

Date 4 / 11 PV Log: (circle one) Poem / Movie / Picture / Lyric PlayTitle Generation MeAuthor / Director / Julia Soto

Context (Where Found / Viewed / Read?)

I saw *Generation Me*, an original play performed by Flying Monkey Productions, at the Harris Center for the Arts at Folsom Lake College in Folsom, CA.

Content / CD / Summary / Precise (Say? "Plot? Setting/Situation? Key lines/phrases scenes, etc?)

Generation Me is about the tragic suicide of Milo Reynolds and all of the possible events that could have led to his death. The play begins with the boy's suicide, and it is told in flashbacks of various instances of his life and the lives of his friends, progressively giving the viewer more and more insight into the circumstances surrounding Milo Reynolds' living conditions. First and foremost, Milo falls in love with a girl named Kaylee Summers at the very beginning of where the plot chronologically begins, and he has a good relationship with her until he finds out that his own sister's boyfriend, Kyle Peterson, actually raped Kaylee the summer before the school year started. Milo takes refuge with a drug addict and self-destructive character named Harper Ellis, better known as Slice. Slice begins to fall in love with Milo, but he still wants to get back together with Kaylee, who doesn't actually believe she is worthy of Milo's love because of what happened during the summer. Various other plot aspects also come to life, such as the fact that Milo has severely deranged relationships with his family members and is even beaten by his father. Milo isn't invited to parties, is looked down upon by all of the "popular" girls because he dumped Kaylee, and even loses his best friend in a significant argument, making him feel isolated and alienated in all aspects of life. Unable to handle the stresses and pressures of his generation, Milo takes his own life, making every single one of the people that knew him regret how horribly and rudely they may have treated him.

Content / CM / Meaning? / Theme(s)?

Generation Me sets out to portray the teenage experience as accurately as possible, with all its ups and downs, stresses, problems, social issues, and undertakings. The one main point that this play emphasizes and claims defines the people of the high school generation is the belief that they are special, that their dreams are unique and attainable, and that their ideas and opinions are valid and important. It is this idea of specialness that drives the very generation that high schoolers live in, and it is the depression following failure to be special that defines that generation. *Generation Me* isn't meant to be a warning and announcement regarding teen suicide, but instead it is meant to show how teens are not as invulnerable, insusceptible, and even as special as they may think. Ultimately, the play breaks down the walls and barriers surrounding teen life by introducing the audience to the genuine struggles and problems an average high schooler may face, and it urges people to approach life from a greater perspective so that they do not end up isolated, hopeless, and disillusioned like Milo Reynolds when nothing turns out as planned in his high school experience.

Form (Diction? Construction Terms? Symbolism?)

There aren't really any symbols in *Generation Me*, as the play essentially tries to depict high school life in the most literal and accurate way as possible. The only thing that may have been representative of something else would have been Milo's suicide, which symbolizes a loss of hope and disappointment with life and human society. All of the people in the play belonged to different cliques (popular girls, druggies, jocks, etc.), and the problems they faced clearly represented all of the struggles that a kid defined by a particular stereotype most likely faces on a daily basis.

Commentary (What do you want to say? Why like? Questions? Synthesis / Allusions-Connections / Relevance to personal experience, to literature, 20Q's? etc.)? "Poetic" Traits?

Although I have lived an average teenage lifestyle by stressing over my grades, losing friends, and stressing over my social image, I have not experienced the extreme emotional trauma that the characters in this play face. Still, however, despite the fact that I go to a Catholic High School and am probably oblivious to many of the delinquent activities that high schoolers get into nowadays, I still find this play relatable on a multitude of levels. Not only was I able to emotionally connect with the actors in the play because I personally knew the majority of them rather well, but I was also able to relate to some of the particular struggles kids my age face in life, specifically those regarding isolation and feelings of inadequacy. Because I am so focused on school, for the most part of high school I have often found myself feeling like an afterthought, falling behind into the shadows socially. Of course, I have great friends at Jesuit, but without them I find it hard to converse and make friends with others, who have such high standards of who they talk to and associate with, making me feel completely and utterly disappointed with how society has transformed teenagers of my generation. *Generation Me* truly relates to all people of this generation in some way or another and that is why it is so emotionally touching and moving. Overall, I find this play to be significantly poetic not only because it is so relevant and pertinent to my life, but also because it warns people of the dangers of human society and the ruthlessness of human nature ultimately with the hope that they will change themselves to be more compassionate and considerate towards others. A person's deepest pains may be hidden beneath the surface, and so it is extremely necessary to be kind and benevolent no matter what because it is ultimately impossible to know what another person may be going through.

over (do not mix logs; e.g., no poem log in front, and movie log on back)