

CLASS ACT

"Pilot"

by

Natalie N. Brunelle

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20 Kingfisher Cres.

Tiny ON, CA

705.734.5499

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FADE IN:

INT. MCCRAKEN HOME - NIGHT

Faculty staff from Nantho Lake High gather to celebrate Mr. Henry's retirement. 70s theme party and everyone is costumed in disco or 70s porn star attire. Lyle McCracken, music teacher and host plays DJ as he smokes a big cigar. It's a rowdy bunch. Madame Margot St-Denis and Mr. Henry simultaneously crack a beer and have a chugging contest. Other staff cheer them on. Mme Margot St-Denis finishes her beer within a few gulps. Melanie, Annabelle, Jen, Leo and Pat who are student teachers, watch from afar, sitting at the kitchen table.

MELANIE

Is she always this classy?

ANNABELLE

Wait until she opens her mouth.

Margo belches like a trucker.

JEN

Very distinguished.

Margo quickly reaches into her bras to grab a king size cigarette and a Bic lighter. She lights her cigarette, and takes a puff.

MARGOT

(French Canadian accent) Friggin' right! That's the good shit!

MELANIE

She makes the caf lady look posh.

Olga the caf lady pours herself a glass of red wine from a box. She takes a sip, pauses and then chugs the rest. She pulls out a pocket knife, pokes a hole in the box, adds a straw and proceeds to gulping it without taking a breathe.

LEO

I thought teachers were supposed to be role models.

PAT

I think they're allowed to let loose sometimes.

LEO

Mr. Henry was my math teacher. I didn't know he knew how to have fun.

MELANIE

Mr. Henry deserves it. 40 years is a long time. Both my parents are counting down their days. Makes me think I might want to reevaluate this teaching gig.

Conrad Bean and Richard Brown are playing a game of Beer Pong. Conrad cheers as he scores a point. Margot and Olga are standing on the sidelines, drink in hand, encouraging Richard to chug his beer. Lyle is disco dancing in the background.

ANNABELLE

Well I'm not going to be THAT teacher. I'm going to be respected and behave myself to be a model for the younger generation

A ping pong ball knocks her in the head.

ANNABELLE (CONT'D)

Ouch...

PAT

Younger generation; you do realize that some of these kids are only a few years younger than you, right?

RICHARD

(yelling) Hey rookies! Get your ass on the dance floor and celebrate your last night of freedom.

MELANIE

(under her breathe) That's promising.

ANNABELLE

(yelling) No thanks. It's a school night.

PAT

(to Annabelle) Maybe you should let loose a bit. It might help you relax.

ANNABELLE

I'm not going to sabotage my final evaluation for a cheap glass of wine. I worked way too hard to get this far. The last month in Mme Margot's class definitely tested my patience.

FLASH CUT TO:

Annaelle is teaching French in Margot's class. Students can't understand simple words in French. Margo is observing and listening nearby and makes random comments in French about her students being incompetent. She pulls out a pack of Popeye cigarettes and pretends to smoke.

FLASH CUT BACK:

INT. MCCRAKEN HOME- NIGHT

JEN

Are you guys ready for tomorrow?

PAT

I was born ready.

LEO

How can we be ready when Professor Green is the one doing our final evaluation?

MELANIE

She's so far removed. Pretty sure she's been out of the classroom for as long as Mr. Henry's been teaching.

Mr. Henry is chowing down on chips at the snack table nearby and starts to listen to the rookie conversation when Melanie drops his name.

JEN

Yeah. I think I saw her picture in one of my history textbooks.

LEO

I'm nervous. I feel that if I don't refer to all the theories of learning in my lesson plan that she'll crush me to the ground. She scares me.

MR. HENRY  
(to Leo) Pussy.

LEO  
Pardon me?

MR. HENRY  
You heard me. You need to grow some balls son.

LEO  
(stutters) Ok...

MR. HENRY  
In fact, given the freedom to write any comment on your report card, it would have been "Fucking awesome at algebra but needs to grow some balls to stand up for himself" (laughs hysterically).

FLASH CUT TO:

Young Leo in Mr. Henry's class, answering an algebra question.

LEO  
So,  $2 + x = 10$ .  
Subtract 2 from both sides to find  
 $x: x = 10 - 2$ .  
Therefore,  $x = 8$  apples were added.

NORM  
Nerd.

Norm throws an eraser from the back of the class and hits Leo in the back of the head. Leo does not defend himself.

FLASH CUT BACK:

INT. MCCRAKEN HOME- NIGHT

MELANIE  
Harsh.

MR. HENRY  
No it's the truth! And that goes for all of you too! Grow some balls or those kids will eat you alive. (Break. Bulging eyes. Laughs hysterically as he walks away).

JEN

I'm not too sure what to say about that.

LEO

(under his breathe) I got balls.

ANNABELLE

Well I don't have balls but I do have a winning lesson plan for tomorrow that is sure to impress Professor Green.

MR. HENRY (O.S.)

Lesson plan (laughs hysterically).

PAT

Speaking of lesson plans, do you mind if I borrow your template Annabelle? I gotta crunch that tonight before hitting the hay.

MELANIE

Nothing like working under pressure.

PAT

Everyone has their techniques.

JEN

(whispers in Pat's ear) Eat you alive.

LEO

Guys, I think we need to call this a night before it gets even more weird. Seeing my former teachers under the influence is freaking me right out.

MELANIE

Awww.. but I want to see who will win the dance-off.

Olga and Conrad are having a dance-off while Margot and Richard make champagne showers.

PAT

A dance-off in gym class; I can build that in my lesson plan right?

JEN

Come on lets go.

They make their way to exit the back door. Annabelle comes back to retrieve her sweater that she left on the back of a chair. As she reaches for it, Mr. Henry grabs her wrist.

MR. HENRY

Turn around and run. Turn around  
and run while you still can.

(Break. Bulging eyes.

Laughs  
hysterically).

Annabelle shakes off Mr. Henry's hand and rushes out the back door.

**MAIN TITLE "CLASS ACT"**

ACT 1

INT. SCHOOL- STAFF ROOM- DAY

Leo is pouring himself a cup of coffee. As he attempts to put the coffee pot back on the element, Richard Brown grabs it from his hand. He's a mess and obviously hungover from the night before. He fills his large cup, emptying the rest of the pot. Leo watches him as he's adding cream to his own cup.

LEO

Cream?

Richard shakes his head without saying a word. He chugs half his cup.

RICHARD

Better make another pot. This one's empty.

LEO

Sure.

Richard walks away dragging his feet. Leo joins Jen and Melanie who are sitting down chatting.

LEO (CONT'D)

I think it's going to be long day for the veterans.

RICHARD

Full moon last night kids! Better brace yourself... it gets weird around here (chugs the rest of his coffee) Wooo..

MELANIE

I wonder how long they partied last night?

FLASH CUT TO:

Olga and Margot are passed out on the couch in the McCraken living-room. Music still playing in the background. Mr. Henry is drawing on Olga's face with a sharpie marker, laughing hysterically.

FLASH CUT BACK:



INT. SCHOOL- STAFF ROOM- DAY

JEN

I bet Madame Margot is still  
praying to the porcelain gods as we  
speak.

Margot promptly enters the room full of energy with a box of  
fresh donuts in hand. Jen, Melanie and Leo are stunned.

MARGOT

Good morning mes petits choux!

Margot offers donuts to everyone.

MELANIE

Wow. French Canadiens can really  
hold their liquor.

LEO

Did she get her hair and makeup  
done before coming to work?

FLASH CUT TO:

Margot exits the mccraken bathroom. Pampered and fresh.

MARGOT

Ok mes amis! I'll see you at work!

Olga who is lying on the couch, raises her head upon hearing  
Margot's voice. Dazed, she lays back down. Mr. Henry is  
sleeping in the reclining chair. He raises his hand and gives  
margo a peace sign without opening his eyes. Other staff are  
sleeping on the floor.

FLASH CUT BACK:

INT. SCHOOL- STAFF ROOM- DAY

Annabelle in the other end of the room, practicing her  
teaching skills, rehearsing her lesson plan.

JEN

She looks like she's auditioning  
for a part in the school play.

MELANIE

She still hasn't figured out that  
teaching is improv. My parents  
taught me that a long time ago.

Margot walks by Annabelle. And offers her a donut. Annabelle refuses but Margot stuffs one in her mouth.

LEO

Has anyone seen Pat this morning?

MELANIE

He's probably still working out his lesson plan.

LEO

Maybe we should message him? He's cutting it kinda close.

JEN

On it. (grabs phone to send him a message)

Annabelle notices Mrs. Green parking her car. She nervously approaches the window to take a closer look. Mrs. Green sees her peeking through the window. Annabelle quickly turns away and joins the others.

ANNABELLE

She's here. Oh my god, Oh my god! I think I'm going to be sick. I need to pee. (frantic) I forgot to make photocopies!

Annabelle grabs another donut from Margot's box as she runs by the group.

MELANIE

Holy shit Annabelle. You need to chill.

PRINCIPAL JONES (O.S.)

(intercom) Good morning Nantho Lake High. Could Miss Jansen, Miss Holly, Miss Richardson, Mr. Denison and Mr. Fox please report to my office immediately.

Leo, Melanie and Jen make their way out of the staff room.

RICHARD

Oh oh.. newbies are in trouble... Whatever you do, don't tell him about our bender!

INT. SCHOOL MAIN OFFICE- DAY

The newbies enter the main office with precaution upon hearing Janice Frank, the school secretary- old school, stern, is speaking to a female student.

JANICE

... don't 'ya go rolling your eyes at me young lady. Keep it up and they'll stick in the back of your head. This is your third time this week and I ain't gonna take your attitude. Sit. Down. NOW.

Janice sits back at her desk without noticing the newbies.

JEN

I like her.

LEO

Mrs. Frank has always been the backbone of this school. Students avoid being sent to the office because she scares the shit out of them. She knows everyone in this town who passed through this school. She even knows their student numbers by heart. (to Janice) Hey Mrs. Frank!

JANICE

(typing at her computer) Good morning Leo!

LEO

What's my student number?

JANICE

10245.

MELANIE

Impressive.

LEO

Mr. Jones called us on the intercom.

JANICE

Yes, you guys go right ahead. He's in his office... avoiding confrontation.

The female student tries to get up and leave while they Mrs. Frank is occupied.

JANICE (CONT'D)  
(without looking at the young lady,  
loudly) Sit!

INT. PRINCIPAL JONES' OFFICE- DAY

Principal Jones is playing mini-put in the corner of his office. He fails to sink the ball and loses his patience. He proceeds to hitting the ball as hard as he can and it bounces off his bookshelf and skims by the newbies as they walk through the doorway. Annabelle, who is running behind the rest of the group with a pile of photocopies in her arms, gets hit in the head by the ball and falls down. Papers go flying everywhere. Jen and Melanie race over to help her out.

PRINCIPAL JONES  
(oblivious) Oh good! You're here.  
Come in, come in! I'm going to need  
all hands-on deck today...  
apparently there's a really bad  
stomach bug going around, and many  
faculty staff members have called  
in sick this morning.

MELANIE  
Oh it's a doozy alright.

PRINCIPAL JONES  
Sure seems like it. Anyway, I  
couldn't find anyone on such short  
notice to take over so many  
classes. So...you're it.

ANNABELLE  
But we can't do it Mr. Jones. We  
can't be it!

PRINCIPAL JONES  
Sure, you can young lady. Trust me...  
it's not that hard. All you need to  
do is follow the instructions left  
by the teacher in their supply prep  
sheet. Easy peasy... just like  
sinking this ball into the hole.  
(fully misses his shot)

LEO

No... what she means is that we can't do it because today is the final day of our practicum, and we're being evaluated by the college of education supervisor.

PRINCIPAL JONES

That's today?

JEN

Yup. Time to take centre stage and show Mrs. Green how we can execute a beautifully crafted lesson plan.  
(with some sarcasm)

Jones swings hard at the ball when he hears the name "Mrs. Green". The ball bounces off the wall and hits Annabelle once again who drops all her photocopies. Melanie and Jen help her up.

PRINCIPAL JONES

Green? As in, Ethel Green? From U of T?

LEO

The one and only. I didn't know you graduated from U of T?

PRINCIPAL JONES

She's still alive?

JEN

Barely.

PRINCIPAL JONES

Shit...ttake mushrooms! And she's coming here?

MELANIE

Yup. (break) You seem a little nervous Mr. Jones, are you OK?

PRINCIPAL JONES

I'm fine... just fine... (chugs the remaining coffee in his mug)

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL GYM- DAY

Jones in his younger years as a student teacher being evaluated by Mrs. Green.

She still looks the same- old, frail lady. He has absolutely no control over his students. She's sitting in the bleachers of the school gym, watching the chaos. Kids are throwing things around. She gets hit by a volleyball and falls over. Kids laugh and so does Jones who is very immature.

FLASH CUT BACK:

INT. JONES OFFICE- DAY

PRINCIPAL JONES

I just can't believe she's still kickin' (nervous laugh)

ANNABELLE

So you see Mr. Jones, we can't possibly take over classes today. Our final evaluation has strict guidelines and one of them is following our own crafted lesson plan.

PRINCIPAL JONES

Right... a lesson plan...(chuckles)

LEO

Annabelle is right. So... unless you can talk to Mrs. Green and convince her otherwise, you'll need to stick to the plan.

PRINCIPAL JONES

(skittish) I mean, I could talk to Mrs. Green or maybe it would be just as easy to just gather all the students in the gym and make it a movie day...

Pat interrupts as he walks in with Mrs. Green, supporting her as she walks slowly beside him.

PAT

Good morning up and coming teacher graduates. Look who I found wondering the parking lot.

Jen stares at Pat who looks a little rough and has some type of substance stuck to his forehead.

MRS.GREEN

I rang the bell a few times, but nobody was there to buzz me in. What is this world coming to?

(MORE)

MRS.GREEN (CONT'D)

A school is supposed to be the heart of the community, a welcoming place.

PRINCIPAL JONES

That's funny... Janice is usually very quick at buzzing people in. She musta taken a washroom break.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. GIRLS WASHROOM- DAY

Janice storms in the bathroom and catches a few girls vaping.

JANICE

Girls... When are you gonna learn? I have the nose of hound and I can smell those vapes from miles away. Now get goin'...

She sprays them like cats with a squirt bottle.

FLASH CUT BACK:

INT. PRINCIPAL JONES' OFFICE- DAY

MRS.GREEN

Luckily, this nice young man let me in. (stares at Jones of a few seconds). Mr. Jones... you look very familiar to me. Have we met before?

ANNABELLE

He was a student at the...

Jen purposely hits her pile of photocopies to stop her from talking.

JEN

Whoops... Sorry Annabelle! When I get nervous, my arm gets this nervous tic.

PRINCIPAL JONES

Uh... I'm sure I may resemble a lot of people you have met over the years. Some say I look a lot like a young George Clooney. Maybe that's it.

MRS.GREEN

George who?

PRINCIPAL JONES

Never mind. Mrs. Green, may I have  
a word with you please?

Throws a hint to the student teachers to vacate his office  
and shuts the door.

INT. MAIN OFFICE- DAY

Annabelle uncomfortable and obviously nervous, shies away  
from the group and sits beside the three young girls, still  
waiting patiently while being watched by Janice.

JEN

Where the hell where you Pat? You  
were supposed to be here 20 minutes  
ago.

LEO

Are you still wearing the same  
clothes as last night?

MELANIE

Up all night working on that lesson  
plan, eh?

PAT

Maybe... maybe not...

ANNABELLE

That's so irresponsible Pat.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. PAT'S APARTMENT- NIGHT

Pat trying to concentrate on his school work but constantly  
getting distracted.

Continuous:

- Throwing paper balls in his waste basket, and commentating  
as if it's a basketball game.
- Playing video games.
- Watching funny cat videos and falling out of his chair.
- Making peanut butter and jam toast while singing "Peanut  
Butter Jelly Time".

FLASH CUT BACK:



INT. SCHOOL MAIN OFFICE- DAY

PAT

I had my challenges but I managed to get'er done.

JEN

What the hell do you have on your forehead?

PAT

Huh? What? Where? Is it a spider?

MELANIE

Not unless it's dead... and the guts are all over your face!

Without shifting her eyes from her computer screen, Janice hands Melanie a tissue. Melanie wipes the substance off his face. Jen takes a closer look.

JEN

Shit Pat... is that Peanut Butter?

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. PAT'S APARTMENT- DAY

Pat sleeping with his head on the desk. Wakes up to the sound of his phone ringing. Piece of old toast stuck to his forehead from resting his head in his dirty plate.

PAT

(half asleep) Hello... Yeah I'm up... I'm just walking out the door now...

Toast falls from forehead onto his desk. Pat is oblivious. A chunk of PB remains on his forehead.

FLASH CUT BACK:

INT. MAIN OFFICE- DAY

PAT

Huh? Oh... yeah... I had me a late night PB and Jam (giggles)!

LEO

(panicked) Holy crap Pat!

JANICE

Language Leo.

LEO

Sorry (break). You better get rid of that tissue and make sure you clean yourself up real good Pat! Do you know what percentage of the Canadian Student population is allergic to peanut butter?

JANICE

Three percent.

LEO

That's right... And it this school alone there are 23 students...

JANICE

The 6 Clark kids...

JEN

6? That's a lot of kids! How is that even possible?

LEO

Yeah... 3 sets of twins. All boys.

MELANIE

Woah!

JANICE

...Joey Burk, Violet McDonald, Jermaine Ronny, Beth Gibbons, Cynthia Smith, Heather Boon, Bobby McCracken, Sylvie Love, Abby Moore, Liam VanBoldren, Bridget Blake, George Levy, Austin Abbot, Bev Windover, Greg Pierce, Channel Latour and Arnold Drake.

JEN

I can recite all the names of our former Prime Ministers but THAT is impressive.

JANICE

And still waiting for Jeremy True's test results. Should be in next week.

PAT

Alright... point taken. I'll go wash up.

MELANIE

Lets hope you didn't get that slop  
on your lesson plan.

PAT

Crap! I forgot my lesson plan...

Janice shows her disapproval in his potty mouth.

MELANIE

Winner.

ANNABELLE

What does it matter? We probably  
won't even need them anyway.

PAT

What do you mean?

LEO

We might have to fill in for all  
the teachers who called in sick  
today.

PAT

You mean all the hung over teachers  
that we're at that party last  
night?

Janice stops typing and looks up. Student giggles. Janice  
gives them a cold stare and they stop laughing. Janice  
resumes typing.

LEO

No there's a really bad stomach bug  
going around.

PAT

Oh... right...

JEN

Anyway, Principal Jones is probably  
trying to convince Mrs. Green to  
evaluate us otherwise.

ANNABELLE

This is bad... really bad...

Student looks at Annabelle and giggles. Annabelle slouches  
back into her chair.

JANICE

Mrs. Green... as in Ethel Green?

MELANIE

Yeah.

JANICE

She's still alive?

JEN

Yup.

JANICE

Well isn't that interesting..

LEO

What is?

JANICE

Well, you didn't hear it from me  
BUT, apparently, she conducted his  
final evaluation and the word on  
the street is that... (whispers to  
not be heard by students) he didn't  
pass.

FLASH CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL GYM- DAY

Principal Jones laughing alongside the students as Mrs. Green  
tries to get up from the floor.

MRS.GREEN

You will never see the inside of a  
classroom EVER again.

STUDENTS

Ohhhhhhhh....

FLASH CUT BACK:

INT. MAIN OFFICE- DAY

ANNABELLE

But how is that even possible?

JANICE

Well, that's a good question.  
Rumour has it that his mother was  
the superintendent of the Board at  
the time so she pulled a few... many  
strings.

ANNABELLE

That can't be true. That is so unlawful.

PAT

Sick.

JANICE

Again... you didn't hear that from me.

Principal Jones walks out of his office alongside Mrs. Green, while having an ongoing conversation.

PRINCIPAL JONES

He was in Ocean's 11... 12...13? He dated Renee Zellweger for a while...

MRS.GREEN

Renee who? You're wasting your time. I don't watch TV or big hot shot Hollywood movies. (break) There's nothing worse for your intellectual capacities than staring at a screen for hours at a time.

PRINCIPAL JONES

I agree. That's why I have a strict no movies in class policy.

ANNABELLE

But you said you were going to gather the students for a...

PRINCIPAL JONES

(interrupting) Well it seems that we have a solution for today's stomach flu breakout. Mrs. Green has agreed to let you take over random classes for your final evaluation.

ANNABELLE

But that goes against the rules!

MRS.GREEN

Oh honey, when it comes to teaching, nothing is set in stone. Let that be your first lesson.

ANNABELLE

But I worked so hard to create the perfect lesson plan and I spent so much time practicing my delivery.

MRS.GREEN

This isn't a school play young lady.

MELANIE

(whispers to Annabelle) Improv.

MRS.GREEN

I think this is the perfect opportunity to see you in real time action. Stepping into the unknown.

LEO

(worried) This should be fun.

PRINCIPAL JONES

And to add a little more spice, you'll be picking your classes randomly.

ANNABELLE

But I can't do random!

MELANIE

Are you sure you're in the right profession?

JEN

This is actually exciting and scary at the same time.

PAT

It's like reality TV.

MELANIE

(whispers to Annabelle and Leo who stand by her worried) Survivor...

PRINCIPAL JONES

Alrighty... Here we go. Pick your poison.

Principal Jones stands in front of them, fanning the assignment envelopes, like a deck of playing cards. They randomly grab envelopes, one by one.

MELANIE

Hey...to make it more exciting, lets all open them together!

LEO

How can you find this amusing?

ANNABELLE

I suddenly feel like I'm getting that flu.

MRS.GREEN

While you get organized, I'm going to get myself a cup of coffee. Where's the staff room?

PRINCIPAL JONES

Let me take you there.

MRS.GREEN

I think you have your hands full right now Principal Jones.(hints to the young girls still waiting by Janice's desk).

PRINCIPAL JONES

Right... (nervously) What is going on this morning? The waiting room is never this full...

JANICE

Uh huh...(without flinching, to Mrs. Green) If you walk down the hall, it's your second door to the right.

MRS.GREEN

Thank you.

Mrs. Green walks away. The newbies stand there staring at each other, envelopes in hand. They are just about to open them but Jen interferes.

JEN

Wait! Before we do this, can we all agree that there are no tradesies?

MELANIE

I agree. What you have in your hand is your challenge for the day.

ANNABELLE

I better not get the home-ec. I can barely boil an egg without screwing it up!

PAT

You probably just jinxed yourself  
Annabelle.

ANNABELLE

I don't believe in superstitions.

LEO

OK... lets do this before the first  
bell rings. One, two...

Sound of bell as they are ripping their envelopes open.

**END ACT 1**

**TO READ FULL SCRIPT PLEASE EMAIL**

**NATALIENBRUNELLE@GMAIL.COM**