

Creative Arts 2023

Title: "Beneath the Surface"

John - The Mayor - Noah
Bailey - Environmental Scientist - Jasmine
Tommy - Local Business Owner - Danielle
Abigail- Youth - Sarah
Mike - Geologist - Noah
Lucy - Concerned Parent- Autumn
Kid1 - Jasmine
Kid2- Ali
Senior1- Ali
Senior2- Danielle
Shopping Person 1- Jasmine
Shopping Person 2- Ali
Mel Geogolist - Ali

Scene 1

Community notified about plans of a mine starting

Stage split into three different sections? Store, home on Facebook, and Office with Phone call?

At Store people looking at poster Local business owner and two older widows

Tommy: Hmm, a new mine starting? Well as long as it doesn't touch my business I think it's fine. Maybe it'll bring more customers?

Shopping Person: What did you say? A mine? Bahahaha that will never happen here. People too crooked here let a good thing like that happen.

Shopping Person 2: What are you saying maid, I am sure they will be all for it. Lots of jobs for the people. Just imagine how many new people could come to town. I hear all them big shot engineers are good looking too.

Shopping Person : Good looking, listen to ya. The most they'll come in is to tear up scattered marriages and the land. They won't be looking for no old widows like us.

Tommy: Now ladies don't get too excited. But if it brings more business, it will bring more money and I may actually be able to retire before I am 6 feet under.

At home scrolling through Facebook

Lucy: A new mine is starting! Wouldn't all the equipment burn a lot of fuel and ruin the air quality around town? That won't be healthy for not only my kids, but the nearby wildlife! This can

not happen. I will not let it happen. I must make the calls, plan the protest, make the signs. We can't let this happen. Who can I call? Who can I reach out to? It is time to put our foot down and stop this madness.

Abigail : My gosh mom why are you bawling about? healthcare? You're acting like a Karen and what are you saying about a mine!!?

Lucy: Abigail I got to call the MHA I will tell you later okay!

** Telephone rings Bailey is sitting around her kitchen table**

Mike: Hello...yup Oh wow... No, I never heard a thing about it..... What I know.... Emmmhmmmmmmmm..... Well I have lots of information I could share with others..... Of course I have a lot of opinions..... Oh yes ... yup..... I know we learned that at university. Yes definitely..... it would definitely have to be seriously looked into and the science could make the decision..... Yes I would love to help look into it..... I know and I think the people of the town would trust me.... Absolutely..... Yes.... let me know when the job ads go out..... I will surely be applying....

Scene 2

Phone rings * Bailey picks up.

Bailey: Hi, Bailey String from Envirosmart, how can I help you today?

Mike: Hi Bailey, my name is Mike Roach and I work for the department of mining and natural resources with the provincial government. I have been given the contract from the province to help with the consultations regarding the new mine in your community. I was wondering if you had a minute to chat. I am actually building a panel of people to ensure this project goes ahead on time and efficiently but also with the best interest of the town.

Bailey: Oh wow so the rumors I been hearing are true. We are looking at a new mining industry here.

Mike: Oh yes my dear, nothing but the truth. And you didn't hear this from me but I am telling you there are a lot of important people putting a lot of money into this mine. So the possibility for corners to be cut is real. However, that will be our job to ensure it is done correctly. And I am wondering if you are interested in joining my team. Everyone over there seems to think you'd be perfect for the job.

Bailey: Well I am just finishing up a major ongoing project, so this is the perfect time for another to come up. I am definitely interested in being a part of the panel and ensuring the people of this town are not taken advantage of. Sign me up.

Mike: Perfect thank you. There will be town consultations vis public meeting late next week. Can we meet on Monday to go over the file and prep for thise the public meeting.

Bailey: Not a problem anytime on Monday works for me.

Mike: Ok 9 am Monday it is. In the meantime I will have the information and file emailed in the next couple hours so you can have a proper look at the plans. Before our meeting.

Bailey : Ok thanks.... Great....see you then.... (Hangs up phone) and says...Awesome a weekend of reading files for me I guess.

Scene 3

Kids talking at the school

Abigail: Did you guys hear about the mine?

Kid1: What do you mean, where would they even put a mine? What would they mine here the ole gravel from the gravel pits?

Abigail: Well I think there is going to be a mine here I don't know.

Kids: Umm..... why who told you, I never saw anything shared on facebook.

Abigail: I overheard my mom freaking out about it last night. She's dead set against it. Me on the other hand I'm not so sure it's such a bad idea.

Kid2: What difference would it make to us anyway we are only kids sure, not even out of high school yet.

Abigail: So many new people come to town, so many new faces to look at and maybe a new love.

Kid1: Never thought about it that way. Suppose that could be a good thing.

Abigail: The kids here are boring. I need a little extra spice in my life.

Kid2 : My nerves. But you know what? My dad has to go all the time for work. Maybe he'd get a job here and wouldn't have to go anymore. That would be great.

Abigail: See you get your dad and I might get a man. It's the perfect solution.

Scene 4.

2 seniors sitting down playing crazy 8s

Senior 1 : My goodness Hazel. Did you hear the talks of a new mine starting up? I don't know what to think about that.

Senior 2: yes girl I did. It's crazy, I think. Everyone just needs too much money to live these days. See em all going on their trips, riding their bikes, we didn't need big mines. We got our bit of fish, and bought the groceries for the winter. Loved our simple lives. No big corporations came in here taking our town over. Change it to spades.

Senior 1:*Glares* Yes but if I had my time back I would've went and got a college degree or something, maybe married one of them men who works in the mines. I would love to have a bike these days to get berry picking and tha. Poor ole Henry can't even take me out in' boat' no' more and he's not gettin' much for his old age. Last card.

Senior 2: I know Joyce maid but what if the ole chemicals from the mine contaminates the berries and then what do we do? And the partridges too! Don't want them getting around with three heads or god knows what else! Miss your turn.

Senior 1: Well I guess we'll just take it as it comes, not like they're going to listen to us old ladies, my protestin' days are over.

Senior 2: I s'pose maid.

Scene 5

Lucy and Tom talking at Tom's store

Putting things in bags

Tom: What do you think, do ya think the mine is going to go ahead?

Lucy: I sure hope not I can't imagine why they would even think of putting something like that in our peaceful little town

Tom: What do you mean it could bring on so much business, and boost our economy. Why wouldn't they build a mine in our little community?

Lucy: Um the chemicals. The water would be so polluted you'd probably be catching fish with spots or something. Our freshwater reserves would be impacted by the acid rain, our waters on boil advisory now it would have to be on incinerate advisory after that.

Tom: Acid rain? Yeah okay what about an asteroid

Scene 6

Town meeting an individual from each group talks about perspectives

The Public Meeting

(All characters are present at the community center. The meeting is chaired by John, the mayor.)

John : (Addressing the audience) Ladies and gentlemen, I know many of you have concerns regarding the new mine project. Thank you for coming to discuss this issue. We all have different perspectives to consider, so respectfully let's hear from each side.

Lucy: (Passionately) This mine will destroy our environment! Think of the atmosphere! The animals! We can't let corporate interests harm our beautiful town!

Tom: (Defensively) Lucy, this mine will create jobs and stimulate the local economy. We need it! My business needs it! I'm not getting any younger and I need a boost to retire.

Lucy: (Thoughtfully) We must think about our kids. How will it affect their health and well-being? Our quiet little town will be full of strangers, I wouldn't feel comfortable letting my kids out free with that many people and big trucks around.

Tom: I have children too! And I know that this mine can open up so many more jobs for them. Besides, the trucks won't even have to drive through town to get there. There will be a future for our kids in this town with this new project.

Mel: (Scientifically) I'm a geologist. I am here representing the PCD Geotek. You guys will be working with Mike but he couldn't make it tonight, so I am here instead. This mine could provide valuable geological and economic resources. Let's assess the environmental impact carefully. I think this could be beneficial for the resources in our province and your town.

Lucy: (Worried) I'm concerned about safety. What if an accident happens at the mine? Just imagine someone gets crushed by a rock? Or even worse, what if two people get crushed by a rock!

Bailey: I am with Mel on this one. We are both hired to be a part of the assessment team. I assure you I will do my dudelance with the assessment for this project. It will only go ahead if it is the right thing for the environment and our town.

Group Discussions

(Characters break into smaller groups to discuss their concerns.)

John tries to mediate between the groups, encouraging dialogue.

John: I know that everyone has different opinions on whether or not this mine should open. But we have to come up with some sort of agreement before this meeting is over!

Tom: Think of all the jobs. Maybe we will see new families move here to work? That could increase the school population and maybe we could finally get our kids off CDLI

Lucy: Do we really want a bigger school population? Class size matters. I don't want my child in a classroom with 30 other students! Besides, you see what the air is like when there are fires?

Mel: If the mine goes ahead, with the proper environmental regulations, we could see a lot of income entering this town! This mine could be a sustainable source of income for many years if we follow the right regulations.

Lucy: There is no doubt in my mind that the money would be good for us but would it all be worth it? What could we lose?

John: Very true, there may be some obstacles we face along the way that can challenge the well-being of our community.

Tom: I'm sure there may be some obstacles, but that is the case with everything, sure my business almost went in the hole a few times. As long as we work together to ensure everything is done correctly I'm sure it can work out just fine.

Scene 7 - The Resolution

(The characters come back together to share their conclusions.)

John: (Addressing the audience) We've heard many different perspectives and opinions tonight. We need to make a decision as a town, the mining company needs an answer tonight.

Bailey: (Reflectively) What if we consider a compromise, where the mine goes ahead, but with strict environmental regulations?

Tom: (Agrees) That way, we can protect both our town and our economy.

Lucy: (Nods) You know what, maybe it's important to invest in education and safety measures for our children.

Mel: (Supports) I mean I'm a geologist and so is Mike and he is someone concerned for the town I can ensure the mining is done responsibly.

Lucy: (Relieved) With regular safety inspections, I'm willing to consider it.

John: (Concludes) It seems we've reached a consensus. Let's work together as a community to ensure this mine goes ahead efficiently, safely and of course providing the most benefit to our community.

(Curtain falls)