



Use Me!

WRITTEN BY JO DORRAS

In this play there are many ways to portray the STDs and the condom. Wan Smolbag Theatre worked with a theatre group from the Solomons SEI Theatre and made puppets and costumes for them. Wan Smolbag Theatre has performed the play using painted T-shirts as seen in the photographs throughout the script.



[A group of actors start to sing behind a backdrop. Their heads come out on top or to the side of the backdrop in pairs to sing each line. A boy and girl sing to one another and then disappear, and then they all to sing the last line.]

SONG: You and me la la la
 We are young, we are young
 And when I look into your eyes
 Da da da da dum dum
 I'm not lying, what I say is true
 Da da da da dum dum
 When I see your pretty face
 Da da da da da dum
 Da da dum

[As the song finishes, a girl and boy walk on stage from behind the backdrop. The girl is angry.]

Girl: Ah come on, you're just talking!

Boy: Is that what you think?

Girl: I know what you boys are like.

Boy: Other boys maybe, but not me.

Girl: Oh, yeah?

Boy: I'll show you. Look, I've brought this.

[He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a necklace] Do you like it?

Girl: What did you buy that for?

Boy: To show you I really like you, you stupid idiot!

Girl: Hey I was only asking.... You don't have to get cross.

Boy: I'm not cross! I just want you to understand how much I..... like you.

Girl: You like me today! Like all boys you'll forget....

Boy: I like you today, tomorrow, next week, next month, next year. I'll always love you!

Girl: Are you sure about that? You won't change your mind? You won't find someone else and leave me?

Boy: There will never be anyone else. I only want you! *[The boy puts the necklace over the girl's head and they freeze. When they have frozen stock still, the three diseases, Gonorrhoea, Herpes and Syphilis run up to them.]*

Gon: Oh I'm so happy! So happy to see these two young people so in love.

Herpes: Because they help us so much. They let us.....

Syph: But there is a problem with these two.

Herpes: What is it? Tell me!



Syph: They don't go with other boys and girls. They stay together - how can we infect them?
Gon: Yes us three, me, Gonorrhoea, you, Syphilis and you, Herpes, we've got to find a way to infect people. If everyone is like these two, stays with their partner and never sleeps with anyone else, we can't infect them!
All: Shame! Shame!
Syph: Oh no... we mustn't worry about it! They're only very young. So many things can happen to them. I don't think this....
All: Is the end of the story!
[The diseases dance off and the boy and girl come alive again]
Boy: Shall we go to John's room tonight? He's away.
Girl: But what happens if.....
Boy: If you're pregnant, I'll marry you. Don't worry darling, I've already written a letter to my father.
Girl: Have you? Really?
Boy: Yes. I've told him I want to marry you.
[The boy takes the girl's hand and they exit together very excited and happy]

[The boy's father enters. He is reading his son's letter. His wife, Alice, is sweeping on the other side of the acting area.]

Father: I'm 19 now and it's time I settled down. The girl I want is very nice. She's never been with any other man. WHAT? I want to get married to her as quickly... *[He is very angry and screws the letter up]* My son! My son! What have you been doing in town? What have you been doing? Hey Alice! Alice!
Alice: What are you shouting for?
Father: This! *[He waves the letter at her]*
Wife: I'm not deaf! I can hear you.
Father: Come here then! I need to talk to you right now!
Wife: Calm down, calm down. What's wrong?
Father: Our son wants to get married.
Wife: Well, he's old enough isn't he?
Father: He wants to marry some girl in town.
Wife: But we've arranged for him to marry a girl from the village.
Father: You think I don't know about that?
Wife: I know you know about it.... But what are we going to do now?
Father: Our son must marry the girl we've chosen for him. There is no other way. He must follow our custom.
Wife: What you say is true, but....
Father: No buts! I'll go to town now, this minute and tell him!
[The father rushes off, followed by the mother]

[The boy comes on and sits down centre stage. The girl walks in and walks up to him. He doesn't notice her and eventually she speaks.]

Girl: Hey.... What is it? What's wrong? Why can't you talk about it? I suppose you don't like me any more...
Boy: No! It's not that.
Girl: So what is it?
Boy: I've got to go back to my village.
Girl: Has someone died?
Boy: No.
Girl: Your mother and father.... Is one of them sick?
Boy: No.
Girl: I'm tired of asking you. What's wrong?
Boy: They want me to get married.
Girl: What? *[The girl moves away, takes off her necklace and flings it on the ground. The boy stands up and goes*



to her. He picks up the necklace and begins to speak. At first she won't listen but gradually softens her attitude.]

Boy: I didn't want to tell you. I tried to think of a lie to tell you, but I couldn't. Listen, please, listen. I still love you. It's true. I only want you, but you know our custom. My father came to tell me I had to marry a girl from the village. I can't say no to him. I'll go back to the village now and marry this girl. But it's not a real marriage. It's just to keep my parents happy. That's all. I'll come back to you as soon as I can. I won't change. I only care for you. *[The actors freeze and the diseases come out over the top and side of the backdrop.]*

Gon: This is it! This is our chance! The boy must go and the girl must stay. Now we have a chance!

Syph: Yes..... Look the girl's unhappy and if that boy doesn't come back quickly, who knows what will happen...

SONG: You say that you love me
You say that you'll come back
You say that you will never change
your mind

[The diseases signal to the boy to go as they sing the first three lines and he goes out. As the girl goes to follow him, the diseases raise their hands and she stays, looking sadder and sadder as the words of the song tell her story.]

Many days and nights

Go by

There's no letter

There's no word

How do I know

You are still in love with me?

I gave my heart to you

I gave my body too

You gave your promise

But you

Didn't keep it!

[As the song ends a new boy comes and waves to the girl. She doesn't respond, then he waves again and she rushes off with him. There are lewd sounds behind the backdrop and clothes are thrown over the curtain. The diseases are overjoyed and rush onto the stage.]

Gon: Look Syphilis my friend, she's found a new boy.

Syph: And that boy's got gonorrhoea!

Herp: Things are going really well for us.

Gon: Except for.....

Syph: What?

Gon: That first boyfriend of hers. I haven't infected him yet!

Syph: You've still got a chance. Girls can't tell if they're infected because there's often no sign. If that first boy comes back....

Gon: You think that boy still thinks about her?

Syph: I'm sure he does.

Gon: Then we've still got a chance!

[Herpes signals to the others to be quiet and they move backstage to the backdrop The girl and boy come in and the boy waves good-bye to girl, who turns and walks off in the other direction - straight into her old boyfriend.]

Boy: Hey! Hello.

Girl: Don't talk to me you.... you liar!

Boy: No don't say that, please, don't say that!

Girl: You never wrote to me. You never sent any message. What did all your promises mean? Nothing!



Diseases: Ohh...ouwww

Boy: No I meant everything I said. But because of the marriage....

Girl: Yes! Because you're sleeping with another woman, you never think about me now, do you?

Boy: I do think about you! I think about you all the time. Look, *[He takes the necklace out of his pocket]* I've still got the necklace and I'll keep it always until the day I die.

Diseases: Oh ... it's so sweet! Sweet!

Girl: You do care for me? You do?

Boy: Come on..... *[He takes the girl's hand and pulls her behind the backdrop where they make noises and throw clothes over the top of the backdrop. The diseases come forward again.]*

Syph: Just as I said, Gonorrhea! He still wants her. And when he sleeps with her you know what will happen...

Gon: He'll get infected too! Oh everything's going so well!

Herpes: Shhhhh! *[They freeze]*

Boy: I have to go back to the village today, but I'll come back as soon as I can. I won't forget you. *[He exits waving and kissing his hand]*

Gon: He's going back to the village.

Syph: And he'll sleep with his wife there.

Gon: Now everyone's infected. Oh I'm so happy. Our story has no end!
[They join hands and dance round and round.]

All: It goes on and on and on.
[An actor dressed as a condom walks through the audience and interrupts the dance.]

Condom: Hey you!

All: What?

Condom: I'm here.

Syph: Who are you?

Gon: What is this?

Condom: I protect people against sexually transmitted diseases like you!

Syph: You're joking!

Gon: I've never seen anything like that before... you think we're frightened of you?

Syph: You think you can stop us?

Herp: We're getting stronger every day. We travel everywhere! Round the whole world!

Syph: When a man or woman finds a new partner,

Herp: Or your husband or wife sleeps with someone else,

Gon: Then we've got a chance!

All: A chance to infect everyone!

Condom: I can stop you!

Syph: How can you stop me? I want to know!

Condom: When a man is about to sleep with a woman, he puts me on and I protect him against you.

Gon: Do you think any man will do that?

Syph: They don't even know about you!

Condom: They'll find out! You'll see!

Syph: You're saying you can beat us?

Condom: Yes!

Syph: Let's have a competition, just to see.

[All the diseases run behind the backdrop, but Condom stays out the front confused. Syphilis comes back in and hits him over the head. Condom follows him behind the backdrop. They all appear over the top of the backdrop. Syphilis points to a young man coming in. He is looking all around as if he has never been to a place like this before.]

Syph: Look! Here's a young boy.



Gon: He just left his village. He's never been to school.
 Herp: He doesn't know about sex!
 Syph: And he's staying with his uncle. A man who goes out every night.
 Condom: Oh no!
 Ghon: You think you can protect him, Condom?
 Herp: You think you can beat us?
 Condom: I'll try!
 All: No way! No way!
 No way!

[They push Condom down below the backdrop and then the boy comes on stage with his uncle. They walk into a nightclub. A waiter stands to one side wiping imaginary glasses.]

Uncle: So you don't drink?
 Jack: No, Uncle.
 Uncle: You don't want to try a beer?
 Jack: No. I don't drink alcohol. Father said....
 Uncle: Ah come and dance, the music's good.
 Jack: I can't dance uncle.... In the village we don't dance to music like that.
 Uncle: You don't want to do anything. God, I need a drink. Waiter! A beer.... No two!
 Jack: But Uncle, I don't drink!
 Uncle: If you come out with me you've got to enjoy yourself! You're like an old man...we'll have a drink and loosen up. *[The waiter arrives with the beers. They take them and he goes.]* Go on! *[Jack tries the beer]*
 Jack: But I don't like it!
 Uncle: Drink!
 Jack: Just one then, one!

[The diseases and all the other actors come on and start to dance. Jack pretends to drink and then joins them centre stage on the line 'get up and dance'. They are in an arrow shape to the sides of the stage with the point of the arrow at the backdrop.]

One becomes two. Two becomes three
 One becomes two. Two becomes three
 You're feeling good
 And everything's easy
 You get up and dance, man
 Just like Lucky Dube
 Just like Lucky Dube

[They get down on their knees and egg Jack on]

Chorus: Now you're not a village boy
 You're a star!
 Now you're not a village boy
 You're a star!
 Look at all the young girls
 Look at all the young girls
 Choose one
 Who is pretty and nice

[Jack goes and pulls a pretty girl out of the audience. It can be an actor or one of the audience who has been pre-warned!]

Go and dance with her
 Just like Lucky Dube
 Just like Lucky Dube
 And then go outside
 Just like Lucky Dube



Just like Lucky Dube
 All in one night
 You're not a village boy
 You are a star!

[The girl and boy go out together and Condom comes up over the backdrop and shouts to them.]

Condom: Wait! Wait! Put on a condom before you go with her!

Gon: He doesn't even know about you, how can he use you?

Syph: Hey you two! He knows about sex now alright!

Condom: It's true he'll get gonorrhoea! But if he goes to the hospital they'll cure him!

YES!

Gon: He'll be afraid to go to the hospital! He'll never be cured, I'll be with him forever!

Condom: We'll see about that!

[The diseases run back behind the backdrop to join Condom and they watch the next scene together. Three actors come on and take a shell of kava and drink. Jack enters from the side furthest from them, clutching himself.]

Jack: I can't go on like this. I can't. I'll talk to my uncle. He knows a lot of things. He'll know why I'm feeling like this. *[He says the first line to himself and then shouts to his uncle who is over the other side of the stage]*
 Uncle! Uncle!

Uncle: Hey! Don't shout like that...we're drinking kava.

Jack: Sorry Uncle.

Uncle: You should know not to shout when people are drinking kava!

Jack: But I've got to....

Uncle: Shhhh! Have a shell and shut up.

[He takes the shell, reluctantly drinks and watches Uncle talking to a friend, waiting for an opportunity to talk to him]

Jack: Uncle! Uncle! Uncle! I've got to talk to you!

Uncle: Can't you see I'm talking? What's..... *[Jack drags Uncle away]* What's wrong? Why can't you wait a minute?

Jack: I'm sore... here. *[Jack points down at his crotch]*

Uncle: Oh! Oh! You've got an STD!

[He says it loudly and laughs. The others listen.]

Jack: What?

Uncle: You slept with a woman, didn't you?

Jack: I just went outside with her. That's all!

Friend 1: What's wrong with Jack?

Jack: Don't tell them please!

Uncle: I think he's got gonorrhoea! *[The friends laugh]*

Friend 2: He should go and see a custom doctor.

Friend 1: Yes I know a very good one. He cures gonorrhoea.

Uncle: You've had it, have you? *[Now they laugh at the friend]* Look Jack, it's nothing to be ashamed of. Lots of people get gonorrhoea, but going to a custom doctor won't cure it. Some of the signs go away, that's all. No, you've got to go the hospital.

Jack: Not the hospital! Everyone will know...I....

Uncle: You're going! *[He waves a finger at Jack and they freeze. Then they all exit. The diseases and Condom come out over the backdrop. Jack is pulled back in by the uncle.]*

Syph: Oh no! They're going to the hospital!

Condom: I told you. I'll beat you no problem!

Gon: He hasn't got there yet! And I can still infect him again, even if they do cure him!

Syph: You haven't beaten us yet, Condom!



Condom: Let's see what happens at the hospital. Then we'll decide who wins!

Jack: I can't go to the hospital!
[He talks to his uncle]
 I can't show the doctor this! *[The diseases all egg Jack on silently.]*
Condom supports the uncle.]

Uncle: Do you want to be sore for the rest of your life?

Jack: No! No...

Uncle: Well, you've got to tell him!

Syph: Gonorrhea, the boy's going! *[A nurse comes on in a white coat. The uncle knocks on an imaginary door.]*
 Oh, it's no good!

Gon: Stop worrying! He'll never be cured. Never! *[Jack is pushed inside and the nurse comes up to him]*

Nurse: Now we must inject you and then you've got to take these tablets. Take all of them, until every one is finished.

Jack: All of them?

Nurse: If you don't finish them.....

Diseases: That's our chance to come back! Yeah!

Nurse: And there's these..... *[Putting condoms into Jack's hands]*

Jack: What's this?
[The diseases and condom comment from above the backdrop]

Condom: Now you can protect yourself against these diseases my friend!

Syph: I'll drop dead if he really uses you!

Condom: We'll see about that.

Nurse: Well that's all for now. I've just got to give you the first injection. *[The nurse gives an imaginary injection and Jack reacts as if it is sore]*

Nurse: It doesn't really hurt. OK you can go home now. *[The nurse turns away]*

Gon: You think you've cured him but his girlfriend's still got gonorrhea and she can infect him again!

Syph: We win! We win!

Nurse: Wait a minute! I've forgotten something. You must tell the girl. The one you got it from.

Jack: But.....

Nurse: Look, she can give gonorrhea to you again or to some other boy and she probably doesn't even know she has it!

Jack: But I'm too shy to....

Uncle: You're not too shy to sleep with her! You go and tell her! You don't want this disease to spread all round the town!

Jack: alright, I'll go. *[Jack and the uncle and nurse exit]*

Condom: I've won! Everything is going right for me! I'm the winner! Me! Yes! I'm the complete and absolute winner!
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Gon: You think you've won?

Syph: Now see what we are going to do!
[Condom watches in horror as the diseases come out and do a menacing custom dance]

All: We.....
 Need your help!
 Come come come
 You who are strong
 And have great power!
 Come come come!
 You stay hidden
 Inside a man's body
 You who spread
 Everywhere



And no one knows
 New disease that
 No doctor can cure
 You who kill
 Kill dead
 Come come come
 AIDS

Condom: No!

[AIDS walks in through the audience]

AIDS: What do you want? Why have you called me here?

Gon: AIDS, you have gone all around the world. Please come here!

Syph: You have already been to Fiji, PNG, New Caledonia!

Herp: Can't you come here to help us?

All: Please, mighty AIDS, please!

AIDS: No problem. I like to see new places. *[The diseases look relieved]* Yes, I really like it! And it's good to see you old friends. You are weaker than me, it is true. But you make it easy for me to infect people! Yes! You make it easy for me to spread!

Condom: No! I'm here AIDS! And I won't let you into this country!

All: Ahhh! Sssss! *[The diseases make horrible gestures at Condom]*

AIDS: *[Laughing]* You can't stop me Condom! People here would never use you! Never!

Condom: That's not true!

AIDS: No? Let's show him friends!

All: Yes!

AIDS: Watch this! Then you'll see you fool!

[A girl and a boy come out from on top of the backdrop, on the far side of Condom.]

Girl: Before we sleep together, will you put on this condom?

Boy: What?

Girl: Wear a condom.

Boy: If I wear one of those I won't feel anything!

Girl: Please...

Boy: Forget it. I'll find someone else!

Girl: No! It's alright! Don't worry about the condom.

[They go down slowly behind the backdrop. AIDS laughs.]

Condom: No! Don't let him do that! He should wear a condom! He might have a sickness. You don't know! Stop!

AIDS: They'll never listen to you!

All: Never! Never!

AIDS: I'll beat you every time, Condom. Even the church leaders and the chiefs help me!

Condom: That's not true!

AIDS: Just you look!

[Enter health worker and old man from behind the backdrop. The health worker (HW) comes first and starts to mime putting something away near the audience. The old man is carrying condoms and comes up behind him, tapping him on the shoulder. The health worker is surprised.]

Old man I want you to tell me why you are giving these...things to young boys!

HW: To protect them. You know there are many people with gonorrhoea and that new disease, AIDS, is spreading quickly.

Old man Young people are doing filthy things and it's all because you give them these ..these... things! *[He throws the condoms down]* Yes, they're getting worse and worse, sleeping with anyone!

HW: Young people have always done that.



Old man Not when I was young they didn't! But now, you teach them all about *[He whispers something we cannot hear]*

HW: What?

Old man: SEX! *[He says it so loud he shocks himself]* Sorry! But it's because you tell them everything, that's why! It's your fault.

HW: But if they don't know about sex how can they protect themselves from sickness and pregnancy?

Condom: It's true! It is! *[Condom shouts out from on top of the backdrop]*

All: Shut up!

Old man If they don't know about sex, they don't sleep together! *[The two actors freeze.]*
[The diseases who have been frozen on stage come alive]

Gon: They don't sleep together?! He's crazy.

AIDS: No... *[Speaking softly and menacingly]* Don't you tell them anything. I don't want them to know about me.... yet. *[All diseases laugh and clap as old man goes out. Condom shouts from on top of the backdrop.]*

Condom: You're forgetting the women AIDS! They like me because I stop them from getting pregnant.

AIDS: You really believe that?
[Two more actors come up on the other side of Condom and they all watch them. This time the boy has a condom in his hand.]

Girl: What?

Boy: Let's use a condom! You don't want to get pregnant do you?

Girl: But...supposing the condom breaks and gets stuck inside me! No, I don't want to.
[Condom speaks to them, but they can't hear him.]

Condom: But that can't happen! It can't!

Boy: Well...if you really don't want to. *[The boy throws the condom away and the girl and boy sink down slowly behind the backdrop. Condom is very upset.]*

AIDS: Condom, you've lost! No one wants to use you. No one!

Condom: It's because they don't understand the dangers!

AIDS: You're right, Condom! And see how I'll spread all around this place!

Condom: I'll do my best to stop you! There must be a way!

Disease: No! You can't do it!

AIDS: You think you can stop me, Condom? See this man? *[Two men start coming in through the audience]* I've already infected him...a year ago, in Bangkok. And now, he's coming back home! He's ready to have a good time. Let's see what happens!

Man 1: Hey, you've been all over the place! You're lucky!

Man 2: That's life on the fishing boat! We went to Bangkok, Jakarta, Suva. Lots of different places.

Man 1: I wish I could go. *[A girl comes on and stands waiting, looking out towards the audience. Man 2 notices her.]*

Man 2: Look over there, that girl's looking lonely.

Man 1: She's waiting for someone to take her into that nightclub.

Man 2: Anyone?

Man 1: Go and see!

Man 2: *[He walks up to the girl and touches her shoulder]* You want to go into the nightclub?

Girl: With you? Are you asking me or what?

Man 2: Look, I've got plenty of money.... *[He touches his pockets]*

Girl: I'm waiting for my boyfriend. He's the jealous kind.

Man 2: You don't need to worry about him...come on...You'll be alright with me.

Girl: But if he comes....

Man 2: Don't worry about him! *[He pulls her centre stage, into the nightclub. Music plays and they dance close together.]* Come on, dance. Hey....you're a pretty girl aren't you?

Girl: You think so?

Man 2: Sure I do. Let's go outside.



Girl: That's a bit quick!

Man 2: Look, just come outside... Then we'll come back and dance again and I might buy you a little present....

Girl: Alright...but....

Condom: Wait! If you make him wear a condom, you'll be safe! Think! *[The girl starts to follow him but then stops]*

Girl: Are you sure we'll come back and dance?

Man 2: We'll dance...later! *[They exit and AIDS strides in and takes centre stage]*

AIDS: Yes! You can dance! We can all dance!

Diseases: AIDS rap, AIDS rap
Yes everyone can dance
To the AIDS rap.

All: AIDS rap, AIDS rap
We are all dancing
To the AIDS rap
[Man 2 and the girl come back inside and the girl sees her boyfriend. Now everyone changes partners.]

AIDS: Now they're coming
Back inside
And the girl sees
Her boyfriend
Now those two
Go out together
AIDS rap, AIDS rap
They're both dancing
To the AIDS rap.
All you people
Listen to me
Change your partners
Quickly
Change your partners again
Don't ever use condoms

All: No!

AIDS: Don't ever use condoms!

All: No!

AIDS: Now you know
How to dance
Now you know
How to dance
To the AIDS rap

All: Now you know how to dance to the AIDS rap

Condom: Oh no you don't! *[Condom rushes in and pushes AIDS to one side]*
If you can't stay with one partner
And lots of people are like that
You must use a condom

All: EEEE... *[They obviously don't want to use condoms]*

Condom: Do you want to get gonorrhoea or that new disease AIDS?

All: *[Loudly]* No!

Condom: Then you must use condoms!

All: Yes *[A bit nervously]*

Condom: You must all use condoms!

All: Yes!
[The rest of the actors now push AIDS and the other STDs out and Condom is left on stage. He has won.]



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