

EXTRACT

GOOD CAB BAD CAB

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GOOD CAB BAD CAB
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NOTE ON THE SCRIPT

This is an unedited manuscript as provided to us by the playwright. We distribute it in good faith; however it may contain layout inconsistencies or typographic errors.

Simon and Nicole's parents are off to have dinner with friends. Rather than leave their fourteen year old daughter with a babysitter, they agree that she can go to a party with her brother as long as Simon keeps an eye on her. But when they get to the party, Simon goes off with his new girlfriend, Rachel and leaves Nicole alone. When she's offered a few drinks by some of the older kids, Nicole can't bring herself to say no and pretty soon she's off her face. By the time Simon finds her again, she's so drunk she can hardly stand. So Simon calls a cab and gives the driver money and their address and tells him to take her home.

A vulnerable teenage girl – alone and passed out on the back seat of a cab. How big a risk is she taking? How much can she trust the cab driver? And what happens if her mum and dad aren't home when they get there?

Good Cab Bad Cab is a play where we never see the central character, Nicole. We only know her story through the eyes of those who witnessed what happened at the party. It's a play about risk and choice and whether the decisions we make are good or bad. And, most of all, how we look after each other, especially when someone does something stupid.

Good Cab Bad Cab was developed as part of the Spinout Alcohol Awareness Programme for Arts Centre Melbourne and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The script was performed as part of a workshop based incursion touring Victoria secondary schools from 2009 to 2012.

The Spinout Programme was a finalist in the 2011 ArtsHub Awards



PROLOGUE:

The room is empty.

In one corner, three chairs are joined together, backs facing into the room.

One, Two and Three each cross the space.

To each other...

ALL: Skull, skull, skull, skull, skull, skull, skull, skull...

Whooaaahhhhhhhhh!!!!

Yeah!

To the audience...

ONE: I was so pissed...

TWO: I'd had a few...

ONE: Totally legless...

THREE: Totally wasted...

TWO: Totally smashed...

To each other...

ONE: It was new year's...

TWO: Sat'day night...

THREE: My grandma's funeral...

TWO: I didn't know what I was doing...

THREE: I was a bit upset...

ONE: I didn't know what I was saying...

THREE: I lost control...

TWO: It wasn't my fault...

THREE: It wasn't my fault...

ONE: It wasn't my fault...

They move out to the audience...

THREE: I'd been drinking...

TWO: I'm not normally like that...

ONE: It was the Bundy talking...

TWO: *I didn't mean it...*

ONE: *I shouldn't have said anything...*

THREE: *I can't believe I did that...*

TWO: *And then I spewed up...*

ONE: *Everywhere...*

TWO: *Over everything...*

THREE: *It was rank...*

TWO: *I felt so shit...*

ONE: *So embarrassing...*

THREE: *It was gonna be such a good night...*

ONE: *A write off...*

THREE: *I don't remember much after that...*

ONE: *I don't remember driving home...*

THREE: *I woke up at home...*

TWO: *Someone must've got me home...*

They turn back to each other...

ALL: *Idiot...*

Back to the audience...

TWO: *I'm always lucky like that...*

ONE: *The chances of getting caught are pretty high...*

TWO: *The next day...*

ONE: *That morning...*

TWO: *Sick as a dog...*

THREE: *The day after...*

ONE: *The biggest hangover...*

THREE: *Totally useless...*

ONE: *Never again...*

TWO: *Just another Sat'day night...*

Aside, to the audience...

ALL: These things happen, I guess...

They move back into the middle...

TWO: Not me...

ONE: Not me...

THREE: Not me...

TWO: I...

THREE: I...

ONE: I...

Turn to the audience...

ALL: You...

Four breaks into the scene...

Scene 1: THE BACK STORY:

FOUR: There was this party...

They make a freeze-image of the party... Three breaks it...

THREE: But that's not where it really starts...

They make a freeze-image of looking surprised... Three breaks it...

THREE: That afternoon, Simon and Tom play footy for the Under 19s...

They make a freeze-image of the footy match... Four breaks it...

FOUR: Rachel and Annie go to watch...

They make a freeze-image of watching the footy... Three breaks it...

THREE: Their team wins.

They make a freeze-image of the celebration... Two breaks it...

TWO: So the coach buys beers for all the players...

They make a freeze-image of all except Tom drinking... One breaks it...

ONE: Later, Rachel and Annie get ready for the party...

They make a freeze-image of the girls getting ready... One breaks it...

ONE: Simon sneaks a few swigs of his dad's whiskey...

They make a freeze-image of Simon drinking... Three breaks it...

THREE: A few kids turn up at Russell's place to help build a bonfire...

They make a freeze-image of Russell and the others building the bonfire... Four breaks it...

FOUR: Later that night, Simon's mum and dad go out to dinner.

They make a freeze-image of Mum and Dad at dinner... Four breaks it...

FOUR: Where dad gets really drunk...

They make a freeze-image of Dad getting drunk... Two breaks it...

TWO: Rachel, Annie, Simon and Nicole arrive at Russell's party...

They make a freeze-image of arriving at the party... One breaks it...

ONE: Which is where we pick up the story...

TWO: This performance tells a story that's based on something that really happened one Saturday night in a country town...

FOUR: It's a story about a fourteen year old girl called Nicole...

THREE: It's a story with a beginning, middle and end, but not always in that order.

ONE: Let's meet some of our characters. This is Simon, Nicole's older brother...

SIMON steps forward...

SIMON: I don't mind Nicole comin' to parties with me. She's cool, an' it keeps me sweet with mum and dad.

ONE: This is Rachel, Simon's new girlfriend...

RACHEL steps forward...

RACHEL: Don't get me wrong. Nicole's nice enough. But she got so wasted at this party.

ONE: This is Annie, Rachel's best friend...

Annie steps forward...

ANNIE: Simon's getting all agro at this Russell kid over something to do with Nicole

ONE: And this is the story...



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