?

NATHAN
No, we really don't know where Vin is.

VINCENT

Sorry, I missed the bus. I got a ride with my aunt but she ran out of gas. So I walked the rest of the way.

SAMANTHA

Whoa, what happened? You're soaked!

VINCENT

I fell into a puddle. Can we just start the rehearsal now?

MR. JACQUE

Alright, umm Vin, why don't you go dry off. Okay, keep going.

URSULA

Oh let me. I love getting wood with the old man's beard on it.

Everyone else is getting ready for lunch.

ROCKY Be careful out there, wouldn't want Old Mother Buck Saw to get you.

MYRTLE

You don't believe in those super-natural ph - ph

ROCKY phenomena. Ananaga told me that Mother Buck Saw is real.

CINDY Did you hear about the man who saw a creature coming out of the water that had big dangling eyes, a long forked tongue the length of your arms, and . . .

MYRTLE

Oh for goodness sake, the man had chemically induced hallucinations that was the cause by . . .

ROCKY Yeah he was on acid.

Ursula runs back in, everyone jumps.

URSULA

Bear! Bear! Bear!

CINDY

Thank God, I'm so thirsty.

NATHAN

Ah guys, I need to go to the bathroom.

DEVON

Did your pants just rip?

NATHAN

No.

SAMANTHA

If they didn't then turn around.

NATHAN Mumbles an excuse

I knew it!

Students laugh. Nathan exits stage.

MR. JACQUE

Let's just keep going we only have 20 minutes left.
I'll read his lines.

URSULA

Hey guys have you ever heard the story . . .

Proceeds to tell the story. Others join in with their own stories. Nathan enters wearing pants that are extremely large on him. The students stop and look at him.

NATHAN

These are the only pants I could find.

DEVON

Hey, those are my pants.

MR. JACQUE

Just keep going.

Scene 8

Harriet is at the Halifax airport.

AIR CANADA WORKER

Would Harriet Pottle please come to the Air Canada ticket counter.

HARRIET

Is there something wrong?

AIR CANADA WORKER

It appears that we've overbooked your flight and at this time we can't guarantee you a seat.

AIR CANADA WORKER

Oh, you must mean my second cousin three times removed. people always think we are the same person.

HARRIET

Okay, ummm did my bag come off the plane because I didn't see it?

AIR CANADA WORKER

What's your name? What does your bag look like?

HARRIET

Harriet Pottle, my bag is black with different colored polka-dots.

AIR CANADA WORKER

Can you stay here, and I'll go see. It's not here, let me check to see if it's still in Halifax.

Checks computer.

Oh, your bag is in London.

HARRIET

London, Ontario?

AIR CANADA WORKER

London, England.

HARRIET

Seriously?!

AIR CANADA WORKER

Unfortunately, yes. We will get it on the next available flight and will contact you when we have it. Can I help you with anything else?

HARRIET

Oh no, you and your second cousin three times removed have helped enough.

AIR CANADA WORKER

Alright, have a nice day and we look forward to you flying with us again soon.

Harriet walks away and calls for a taxi.

HARRIET

Hi, can I get a taxi at the airport. 5 minutes, great.

One hour later. Harriet's phone rings.

Hello?

SAMANTHA

Yeah, I noticed that too.

ALISON

You're just imagining things. You're just nervous about tonight.

DEVON

Can't wait to perform tonight.

NATHAN

I hope it doesn't end up like the tech rehearsal.

HARRIET

You know what they say, a bad tech rehearsal means a great performance.

NATHAN

I hope you're right.

HARRIET

I'm always right.

MR. JACQUE

Alright, hurry up and finish eating the bus will be here soon.

Scene 10

Students are at the theater the night of their performance.

HARRIET

Break a leg tonight.

DEVON

Thanks.

NATHAN

See you after the show. We have to go get ready.

HARRIET

Yeah, I better go get my seat.

Harriet's stomach grumbles loudly. Students laugh.

SAMANTHA

You better go to the bathroom first.

HARRIET

Ha ha.

ROCKY Be careful out there, wouldn't want Old Mother Buck Saw to get you.

MYRTLE

You don't believe in those super-natural phenomena.

ROCKY Ananaga told me that Mother Buck Saw is real.

CINDY Did you hear about the man who saw a creature coming out of the water that had big dangling eyes, a long forked tongue the length of your arms, and . . .

Y

MYRTLE

Oh for goodness sake, the man had chemically induced hallucinations that was the cause by.

ROCKY Yeah he was on acid.

Ursula runs back in, everyone jumps. The student playing Pam gets sick. She holds her hand over her mouth and runs off stage. The remaining students look at one another.

MR. JACQUE

Stage whisper.
Keep going.

URSULA

Bear! Bear! Bear!

CINDY Thank God, I'm so thirsty.

ROCKY You wouldn't want to drink that unless you had a really big blender first.

Y

What's a blender.

CINDY

URSULA

Guys, I heard something in the woods.

ROCKY Don't be scared boys

Rocky hands out her slingshot.

Rocky goes into the woods and comes back with a stuffed teddy bear. Everyone is waiting anxiously for Rocky to return, on edge, and scared.

ROCKY Who lost this on the trail?

Everyone is silent

PAM Ah, ah, that's mine.

All laugh and point except Cindy who laughs after all is finished.

URSULA

Okay, okay, let's get this camp fire' goin'. Everyone is chatting. Myrtle delivers her next line a little fast.

MYRTLE

Yes, the head of the match is first dipped in a paraffin wax, hydro carbon, and then into a mixture of glue, coloring the fuel and a compound that in a source of oxygen. Is my favorite . . .

ROCKY Would you just light the match already.

All gather around to light the fire and have wieners and marshmallows.

URSULA

Hey guys have you ever heard the story. . .

The student playing Myrtle gets sick and exits. The remaining students look concerned and unsure of what to do.

MR. JACQUE

Stage whisper.

Keep going, the show must go on.

CINDY You know what's scary? One day I was watching a movie and it was really dark and I went to get a drink and just as I was opening it my nail broke and I had a date night with the hottest guy in school.

URSULA

So that's what happened. You told my brother that your plant of 15 years rooted and took off.

Oh dropped me, Ivy, and Stephanie off up here at
ye Snook's Cove for the night. This same exact spot. A
ah storm hit and and . . .

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t!

*Once again Pam gets sick and rushes off stage. The
students look at one another.*

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ALL I think we should go home now.

The students take a bow and Pam enters the stage. They sit on the edge of the stage. Harriet enters the auditorium and we hear the sound clip for "Mommy, it's all over!" The adjudicator walks to the stage.

ADJUDICATOR

Well, that was an interesting play.

The adjudicator passes out their festival buttons.
Are you all okay?

SAMANTHA

We had some bad luck from the drama gods.

DEVON

More like we had some bad chicken.

ADJUDICATOR

I see. Ummm can you guys tell me how you wrote your play?

NATHAN

I used a pencil.

ADJUDICATOR

How did you come up with the ideas for your play?

NATHAN

We brainstormed some ideas as a class then put them all together.

ADJUDICATOR

How long did it take to rehearse?

VINCNET

It felt like forever.

DEVON It took four weeks. We practiced every Tuesday and Thursday after school.

ADJUDICATOR

Alright, let's have a hand for Les Rigolettes.

The sick people run off stage.
Are you sure they are okay?