

# **Teen-People**

**Written by Mark Rees**

**Spotlight Publications**

# **Teen-People**

CAST (in order of appearance)

**Narrator 1**

**Narrator 2**

**Voice 1**

**Voice 2**

**Voice 3**

**Voice 4**

**Voice 5**

**Voice 6**

**Voice 7**

**Voice 8**

**Voice 9**

**Voice 10**

**The Musician**

**Guard 1**

**Guard 2**

Setting - an open stage with rostra and two flats

Time - 2055

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## **PRODUCTION NOTE**

In the original production the musician was a cello player, who was onstage throughout the play, sitting between the flats, on the rostra, at the top of the cross shape. It does not have to be a cello that supplies the music; almost any instrument would do as long as the music is atmospheric and moody. The musician is an integral part of the production and when not playing watches the action.

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All enquiries to:  
Spotlight Publications, 259 The Moorings, Dalgety Bay, Fife  
KY11 9GX.

Tel. 01383 825737.

Email: **[enquiries@spotlightpublications.com](mailto:enquiries@spotlightpublications.com)**

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*The setting is a Teen Camp and is very simple. There should be two flats at the back about four feet apart. Into this and in the shape of a cross should fit some raised rostra. The flats are covered in wire and daubed with graffiti*

*Before the curtain opens we hear the Voiceover, as if coming from the camp sound system*

**Voiceover** Attention, attention! Here are today's orders. Group 4B will report to Room 700 for their induction classes on Government philosophy and its application in the modern world with special references to the Prime Being's last six edicts. Group 7A will continue their de-programming class in the Metrodome. Please remember to use the Virtual Reality Interfacer carefully; we do not want a repeat of yesterday's fatal accident. Group 6Z should convene in Room 4 for the lecture by Computer 5 on the theme "*Ambient analytical training and its effect on the modern Teen-Person*". All guards are to remain alert. It has come to our notice that certain teen-people have been observed not paying attention to Camp Rule 509, which clearly states that there is to be "No enjoyment, unless in the designated area". It will not be tolerated. You have been warned.

*The tabs open. There is a spotlight on the musician*

*Music*

*The lights go out on the musician and up on the narrators, who are on either side of the stage*

*The shadowy figures of ten voices emerge from behind the flats and take up positions around the stage*

**Narrator 1** *(to audience)* The year is 2055. After the Teen Riots of the 2030s the Government decided that all young people between the ages of twelve and twenty would be better off at training camps. Where they could develop as individuals, get a good education and, of course, learn discipline and self-control. The *regime* seemed a little harsh to some but after the bloodshed of the Teen Riots, the Government was keen to squash any of the revolutionary element that had gone underground and still occasionally raised its head to talk of "freedom" and "democracy". *(The voice becomes harder)* But freedom and democracy have to be earned. Through its training camps the Government have established a *regime* that is hard but fair for all teen people. A *regime*, what's more, that will enable all Teen-People to become better and more rounded citizens.

**Voice 1** I want to know who I am?

**Voice 2** What's it like to have a family?

**Voice 3** How long have I been here?

**Voice 4** I want to go home, wherever that is.

**Voice 5** I don't feel anything anymore. No emotion.

**Voice 6** We are the only hope there is left. But what can we do?

**Voice 7** I feel empty. A shell. A husk.

**Voice 8** I'm here to learn. And I will, won't I?

**Voice 9** We are the future.

**Voice 10** We are the undead.

**Narrator 2** The Teen-People seemed to have taken life in the camps very well. Their tuition programme had been carefully devised by some of the finest computers in the Education Sector. And the Prime Minister himself had followed the setting up of the camps very closely. Since he came to power five years ago (the first computer to be voted Prime Minister, or Prime Being as he prefers to be called), he has worked tirelessly to create a "brave new world". A world where everyone is equal - *as long as some are more equal than others*. Every day the Prime Being broadcasts a message to the Teen-People, to encourage them and lift their hearts, so that they may follow the "New Way". The "New Way" is the Prime Being's Ten Year Plan which, he says, will make this nation great again.

**All** Rubbish!

**Narrator 2** It's the Government line.

**Narrator 1** It's the only way forward.

**Voice 1** We want our lives back.

**Narrator 2** They're not yours to have back.

**Voice 2** Says who?

**Narrator 1** It's clearly defined in the Government manual number 67564, which you are supposed to have read. If you have trouble with your reading, the Elementary Reading Group is available in Room 101 every day at 15.30 hours.

**Voice 3** Sod you!

**All** Yeh!

**Narrator 1** This is the very attitude that the Prime Being spoke about in his last broadcast.

**Voice 4** What are you going to do about it?

**Narrator 1** Nothing.

*Howls of derisive laughter and jeering*

**Voice 5** There's nothing you can do about it.

**Narrator 2** You're quite right. We can do nothing. But they can -

**Voice 6** Hush now, hush. We must be strong.

**Voice 7** How can we be strong against them?

**Voice 9** We'll find a way.

**Voice 8** It's impossible.

**Voice 6** Nothing's impossible. We just need time to think.

**Voice 9** Time is something we've definitely got.

**Voice 10** I keep trying to remember what life was like before I came here. But I can't. Well, not much anyway.

**Voice 6** Don't you remember your parents?

**Voice 10** No.

**Voice 8** What are parents?

**Voice 6** They're your mother and father. They brought you into the world.

**Voice 8** I don't think I had them.

**Voice 9** Nor me.

**Voice 6** You must have. Unless . . .

**Voice 1** Unless what?

**Voice 6** Test tube babies.

**Voice 2** Test tube babies?

**Voice 6** Yeh. Grown on Government Farms.

**Voice 3** I think I came from a farm. I remember something, when I was really tiny, being held in someone's arms - don't know whose - and them saying one day this farm will be yours. Of course I could have dreamt it.

**Voice 6** Did you live in the countryside?

**Voice 3** I'm not sure. We lived in the North somewhere.

**Voice 6** There used to be farms in the countryside, especially in the North. They were the last to hold out before the Government took them over. The farms used to be owned by people, not Teen-People, oldsters. They grew things and kept animals, like pigs and sheep.

**Voice 2** What's sheep?

**Voice 6** It's an animal that people used to eat in the Old Days.

**All** Ugh, horrible *etc.*

**Voice 4** That can't be right. Everyone knows that the food computers make all the food.

**All** Yeh!

**Voice 6** Well they didn't years ago.

**Voice 7** How come you know so much about what happened years ago?

**Voice 6** I found a book.

**Voice 3** What's a book?

**Voice 6** It's what people used to write things down in and there's pictures sometimes too.

**Voice 9** Didn't they have computers?

**Voice 6** I don't think so.

**Voice 9** So how could they write things down then?

**Voice 6** I don't know exactly. All I know is I found this book and it's got loads of stuff in it about the Old Days.

**Voice 5** You're a bloody liar.

**Voice 6** No I'm not!

**Voice 7** Show us then.

**Voice 6** I haven't got it here.

**Voice 7** I knew s/he was lying.

**All** Yeh, just a liar, useless, load of nonsense etc.

**Voice 6** I have got it. It's hidden that's all. I can't carry it about in case the Guards catch me. But if you want proof, I'll go and get it.

**Voice 7** I'll believe it when I see it.

**Voice 9** So will I.

**Voice 6** All right, I'll get it. Can you create a diversion? - something to keep the Guards occupied and I'll go and get it. I won't be long.

**Voice 5** Yeh, why not? We've got nothing to lose.

**Voice 7** It's you that's going to look stupid.

**Voice 6** Okay. I'll do it.

**Voice 5** (*very loudly*) I think I feel ill.

Guards!

*Two Guards who have been standing at the back throughout the scene, come forward and break up the crowd, using baseball bats. They drag one of the Voices to the side and raise the bats as if to beat him/her*

*All freeze*

*Music*

*Amidst screams, the Guards exit*

*Someone begins to cry*

## **Teen-People**

Mark Rees' award-winning play is a futuristic, involving drama for teenagers with overtones of "Big Brother".

### **Plot Summary**

The action takes place in a "Teen Camp" of the future, where teenagers are sent by the government to learn how to be "better human beings". The characters reflect on their lives and yearn for "something better" on the outside. Inspired by one of their number, Voice Six, they plan a break-out. But is Voice Six genuine, or a Government infiltrator?

Duration: approx. 35 minutes