

UNICORN GIRL

By Madelaine Nunn

Cast size and character information:

UNICORN GIRL AKA SAM
MUM
DAD
MACEY
JESS
LEE
KEVIN
TOM
PE TEACHER
OFFICE LADY 1
OFFICE LADY 2
ATTENDANT
ANNOUNCER
PHOTOGRAPHER
CASEY
SPENCER
PAT
GASSER
BLOCKA
WOODWORK TEACHER
BULLY
STUDENT 1
STUDENT 2
STUDENT 3
PRESS 1
PRESS 2
PRESS 3
CHILD
PASSERBY 1
PASSERBY 2
POET

You may change names and pronouns as needed.

The casting of this play should reflect the diversity of Australia.

THE PLAY

Samantha sits in the middle of the stage looking out at the audience. Her parents, who are very tall, stand on either side, facing her. She is absorbing an onslaught of reprimands.

MUM You used to be such a good girl/
DAD Always a delight/
MUM Never a problem/
DAD But now!
MUM Mr Higgins said/
DAD It will be written up.
MUM A formal warning.
DAD Did you hear that?
MUM A formal warning!
SAM I –
DAD My heart!
MUM Your dad's heart!
DAD It aches!
MUM I made a casserole for dinner tonight, but now we won't be having it.
DAD Straight in the bin!
MUM (Aside) Well, we can freeze it.
DAD Straight in the freezer!
MUM That will be your first punishment!
DAD Salad for dinner!
MUM Have we not loved you?
DAD Too much.
MUM Yes – Too much.
DAD After all we've done.
MUM If a friend jumps of a cliff-
DAD Will you jump off a cliff?

MUM How could you do this?

DAD To us!

MUM To the family!

DAD To that poor girl.

MUM We're not angry-

DAD We're disappointed-

MUM AND angry!

DAD And shocked and appalled and/

MUM We let you go on that marine biology trip.

DAD We let you have coco-pops on special occasions.

MUM We take you to the library.

DAD And for what?

MUM For this?

DAD Betrayed.

MUM Our trust: betrayed.

DAD Responsibility, responsibility, responsibility. Say it after me.

They all say it, MUM and DAD with conviction, SAM says it with less enthusiasm.

ALL Responsibility, responsibility, responsibility.

MUM Start on the wrong path you may never get back on the right one.

DAD The cool kids don't stay cool for long!

MUM Did I not birth you innocent!?

Suddenly MUM and DAD freeze, and there is a spotlight on SAM.

SAM If I could just explain myself... I think we can agree that this was all a big, huge, ginormous misunderstanding... I promise I'm a good person, really, I am... I was just at the wrong place at the wrong time...?

The scene with MUM and DAD disappears and SAM is shoved straight into maths. She sits at a desk at the front.

SAM It all started in my afternoon maths class. Just after Kevin Thompson sat on me/

As she says that KEVIN, holding a soccer ball, walks past and sits on her as if the chair was empty then leaps up, surprised that it's not.

KEVIN Oh sorry I didn't see you there.

SAM That's ok.

Snap back to the audience.

That's not the first time that's happened.

So, it all started in my afternoon maths class, Mr Atonini, was talking about *something*, long division maybe? I was distracted by the crumbs in his beard. He always has a turkey sandwich for lunch and crusty bread crumbs get caught in the curls just below his mouth.

I start writing that down for story group. Story group is where me and my best friends, Jess and Macey, write stories down and then read them out loud to one another, like real renaissance artists. Mr Antonini is my current muse.

With the enthusiasm of a tortured artist, in the vein of a Bronte sister.

SAM *"like white flies trapped in a black spider web-*

TOM Psst!

SAM *-The villain stroked his beard dangerously.*

TOM Hey.

SAM *- his acidic breath disarmingly pungent*

TOM Psst!

SAM *-the odour strong enough to kill -*

TOM Hey!

She snaps out of her writing.

SAM Sorry? Are you talking to me?

TOM Der.

SAM You know my name's Sam, don't you?

TOM Yeah, whatever.

SAM That's Tom. Tom's default expression is a semi smirk, like he's always thinking something dirty.

The rest of the conversation is very covert, like they are spies.

TOM Did you hear?

SAM What?

TOM So you haven't heard?

SAM I don't know.

TOM Can't believe you haven't heard.

SAM Haven't heard *what*?

TOM Everyone's heard.

SAM Maybe I *have* heard. What was I meant to/

TOM Well according to Bert, who heard it off Alice who was told by Liam in line at the vending machine, this afternoon, at the oval, there's going to be a fight.

SAM A fight?

TOM A fight.

SAM What kind of fight?

TOM A big fight.

SAM A big fight?

TOM Like a gladiator style fight, like go to the top of the hill to get the best view sort of fight, like bring your blazer to sit on and watch with some friends' sort of fight, like buy some chips and coke because you'll need snacks sort of fight. Everyone's going to be there.

SAM Really?

TOM Well anyone who's *anyone* is going to be there.

SAM's eyes light up. She repeats the phrase quieter to herself imagining the possibilities.

SAM *Anyone who's anyone?*

TOM Yep.

SAM Thanks so much for telling me.

TOM Yeah, well I was wondering if you could do my homework.

SAM What?
TOM I'm not going to have time to do it tonight.
SAM Oh.
TOM Because of the fight.
SAM Yeah, umm I don't know if it's a good/
TOM Oh c'mon. I can do your homework next time.
SAM Yeah and then I'd probably fail.
TOM What?
SAM Sorry, nothing.
TOM Please!
SAM Fine.
TOM Thanks. Oh, and you didn't hear about the fight from me.

TOM disappears from the scene.

JESS A fight?

The space transforms. Sam is now in the school yard with her two friends, JESS and MACEY.

SAM Every lunch time I sit with Jess and Macey under *Penis Tree*, not sure why it's called Penis Tree- it just is and it's the worst spot in school, right on top of an ants' nest.
MACEY We can't go!
SAM Why not?
JESS We'll get into trouble.
SAM Everyone's going. Well, anyone who is anyone is going to be there.
MACEY You don't even like violent movies.
SAM Yes I do. I love violent movies, especially when they... you know, when the blood and the guts and the blood gets on the people's faces and they hit each other and, and, and I like it, ok.
MACEY What about story group?
JESS Yeah, we were going to write stories about witches.
MACEY Double, double-

JESS -toil and trouble

MACEY Fire burn

JESS -and Cauldron/

SAM We'll do it tomorrow.

JESS I dunno...

MACEY I dunno either.

SAM What if I buy us snacks.

MACEY What kind of snacks?

SAM Whatever you want.

MACEY Chips? Mum never lets me have chips.

JESS If you get chips then I want chocolate, *milk* chocolate!

SAM Everyone in favour of the fight say, 'Aye'.

They all put their hands on their hearts.

ALL Aye!

SAM Done.

JESS So where are we going to sit?

SAM On the hill, under Boob Tree.

JESS Boob Tree? Erghh I hate Boob Tree, there are always so many spiders.

SAM It was the only tree left.

MACEY What about Poo Tree!?

SAM Taken.

JESS Deformed shrub!?

SAM Taken, all of them are already taken.

MACEY We always get the worst spots.

JESS We're always bottom of the barrel.

MACEY Last rung on the ladder-

SAM It won't be for long and who knows maybe after this we'll be invited to sit under other trees.