People Like Me

Henry Ong

Big Dog Publishing
To Stella Ong
People Like Me was first produced in 1997 by Playwrights' Arena, Los Angeles: Jon Lawrence Rivera, artistic director; Henry Ong, director; Elina Peterson, stage manager; John H. Binkley, set designer; Rory Cunningham, costume designer; John Zalewski, sound designer; Robert Smith, lighting designer; and Thomas Vercher, graphic artist.

ALEX/GINA/JULIE: Jennifer Aquino
EDGAR/DAVE: Hector Contreras
ROGER II/ARMOND/FRANK: Reggie Lee
ROGER/BRIAN/ANONYMOUS: Aaron McPherson
DOLLY/BERNIE/ALVINA: Erica Ortega
MARIANO: Michael Tolfo
Peoples Like Me is based on interviews with gay and lesbian teenagers who participated in a series of writing workshops funded by the City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department in 1996.

Participants:
Armond Anderson-Bell
Edgar Angulo
Dave Baxter
Roger Bueno
Brian Caldwell
Mariano Federovsky
Frank Garcia
Inda Hernandez
Serena Hernandez
Ryan Humphrey
Inga Jasin
Alvina Jiminez
Michael Jones
Dolly Landeros
Julie McMeans
William Netkin
Shayna Pealer
Bernadette Peña
Alejandra Perez
Narciso Rodarte
Ralph Togores
Others who do not want to be identified
MONOLOGUE COLLECTION. This award-winning collection of monologues is based on interviews with gay and lesbian teenagers who participated in a series of writing workshops sponsored by the City of Los Angeles’ Cultural Affairs Department. These poignant and at times humorous monologues chronicle the lives of teens and the challenges they face as they struggle with issues of identity and acceptance. After honing his “gay-dar” skills, Roger begins to suspect that his mother is a lesbian because she listens to Melissa Etheridge music and likes the movie Basic Instinct. Bernie’s parents think that her desire to date girls is some sort of “lesbian phase” that she is going through, and Dave, a homeless teen, describes what life is like living on the streets.

Performance Time: Approximately 60 minutes.
Characters
(9 M, 7 F, 1 flexible)
(With doubling: 7 M, 4 F. Tripling possible.)

MARIANO: Male.
BERNIE: Female.
ROGER: Male.
ARMOND: Male.
BRIAN: Male.
ALEX: Female.
JULIE: Female.
FRANK: Male.
DAVE: Male.
GINA: Female.
ISABEL: Female.
DOLLY: Female.
SHARON: Voiceover; female.
TODD: Voiceover; male.
GAY HOTLINE OPERATOR: Voiceover; flexible.
EDGAR: Male.
DAD: Male.

Options for Doubling

TODD/DAVE (male)
EDGAR/GAY HOTLINE OPERATOR (male)
DAD/FRANK (male)
SHARON/DOLLY (female)
GINA/JULIE (female)
ISABEL/DOLLY (female)
Synopsis of Scenes

I. Mariano's Coming Out

The Gay Hotline (Mariano, Gay Hotline Operator)
A Neeto Chick (Julie)
The Gay Hotline Continued (Mariano, Gay Hotline Operator)
Sanitarium (Frank)
Hey, Sharon, I've Somethin' To Tell Ya (Mariano, Sharon)
Revolution (Mariano)
I've Always Known (Mariano)
Do You Want to Fix It? (Mariano)
I Will Like You No Matter What (Mariano, Todd)

II. Roger and Friends

Bouncy Baby (Roger)
Isabel (Roger, Isabel)
Homeless (Dave)
So Many Homosexuals (Roger)
Flirtatious (Roger, Bernie)
Sam’s Not a Friend (Roger)
Gay-dar (Roger)
Locked Up (Gina)
Thanks for the poem (Roger)
A Very Good Sign (Roger)
III. Bernie's Journey and More of Roger

Outstanding Bill (Roger)
I Wanna Date Girls (Bernie)
I Think My Mom's Gay (Roger)
They Freaked (Bernie)
A Recipe for Death (Roger, Bernie)

IV: Alex, Brian Dolly, and Edgar

Memories in a Box (Alex)
There's a Naked Guy in My Room (Brian)
Dolly's Dilemma (Dolly, Dad)
People Like Me (Edgar)
Breaking Up (Armond, Roger, Brian, Bernie, Alex)

V. Whatever Makes You Happy

If I Can't Live My Life My Way (Bernie)
It Doesn't Bother Me That You're Gay (Roger)
**Props**

Box, large enough to sit on  
Red wig  
Cell phone  
Stool  
2 Chairs  
Business card  
Box for mementos  
Photos  
Letters  
Picture of a clown with a cake and balloons  
Makeup  
Beanie  
Syringe  
Table  
Clorox  
Bottle of 409  
Bottle of Fantastik  
Lysol  
Cascade  
Bottle of Mr. Clean  
Clear container  
Belt  
Mirror  
Wig

**Sound Effects**

Phone being hung up  
Dial tone  
Phone being dialed  
Phone ringing  
Car pulling up  
Door opening  
Car starting up  
Busy street  
Disco music
Mariano’s
Coming Out
The Gay Hotline (Continued)

(Mariano is talking on his cell phone DSR to the gay hotline.)

MARIANO: Well, anyway, I’m thinking of telling my family—
VOICE: Could go great, or it could blow up in your face. I take it that you haven’t come out to anyone?
MARIANO: Come out?
VOICE: Told anyone.
MARIANO: I don’t know if this is counted as “coming out” but two weeks ago, I was home alone and my dog was with me, and I turned to my dog, and I said, “I’m gay.”

[END OF FREEVIEW]