

“SPARKS WILL FLY”

Synopsis:

When six teenage students attempt to raise money to go on a school trip, it all looks like fun and games, until they realize the importance of hard work, school spirit, and most importantly, their friendship. But not before a few sparks fly! When one person feels in charge of it all, it can appear to be so stressful! But when that person is also taking all the fun out of being a kid, something must be done. Can their friendship stand the test?

CAST:

Ben Gear.....Samuel Jacque
Stephanie Gear.....Robyn Gear
Troy Tuglavina.....Andrew Tuglavina
Rachel Jacque.....Jenna Jacque
Luke Edmunds.....Cadell Edmunds
Logan Goudie.....Ethan Ford-Goudie

(Lights appear on Stephanie's bedroom; all three girls are sitting/lying around; low music in the background)

Stephanie: (Looking through a notebook frantically) "Where is it? Where is that list?! I know I wrote down some ideas in here somewhere for raising money for this trip!"

Troy: "Yes, I'm sure you did." (Turns to Rachel) "Because you're new here, I'll just let you know that Stephanie is the queen of raising money at our school."

Stephanie: (Looking pleased with herself) "Why, thank you!"

Troy: "You're welcome!" (Turning to Rachel) "That's why I always come over to her house. Steph isn't allowed at my house right now. My parents are scared of her... and broke."

Rachel: "Aren't your parents both lawyers?"

Troy: (Sighs) "Yes. One time, she threatened to sue my dad because he wouldn't cough up money for new jerseys for the sports meet, ranting something about children's rights. So he said she's not allowed back at our house until he looks into it to see whether or not she has a case."

Rachel: "That's harsh."

Troy: "She's nuts."

Stephanie: "I'm passionate!"

Troy: "Call it what you want, we're all going to get to go on this career trip because Stephanie's got brilliant ways of raising money. Plus, she's bossy, so people give her money just to get her to go away. It never fails."

Stephanie: "It's true. I'm that good. Now if we can just keep the number of students at 9, we should be okay. I'll go talk to the Principal tomorrow about not letting any more kids transfer into our grade until after the trip."

Rachel: (To Troy) "Can she do that?"

Troy: "She can try, but it won't make a difference. They let you in, didn't they?"

Rachel: "Yikes. I never really did much fund-raising at my old school. I guess I can learn."

Troy: (Motions to Stephanie, who is tearing up the room looking for her list) "Does it look like you'll have a choice?"

(Ben enters, holding a lighter)

Ben: (Flirty) "Hello ladies and gentleman! Anyone need a light?"

Stephanie: "Ben, you're not allowed in my room. Nobody in here smokes. And you're not allowed in my room."

Ben: (Looks at the mess) "You're not going to be allowed in your room either if you keep tearing it apart every time you get obsessed about something. Remember Dad said he's going to take the door off next time. (Looks around) So Stephanie's frantic, room's a mess, friends look terrified... Let me guess – fund-raising has begun."

Troy: "The kid knows what goes on around here, you gotta give him that."

(Ben sits down beside Troy)

Troy: "Hey little man, you got a new lighter? Very cool!"

Stephanie: (Picking up papers off the floor) "It's not cool. He's 12 and a pyromaniac."

Ben: "I'm not a pyromaniac. I just like fires, flames, heat from fires and flames, light from fires and flames. Starting fires, looking at fires, listening to fires. Fires in general, fireworks, fireflies..."

Stephanie: "That's what a pyromaniac is. Look it up."

Ben: "Big deal. Chicks love fires. Allow me to demonstrate." (Moves to sit beside Rachel) "Hey new kid, looking for someone special to light up your life?" (Puts his arm around her, exaggerated wink)

Stephanie: "MOM!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

Ben: "Gotta go!" (Runs out of room)

(End of scene)

(Lights appear on sign that says "Please Donate Your Recyclables"; kids are sorting empty bottles)

Logan: "It's Saturday morning... in the morning... and we're counting recyclables... in the morning. How did this happen?"

Luke: "You know Stephanie with her fund-raisers. All hands on deck. Besides that, the view isn't so bad." (Points to Rachel)

Stephanie: "Enough talking, we have a quota to reach!"

Logan: (To Rachel) "Hey new kid, it's a shame we're only going back to your old stomping grounds for this trip. None of us have ever been to Manitoba before, but since you just transferred from there, it's not going to be anything new or exciting for you."

Stephanie: "If you guys don't get busy, we'll be lucky if we can afford to go to Goose Bay, and I mean it!"

Troy: (Looking tired) "Maybe you should just sit this trip out, Rachel. You know, less bottles to count, more sleep."

Rachel: "I did consider that, but Stephanie kept saying 'All for one, and one for all!', and I was too freaked out to ask her what that meant, so I just started counting bottles. And anyway, it'll be nice to see some familiar places again."

Stephanie: "Sure it will! All for one, and one for all!"

Rachel: "What does that even mean?"

(Ben enters, pulling garbage bags of bottles behind him)

Logan: "I see she roped you into helping this morning."

Ben: "She's holding 3 of my favorite lighters hostage." (Stands beside Rachel)

Stephanie: "A 12-year-old shouldn't even have lighters. You're clearly unwell. But if I can use it to my advantage, believe me, I will."

Luke: "Yeah, what's the deal with you and those lighters anyway?"

Ben: "You never know when you're going to need to shed some light on the situation." (Flicks his lighter and winks at Rachel)

Stephanie: (Shakes her head) "It's like a disease."

Luke: "So how much money can we expect to raise doing this? We've got 2 tests this week and I don't know how many assignments, and unlike the rest of you, I actually have to study. So what else are we going to have to do this week?"

Troy: "You guys, if I don't get a decent mark on the science test, I won't even be allowed to go on the trip. My dad has been on my case about it since before the sports meet."

Stephanie: "Don't worry, I'll talk to him."

Troy: "Seriously. Stay away from my dad."

Stephanie: "Your dad loves me."

Troy: "Do you know what a restraining order is?"

Ben: "I do." (Smiles at Rachel)

Rachel: (Sarcastically) "I'm shocked."

Logan: "Alright, I think we're done here."

Ben: (Still smiling at Rachel) "Speak for yourself."

Stephanie: "Less talk, more work!"

(End of scene)

(Lights appear on sign that reads "Welcome to Pizza & Movie Night"; girls making pizzas; sounds of a movie playing in the background)

Rachel: "It was really nice of Mrs. Sheppard to let us use the school for our pizza and movie night."

Stephanie: (Looking shifty) "It sure was!"

Troy: "Ugh, did you even ask her this time?"

Rachel: "This time?"

Troy: "This is like the ice cream fiasco all over again."

Stephanie: "You break one ice cream machine and you're branded for life. Don't worry about Mrs. Sheppard, we'll get the boys to deliver her a free pizza, it'll be fine."

(Ben enters, reading a very large book called "Pyrotechnics For Dummies")

Ben: "It's getting pretty wild in there. The movie is boring and four kids spilled their juice all over the floor."

Stephanie: "You're supposed to be watching them! Entertain them! Read them something out of your dumb book and I'll find a new movie."

Ben: "I'm not going back out there, the floor is all sticky."

Troy: (Grabs a mop and goes offstage) "I'm on it."

(Ben follows Troy offstage)

Rachel: "Where are their parents?"

Stephanie: "No parents! We charge an extra \$5 per child to watch the kids. I'll go change the movie."
(Runs offstage)

(Troy enters)

Troy: "She seems stressed, even for her."

Rachel: "There's like 30 little kids in there. All with no parents. We're not equipped to deal with this."

(Yelling can be heard in the background)

Troy: "Yeah. It does seem to be getting out of hand."

Rachel: "Why is she like this? She's taking all the fun out of this trip and we're not even gone yet. I have a lot of catching up to do since I transferred here, and we're out raising money every night of the week. It's exhausting."

Troy: "It'll calm down soon. We must be almost near our goal by now."

(Ben enters, face covered in pizza)

Ben: "Do not go in there."

(End of scene)

(Lights appear on Luke and Logan; cashbox in their hands, going door to door)

Logan: (Knocks on door, it opens; Logan has one-sided conversation at the door) "Hi there Mrs. Edmunds. Your cat sure looks festive." (Stands up, looks to Luke) "Old ladies love it when you compliment their cats." (Turns back to the door) "Yes, Mrs. Edmunds, my parents do know what a handsome young man I've become. Say, would you mind donating some money so that we can go to the career fair next month?" (Pause) "Uhuh, uhuh, uhuh. No ma'am. Uhuh, uhuh. Yes, Stephanie is in charge of the fund-raising, but—" (Door slams in his face)

Logan: (Shakes his head) "That's the third house to do that in the last hour. I think this town is just tired of giving money to one cause or another."

Luke: "You mean their tired of giving money to Stephanie. When I dropped off that pizza to Mrs. Sheppard the other night, she was maaaaaad. Stephanie didn't even ask her if we could use the school that night."

Logan: "Not good. Let's try another house before we go home for supper."

(The boys walk up to another door, knock and wait; door opens)

Logan: (Having a one-sided conversation at the door) "Hi there Mrs. Jacque. We're raising money to go on a career trip in Manitoba. We wonder if you might be able to donate a little something to the cause." (Pause) "Uhuh, uhuh, uhuh. No ma'am. Uhuh, uhuh." (Pause) "Yes, the pizza and movie night, that was us." (Pause) "Your little Henry got hurt?" (Pause) "You say someone stepped on his hand?" (Pause) "Rowdy? Yes ma'am, I suppose it was a little." (Pause) "Well, technically Stephanie was in charge that night, but—" (Door slams in his face)

Luke: "This is getting out of hand. Nobody wants to give us any money for our trip when they hear Stephanie is involved."

Logan: "Well, can you blame them? You've seen how she get sometimes. She's putting everybody off and we can't raise money like this. This trip is going nowhere fast! Something has got to be done."

(End of scene)

(Lights appear on Troy and Rachel setting up for the bake sale; sign reads "Bake Sale")

(Ben enters dressed as a large cupcake)

Ben: (Flirty) "Well hello lady and gent!"

(Troy & Rachel look at each other disgusted)

Ben: "Okay, so that doesn't work when you're dressed as a giant cupcake. Noted."

Rachel: "Hey Ben, why are you dressed as a giant cupcake?"

Ben: "Isn't it obvious?"

Rachel: "Not to me."

Troy: "Is Stephanie hanging on to your lighters until this is all over?"

Ben: "No. She caught me ordering fireworks online with my mom's credit card, and she said she wouldn't tell anyone if I dressed up as a cupcake to attract attention for the bake sale."

Rachel: "Wow."

Ben: "It's not all bad, I guess. Stephanie did tell me that girls love cupcakes." (Exaggerated wink; walks offstage)

Rachel: "This is getting to be too much. Poor Ben. I don't even want to go on the trip if it's going to be like this. I'll gladly stay behind so you guys don't have to raise so much money."

Troy: "I don't know how well that will go over with Stephanie."

Rachel: "I don't care. Somebody has to stand up to her. She's ruining it for everyone. Did you know that the boys had a terrible time going door to door the other day? They were out for four hours and they barely raised any money. Luke is spending all his time fund raising and he can't afford to get any bad grades before we go, or he is going to be grounded."

Troy: "I know the feeling. My dad has me so stressed out about these tests coming up. And I tried to ask her what's so important about this trip, and she just changed the subject back to recyclables."

Rachel: "It's like she can't see what's important because she's got her sights set on the trip and nothing else matters. She keeps saying it's educational, but who cares about a trip if we all get bad grades leading up to it? And she's going to lose all her friends in the process. Somebody has to talk to her."

Troy: (Sighs) "I know. And should probably be me. I'm her best friend."

(Ben enters, still dressed as a cupcake)

Ben: (Clears his throat) "I couldn't help but overhear all that, especially since I was right over there listening. I asked her the same question – about why it was so important to her. She just got mad and kicked me out of her room again. I think we should all talk to her – intervention style."

Rachel: "How do you know what an intervention is?"

Troy: "Isn't an intervention something you do for people who do drugs?"

Ben: "It doesn't have to be. Anyone can do an intervention for any reason. It's just a loving way to show someone that you care, and that they should knock off whatever bad behaviour they're doing before it drives all their friends away."

Rachel: "Wow, he's smart."

Ben: "I can almost feel the spark between us."

Troy: "We'll let you know when we decide to do the intervention. Don't wear that costume."

(They walk off)

(End of scene)

(Lights appear on Luke, Logan, Ben, Rachel and Troy sitting in a semi-circle)

Logan: "I don't know what we're doing here. It's our one night off from fund raising, and we have our science test tomorrow. We should be studying."

Rachel: "If we don't take care of this tonight, we'll be fund raising for the rest of the week."

Logan: "For the rest of our lives."

Luke: "I don't know if this is going to work. I know we're all supposed to say something, but I don't know what to say that will make a difference. Plus, I'm a little bit scared of Stephanie, and she knows it."

Troy: "Well, it was Ben's idea and we're all tired of this, so it's worth a try." (Turns to Ben) "Ben, maybe you should start. What are you planning to say?"

Ben: "Remember guys, we want to let Stephanie know that we care about her and support her, but she's driving us crazy and we want it to stop. So I thought I'd start with a song." (Smiles broadly)

Logan: "A song? What song?! This is ridiculous!"

Troy: "Now, now. A song is fine. Whatever gets this thing off the ground."

Luke: "I want to go last."

Logan: "I want to go home."

Rachel: "You guys, I think it's less complicated than we're making it. It doesn't have to be fancy. We just tell her the fund raising has been too much lately. We need to pull it back and calm it down. There must be a nicer, less stressful way of raising the money we need before next month."

Troy: "Right, it's that simple. And maybe try to get to the bottom of why this is freaking her out so much. I've never seen her like this. Okay, here she comes."

(Stephanie enters)

Stephanie: "Hey guys, what are you all doing here? The meeting for the talent show isn't until tomorrow."

Logan: "Talent show?!"

Stephanie: "Yeah, I just thought of it. It's a great way to raise money. Plus, it's entertaining and the winner can go home with a little prize. I'll clear it with Mrs. Sheppard tomorrow. Do we have any leftovers from the bake sale? I think she's still mad."

Luke: "That's it, I can't do this anymore. Stephanie, we're all here tonight to let you know that we are done with the fund raising. It's cutting way too much into our study time, and it's just a trip. We have more important things to worry about right now."

Stephanie: "But it's educational. It's touring universities and visiting career fairs. It's about expanding our horizons, illuminating our minds to all the possibilities for the future."

Logan: "I already know what I want to do after high school, and I have two universities in mind that are much closer to home, and I've already visited them with my parents."

Stephanie: "Okay, that's fine for you, but what about the rest of us? I study day in and day out, and I haven't got a clue where I'm going to go to university and I can't decide what I'm going to do with my life after high school. I need this trip."

Troy: "We all need this trip, Steph, even if it's just for the experience. But since we started fund raising, we've barely had time to hit the books, and if we don't pass all our courses and graduate, what good is a trip to tour universities? We have to get there first."

Stephanie: "So we'll make sure everyone has a night off here and there to study. No big deal, we'll still do our events and get all the money we need by next month."

Rachel: "It's not just that. We have been having a hard time even getting anyone to donate to us, because of how intense you can be sometimes."

Logan: "People don't let us get near them when they know it has something to do with you."

Luke: "You're just making everybody crazy. We're all going to fail our mid terms, we might as well just accept that now."

Rachel: "It just makes us look stupid – going on a university trip and failing our mid term exams."

Logan: "It's just got to stop. I don't even care if we go anymore."

Troy: "And you made Ben dress up as a giant cupcake by threatening to tell your parents on him. That's not cool."

Stephanie: "So it's all my fault. I'm the only one who wants to go on this trip apparently, and because I'm the only one who's prepared to work hard to make it happen, I'm the bad guy. Well, thank you very much! I can do this without you guys, you're just a bunch of slackers anyway." (Storms offstage)

(Everyone looks at each other; Lights dim)

(End of scene)

(Lights appear on Troy and Rachel by their lockers at school; holding books)

Troy: "It's been three days since I've talked to Stephanie. We've been best friends since before we could talk. This is killing me. And did you hear what she said about not knowing what to do with her life after high school? That's got to be what's driving this insanity."

Rachel: "Poor Steph. She looks so tired too. I know she's still fund raising on her own. I think she's burning the candle at both ends. She doesn't look like she gets much sleep."

Troy: "I feel terrible. I think we could have handled things way better than we did."

(Luke enters) "Hey, are you guys talking about Stephanie? She looks worn out. I feel bad about the other night. Do you think we should try to talk to her again?"

Troy: "I don't know if she'd go for it. I think we pretty much blew it last time."

Luke: "Logan was over at her house last night, she wouldn't even come to the door. Her mom told him she was studying, but he knew she was preparing for the talent show, so he wanted to help, but it didn't work."

Rachel: "I know the point of all this was to get her to open her eyes to the way she's been acting lately, but she works really hard at this school. Maybe we need to show her how much we appreciate all her efforts."

Luke: "She does work hard."

Troy: "Okay, let's try this again."

(End of scene)

(Lights appear with Ben, Logan, Luke, Rachel and Troy sitting in a semi-circle)

(Stephanie enters)

Stephanie: "What are you guys doing in here? I thought my mom told you I was out."

Logan: "Clearly you're not."

Stephanie: "Well, I'm busy. I have lots of work to do and no time to talk."

Luke: "If we told you how much we appreciate all your hard work, would you make time to talk to us?"

Stephanie: "That's not how I remember it. I remember you saying how hard I was to get along with and how nobody wants to help us because of me."

Rachel: "That's true, because we came at it all the wrong way. We should have started by telling you that we recognize that nobody works as hard as you do to get things done."

Troy: "Your work ethic is amazing."

Logan: "I've never seen anyone so focused and driven as you are. You'll do great things no matter where you go after high school or what you end up doing."

Stephanie: "That's just it. I don't know where I'm going or what I'm doing. And I'm scared to slow down and realize that. As long as I'm going and running and working at something, I'm okay. But when I sit down to think about the future, I'm just lost."

Rachel: "I think we can all understand where you're coming from. It's scary for all of us, even those of us who think we have it all figured out. Nothing ever goes exactly as you plan it."

Troy: "We're sorry for attacking you the other night. We care about you and we want to be supportive of you if we can. I'm sure we can all remember a time when you pushed hard to get something for the school that was important to us, and we can push hard to make this trip happen for you."

Stephanie: "I know I've been crazy. I know I have put people off and I have a lot of apologies to make. I'm sorry for the way I've been acting. This trip is important to me, but so are you guys, and I don't want to push you away by acting crazy. Please forgive me and let's figure this out on a less insane level."

Luke: "I think that sounds very sensible."

Ben: (Bursts out in tears and song) "Youuuuuuu light up my life..."

Rachel: "Wow."

Logan: "Let's pick a movie to watch and get some chips."

Ben: "Oh! Something with fire in it."

All but Ben: "No!"

(End of scene)

(Lights appear on an empty stage; Ben enters dressed as a Magician)

Ben: (Looks around, speaks to audience) "Hey, I'm not late for the talent show am I?" (Pauses) "Where is everybody?"

(Lights dim)

(End of play)