FLY GIRL

By

Brad McMillan

Adapted for a rehearsed reading at Metro Arts Theatre

Copyright 2004

PH: 0417 073 949
Note: The following scenes were adapted for the stage and served as a rough exploration of theme and character. They were performed at Metro Arts Theatre in 2004, as a rehearsed reading of work in development.

Performers:

Mathew Filkins as Pete
Dani Fischer as Auntie (Kaz) Karren
Katherine Marquet as Jules
Rene Simpson as Trude
James Stewart as Jim

INT. THE FAMILY HOME

Fade up.

TRUDE, mid-30s and worn down by life, sits alone in the kitchen, day dreaming as she smokes a cigarette. The house is a mess, littered with rubbish. Her attention shifts to a bassinet in the corner. She blows cigarette smoke in its direction.

JULES enters. She is around 16 and full of attitude.

TRUDE
Where’ve you been?

JULES
At work.

TRUDE
Oh yeah. How was it?

JULES
Same as always... shit.

Long pause. Trude looks at Jules.

TRUDE
Yeah.

They have nothing to say to each other and awkwardness hangs in the air.

JULES
I’m going to my room.

(CONTINUED)
Jules exits and re-enters upstage carrying a pregnancy test kit. She sits on the edge of her bed reading the box, then looks at the results on the test for comparison. She hides the test kit in her bag, careful to push it right down to the bottom.

Fade down.

There is a knock at the door.

Fade up.

TRUDE (CONT’D)
It’s open.

Knocking again.

TRUDE (CONT’D)
Its open!

Trude gets up and goes to the door.

TRUDE (CONT’D)
Oh - Kaz.

It is AUNTIE(KAZ)KARREN, Trude’s sister. She’s dressed like an estate agent and has the confidence to match.

KARREN
Hello Trude. Are you going to invite me in?

TRUDE
Of course, sorry - come in. What are you doing here?

KARREN
Was over this side of the tracks. Thought I’d drop in. How are you?

TRUDE
Yeah good. Really, really good. And yourself? Oh shouldn’t ask - you always do well.

KARREN
I am doing well - busy. I can’t stay for long.

Trude starts cleaning vigorously putting rubbish into a bin liner.

(CONTINUED)
TRUDE
Yeah - ’course you can’t. Got time for a cuppa though, right?

KARREN
Sure.

TRUDE
That your car out there?

KARREN
It’s a work car.

TRUDE
Yeah, right. So we don’t see you around these parts much anymore.

KARREN
Well, you know - busy. What about you... working?

TRUDE
Just in between right now. (Pause) Yeah, it’s been a while, eh?

Karren doesn’t respond.

TRUDE (CONT’D)
A year? Two maybe? You never got to meet little Jake.

KARREN
We were all really sorry. We sent a card.

Pause

TRUDE
I’ve got pictures.

Trude grabs a box of pictures and brings them to the table. She spreads the photographs over the kitchen table in front of Karren, then searches through them trying to find relevant ones.

TRUDE (CONT’D)
One day I’ll put these in an album. See this one was taken at the hospital straight after he was born. And this one was when we got him home. That’s his dad, David.
KARREN
And is he still...?

TRUDE
Not any more.

Trude walks to the bassinet and looks down into it.

TRUDE (CONT’D)
He was so beautiful.

Jules enters the room.

TRUDE (CONT’D)
Jules come and say hello to your Aunty Kaz.

KARREN
(correcting Trude)
Karren.

JULES
(abrupt)
What are you doing here?

TRUDE
Jules?

JULES
Hi Aunty Kaz.

TRUDE
So how’s David? Is he doin’ good at school still?

KARREN
It’s Daniel.

TRUDE
(Busy cleaning)
What?

KARREN
Daniel’s doing well. Straight As.

TRUDE
Oh you must be proud, eh? Jules is doin’ real well too. Not straight As though, but she’s doin’ alright. And how’s the house?

(CONTINUED)
KARREN
We moved... into a bigger one.

TRUDE
Yeah right. No place like home, right? Jules and me are doin’ really good. Jules is on a diet, aren’t ya Jules? Tell Aunty Kaz about ya diet, Jules. (Pause) Jules? Doctor says she needs to lose weight.

Silent pause as they wait for Jules to answer.

JULES
(Humiliated)
It’s the Atkins diet.

TRUDE
(with pride)
That’s the one all them stars are on. Right, Jules? But it’s not her fault. Doctor says its a... a... what is it, Jules? Umm ... a thyroid. Oh for Christ’s sake, Jules, stand up straight.

Jules is humiliated by her mother in front of Auntie Karren.

Trude continues to clean in an effort to "clean up her image".

JULES
I’m going out.

TRUDE
Where to? You just got home and your Aunty Kaz is here to see us.

KARREN
It’s all right, Trude.

JULES
She’s not here to see us. She’s just here to big note.

Jules starts to walk out.

TRUDE
Don’t be so bloody rude. Get back here.

Trude grabs Jules’ backpack and pulls her back. The bag rips open and the contents fall out.

(CONTINUED)
Jules and Trude both drop down and begin to pick things up. Jules rushes in to find the test kit but Trude finds it first. Jules tries to grab it out of her mother’s hands.

JULES
Give it to me.

TRUDE
What’s this? You pregnant, Jules?

JULES
I don’t know.

Trude makes eye contact with Karren.

TRUDE
(shamed)
You stupid little slut.

Trude slaps Jules.

JULES
Piss off.

TRUDE
You’re staying right here. Jules come back! One, two, three...

JULES
(with contempt)
What a fucking joke.

Jules exits.

Trude sits down at the kitchen table and looks at the test kit. Karren smiles comfortingly, but there is a smugness about it too.

KARREN
Was that a thyroid problem?

TRUDE
Oh fuck off.

Fade down.

INT. THE BOY’S FLAT

Fade up.
JIM and PETE, both rakish and in their late teens, are immersed in a console computer game on the TV. Jules enters and sits between them on a long three-seat sofa. Pete sits on the floor, leaning against the sofa.

JIM
Hey.

JIM
Hey.

JULES
What you playing?

JIM
What’s it look like?

Jules watches in silence for a while.

JULES
Don’t you ever get bored with this?

JIM
What? With you? Yeah.

JULES
No, with making those stupid characters run around in circles like that. It’s pointless.

JIM
Would you shut the fuck up. What did you come around for anyway?

JULES
I came around cause I needed to talk to you about something.

JIM
Can’t it wait?

JULES
No, it’s important.

JIM
Fuck you’re pissing me off.

He throws the controller down. Pete continues to play.

JIM (CONT’D)
What then?
JULES
It’s private.

JIM
Is it? Well don’t worry about him. He’s my boy. Isn’t that right, mate?

PETE
Yeah bro.

JIM
So come on, what did you wanna say?

JULES
Nothing. It can wait.

JIM
Bullshit it can. You just made me lose my game – now what was it?

JULES
Piss off.

JIM
Oh come on, don’t be like that, give us a kiss.

She is hesitant.

JIM (CONT’D)
Come on, don’t be shy.

She kisses him. But he wants more. He pulls her back for more. It is a vulgar kiss and she finds herself on her back.

JULES
Piss off.

JIM
What? No come on, just give us a kiss.

She does so reluctantly. It starts to get heavy.

Pete is still playing the computer game but is mildly distracted and amused by what is happening behind him.

Jim is now laying on Jules. He starts to play with Jules’ hand, pushing it up behind her head. He lets go of her hand so that it falls down onto Pete. Jim makes sure her hand stays there.

(CONTINUED)
JIM (CONT’D)
Come on.
He motions for her to involve Pete.

JULES
No.

JIM
Come on.

Pete has stopped playing and is looking at them now.

JIM (CONT’D)
Sharing is caring.

JULES
I’m pregnant.

JIM
What?

PETE
Whoa.

JULES
I’m pregnant.

JIM
So what do you want me to do about it?

KATE
I told you it was private.

Jules gets up and exits.

JIM
Slut.

Pete is smirking as he plays the game.

JIM (CONT’D)
(to Pete)
Shut the fuck up.

Fade down.
INT. THE FAMILY HOME

Fade up.

Trude is sitting in the kitchen alone, smoking a cigarette. After a while, she looks at the bassinet in the corner. She walks over to it and pulls it out into the open. It is full of old sheets and baby clothes. She takes them out one by one and looks at them. In among the clothes she finds a child’s mobile with delicate-looking ceramic birds on it and appears to brighten. She grabs a chair from the kitchen and hangs the mobile above the bassinet.

She begins tidying the photos when Jules enters.

TRUDE
Where did you go?

JULES
Why? Do you care?

TRUDE
You know I do.

JULES
Yeah, right. Why’d you let that bitch into the house?

TRUDE
Jules... I’m sorry about before.

Jules pours herself a drink and then notices the mobile.

JULES
What’s that doing up?

TRUDE
I thought it might be good... you know.

JULES
I’m not keeping it if that’s what you’re thinking.

TRUDE
Well what are you gonna do?

JULES
I’ll get rid of it.

TRUDE
No, no we can raise the baby here.

(CONTINUED)
JULES
You’re kidding me?

TRUDE
Well why not?

JULES
You think I’d let it be fucked up by you? You really are crazy.

TRUDE
You and I are exactly the same Jules. (Pause) Do you even know whose it is?

JULES
(emphatic)
Yes!

TRUDE
You’re not SURE though, are you? (Pause) You screw everything that moves, Jules, and everyone knows it. Do you think any boy is gonna own up to it? (Pause) No one cares about you. (Pause) I’m all you’ve got.

JULES
I’m not like you at all.

Jules rips down the mobile, sending it smashing to the floor. It shatters into pieces.

JULES (CONT’D)
I’m not stuck in the past like you are. Look at all this stuff.

Jules motions to the bassinet.

JULES (CONT’D)
You’re jealous because you can’t have any more kids. Not since you killed your last one.

Trude slaps Jules.

TRUDE
Take that back.

JULES
It’s fucking true isn’t it. (Pause) You’re just a sad old drunk that (MORE)
CONTINUED:

JULES (cont’d)
nobody wants to be around and I’m
way better than that. Even Auntie
Kaz was sitting there laughing at
you. Everyone laughs at you. You’re
a joke. A pathetic joke.

Jules exits.

Trude bends down to pick up the pieces of the mobile.

Fade down.