

CHOICE

About the Play

Choice is a single-act play for young people which deals with the loss of freedom and individuality they experience when they succumb to manipulation by the media: ie. magazines, video clips, films and television.

The play examines the effect of the media on a group of students in Year 10 at a secondary school.

The central characters in the play comprise a group of girls and a group of boys, who readily mix together because of their common interests in fashion, magazines, video clips, health studios, advertising, sport and "looking good". In contrast to the central group are two characters who have recently been rejected by their peer groups. This segregation creates the conflict within the narrative.

Choice explores students' relationships, their reliance upon the media for ideas and how individuality can be achieved.

The play opens with a fashion parade and a series of monologues spoken by each character. This is followed by a tableau exploring the rituals associated with the preparation and preening for a disco. Theatrically, this is achieved with clusters of students on stage looking at images and performing actions which characterise looking "just right". Each group has the appropriate section of a magazine to match current fashion trends. Music is played in the background and the performers do a mirror routine of each other's actions to emphasise the ritual.

The structure of the play is like that of a glossy magazine. Each scene, after the introduction of the characters, is a commentary on the various themes explored in the magazine.

Choice deals with the consequences of being unable to distinguish between reality and the fantasies presented in glamour magazines. It examines the influence of the media on both adolescent boys and girls.

CHARACTERS

GIRLS:

Judy

Samantha

Toni

Sarah

Louise

Rebecca

Rachel

GYM INSTRUCTOR 1

GYM INSTRUCTOR 2

DIETITIANS

HAIRDRESSERS

COMMENTATOR

HEAD SURGEON

GAME SHOW HOST

RADIO ANNOUNCER

BOYS:

Max

Stephen

Tony

Lindsay

Peter

Murphy

GYM INSTRUCTOR 1

GYM INSTRUCTOR 2

BEAUTICIANS

MAKE-UP ARTISTS

MAGAZINE JOURNALIST

GAME SHOW HOSTESS

RADIO ANNOUNCER

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