

people
Like Me



Henry Ong

BIG DOG PUBLISHING

Copyright © 2005, Henry Ong

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

People Like Me is fully protected under the copyright laws of the United States of America and all of the countries covered by the Universal Copyright Convention and countries with which the United States has bilateral copyright relations including Canada, Mexico, Australia, and all nations of the United Kingdom.

Copying or reproducing all or any part of this book in any manner is strictly forbidden by law. No part of this book may be stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form by any means including mechanical, electronic, photocopying, recording, or videotaping without written permission from the publisher.

A royalty is due for every performance of this play whether admission is charged or not. A "performance" is any presentation in which an audience of any size is admitted.

The name of the author must appear on all programs, printing, and advertising for the play and must also contain the following notice: "Produced by special arrangement with Big Dog/Norman Maine Publishing LLC, Rapid City, SD."

All rights including professional, amateur, radio broadcasting, television, motion picture, recitation, lecturing, public reading, and the rights of translation into foreign languages are strictly reserved by Big Dog/Norman Maine Publishing LLC, www.BigDogPlays.com, to whom all inquiries should be addressed.

**BIG DOG PUBLISHING
P.O. Box 1401
Rapid City, SD 57709**

People Like Me

3

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

People 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

People Like Me

Winner of the Drama-Logue Award for Writing

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