

Alicia

Education 370

Portfolio-Reflection #4-Maurey-

October 18, 2001

Maurey-talk-show

October 17, 2001

View at my house

The name of the show was “I’m a little Dwarf with big talent!” Maurey had dwarfs come on the show to do one of their talents and to talk with them about how they feel being a small person. I have seen Maurey’s shows before dealing with people with disabilities and thought that it was really great how he dealt with these people and that he talked with them about how they feel. I’ve never really thought that much about it, but as I watched this show, I started to see some devalued roles.

I think the title itself sends a message that these people are superhuman because it seems to me that the title portrays these people as the only little people that has a talent, or they are superhuman because they have a talent. I do not think that this would be intentional on Maurey’s part, but I do see some things that are devalued or thought of as superhuman. I think it would have been a better show if it showed regular sized people with these small people and called the show, “People with big talent”. I also noticed that Maurey seemed to ask all of them if they would want to change the way they look, or seem to think they are sexual deviate. He asked one girl named Cristy if she had a date for her coming up prom at her school, and Maurey said “really? Who is it?”

---

Maurey also had a guy named Duke on the show, and while he was singing, he asked his girlfriend, of normal height, to marry him. After he did this, he asked Amanda, his girlfriend, what her family would say about this, and when she said they would be excited, he seemed surprised. It seemed to me that because she was of normal stature, he thought her parents would be upset if she married a little dwarf. I thought the audience also saw these people as sexual deviant, because when Maxi and her boyfriend (both little people) kissed, the audience started hollering and clapping, as if it was something that was impossible for them. I don't think the audience would have did this if the same think happened between two normal sized people on the show.

Another think I heard that I thought was of devalue, is when he told Adele, a 79 year old little person, that she was probably the wisest of any little person around. He could have said one of the wisest people around; I do not think that "little person" in this case should have been said, because he was speaking of her age and what she has went through, and it was not needed. Maurey also asked one of them how he felt when he said he was 3'6" tall, and when he said it did not bother him, he kept saying so it's OK with you, it's all right to say, you don't care. This made me feel that he felt it could be impossible for them to accept who they are and that it does not bother them for others to recognize it.

I think this show also showed most of the six values to be achieved in the lives of individuals with disabilities. Maurey showed pictures and video clips of these little people in their everyday life, and showed the audience how most of their life is as normal as a regular stature person's life. Maxie sung "I can do that" which reflects her response to life. They also showed her at the gym working out, and driving a car. She talks about

---

her jobs, which is helping children sing at day and at night she dances at a club. She says that almost everything in her life is “normal”, except for some few things, and she will make accommodations in order to do them. For example, she loves driving, so she had extensions made on the pedals. Maurey also shows everyone’s talents and talks about how they have full citizenship. Most of the people on this show also had friends with them, or their girlfriend/boyfriend, which shows they have relationships just like everyone else. I think it was also nice that all of these people were shown having positive attitudes about themselves, and made jokes that were very funny. I think these people are similar to the ones in the video, “Able to Laugh” because they joke about their disability to make themselves feel comfortable as well as others.

I think this show has more of a positive attitude rather than a negative one. Most people would not see the devalued roles that this show had because you really have to think about what is said. I learned from watching this program that people with disabilities live regular lives, even though they have to make some accommodations. I feel that this show touched some on all of the six values that were introduced to us during class. I see these people now as a person, and I don’t feel sorry for them because they don’t feel sorry for themselves, and would not change their looks if they could. I would recommend anyone to watch Maurey when he has people with disabilities on his show. I have seen many of his shows dealing with people that look differently, and it makes me really think how I use to look at people with disabilities and want to change them. I would feel sorry for these people, even though they don’t want people to. I think these shows would change the way people think about others.

---

Alicia