

## **Grade 8**

**created and performed by Lara MacMillan**

### **A Synopsis**

Thirteen, it's a magical age, a time where everything is changing and life becomes an adventure of discovery.

With humour and heart, Lara MacMillan takes us back to 1980.

In this coming of age story, we find a thirteen-year-old Lara heading into Grade Eight shortly after a horrifying case of chicken pox, which landed her in the hospital and has left her feeling extremely insecure. Lara gets her first job, as a Globe and Mail papergirl and faces an uncomfortable situation with an apartment manager. During the year, Lara and two of her friends decide to create a yearbook for their classmates for graduation. But members of the school staff have other ideas.

It seems as though Lara has always been bullied at Victoria Public School. She's tried turning some bullies into friends with mixed success. Her friend Sean is a boy of colour being raised by a single mother. He has a gang called the P.O.O.P. club. They are tough boys who bring weapons and porn to school. Lara likes Sean even though she is afraid of him. They share an appreciation of the Star Wars movies, the Beatles' music, and especially John Lennon. Sean feels a certain kinship to John Lennon not only because of his music but because Lennon has named his son Sean. When Lennon is shot, Sean loses a father figure and slips deeper into certain anti-social and criminal mischief. It doesn't help that the Grade 8 classroom teacher openly discriminates against Sean. Lara must negotiate her feelings for Sean, and her fears and anxieties as she gets closer to graduation.

The music for this coming of age story is a mix-tape soundtrack from 1980-81 with songs by The Police, Donna Summer, Blondie, the B52s, Diana Ross, The Beatles, Queen, Tom Petty, John Lennon, Pink Floyd, and Billy Squier.

Songs performed by Lara, with soundtrack created by Stratford musician and multi-instrumentalist, Earl Filsinger

For Interviews Contact: Lara MacMillan 519 301 3160