

KRISTINE. *(continued)* Oh, and my married name is Deluca.

AL and KRISTINE put their arms around each other and smile.

ZACH. Oh, I didn't know, Al. Congratulations.

AL. Thanks.

ZACH. Next.

VAL. Well, as far as I'm concerned I'm Valerie Clark. But my parents think I'm Margaret Mary Houlihan. *(To the GROUP)* Couldn't you just die? I was born in the middle of nowhere. A little town called Arlington, Vermont. *(stepping backwards)* Bye, bye.

ZACH. How old are you?

VAL. Old ... No ... Twenty- ... -five.

*got* MARK. *(loudly)* Ah, Mark Anthony. Really Mark Philip Lawrence Tabori. Tempe, Arizona. I'm twenty. *(Backs into line.)*

~~BOBBY. *(to SHEILA)* Oh, Jesus.~~

MARK. *(stepping forward again)* And if I get this show, I'll work real hard. *(Backs up.)*

SHEILA. *(under her breath)* Oh, brother.

VAL. *(to MARK)* Don't let 'em bug you, honey.

PAUL. Paul San Marco. It's my stage name. My real name is Ephrain<sup>3</sup> Ramirez. I was born in Spanish Harlem — and I'm twenty-seven.

DIANA. My name is Diana Morales. And I didn't change it 'cause I figured ethnic was in. Twenty-seven. You got that? And I was born on a Hollywood bed in the Bronx. *[pumps to mock AL — not in PB]* *(She backs into line.)*

ZACH. Go on, Diana.

DIANA. *(stepping out again)* Go on — what?

## No. 2 Morales — Underscore

*(Orchestra)*

DIANA *(continued, over music)* Oh, oh, you wanna know how tall I am? The color of my eyes? Or how many shows I've done? I just gave you my picture and résumé, everything you wanna know is right there.

<sup>3</sup> pronounced Efrayn, Spanish.

# Mark #2

## No. 12 Montage, Part 1: "Hello Twelve"

(Mark, Connie & Company)

→ MARK. (*comes downstage and speaks over music*) Well, I get the feeling most of you always knew what you wanted to do. Me — I didn't. I was just a kid for a while. Oh, then one day — well, my father had this fabulous library in the back of the house — and when I was — about eleven, I guess — I found this medical textbook. It had pictures of the male and female anatomy. Well, I thought that was pretty interesting. I used to read that book a lot. [*Music, bar P.*]

ZACH. Were you interested in medicine? Or were you just into the pictures?

MARK. No, I... **stop**

~~MARK goes into pantomime. Lights dim and go out on THE LINE, leaving each SINGER of the following in specials.~~

~~VAL. Hello Twelve,  
 RICHIE. Hello Thirteen,  
 MAGGIE. Hello Love.  
 AL. Changes, oh!  
 BEBE. Down below.  
 DIANA. Up above.  
 VAL. Time to doubt,  
 MIKE. To break out.  
 RICHIE. It's a mess.  
 MAGGIE. (*spoken in rhythm*)  
 It's a mess.  
 PAUL & JUDY. (*sung*)  
 Time to grow.  
 MAGGIE & AL.  
 Time to go.  
 CONNIE, BOBBY & RICHIE.  
 Adolesce.  
 THE REST. Adolesce.  
 ALL. Too young to take over,  
 Too old to ignore.  
 AL. Gee, I'm almost ready,  
 ALL. But ... what ... for?  
 There's a lot  
 I am not  
 Certain of.~~

~~Hello Twelve,  
Hello Thirteen,  
Hello Love.~~

*Lights come up on the GROUP who is back on line.*

**start**  
MARK. *(spoken, out of pantomime)* And from the book I diagnosed my own appendicitis.

*(sung)* Next day I went to our doctor down the block.  
Sure enough — acute appendicitis!  
They rushed me right to the hospital.  
Well, I figured this book would cover ev'rything the rest of my life.

*(spoken over music)* And when I was thirteen, I had my first ... wet dream.  
I went right back to the book ... Milky discharge ...  
milky discharge, milky discharge ...

*(sung)* Gonorrhea!

*(spoken over music)* I was in shock, I mean ...

*(sung)* Gonorrhea!

*(spoken over music)* Before I'd even started. I was terrified.  
I couldn't even tell my mother I had ...

*(sung)* Gonorrhea!

*(spoken over music)* So, the book said, drink a lot of water ...

ZACH. Is that all the book said?

MARK. No, it said take penicillin, strepto-something-or-other,  
but I couldn't do anything about that unless I told somebody.

*(sung)* So all I could do was drink the water,  
And I drank like twenty glasses a day.

*(spoken over music)* For three weeks. I almost drowned.  
Finally I went to confession and told the priest that I had gonorrhea!  
Well, he was in shock, too.

*(sung)* "Who have you been with, my son?"

*(spoken)* Nobody. Nobody.

*(sung)* "Then how can you have ... gonorrhea?"

*(spoken over music)* I told him about the book's diagnosis for milky  
discharge and he set me straight. It's the only time the Church  
ever helped me out. Well, I was ...

~~MARK goes back into line as CONNIE steps forward~~

~~CONNIE. Four foot ten,  
Four foot ten.  
That's the story of my life.  
I remember when ev'rybody was my size.~~