

# Beautiful Differences

**A Play**

**Written by**

Madonna Boclair Hanna

**ABOUT THE PLAY**

The “Beautiful Differences” play addresses the effects of teasing and bullying. The play revolves around an impending fashion show. The anticipation of the upcoming fashion show creates an air of excitement as well as anxiety. Teira, the “popular student of the moment” teases and bullies the special needs students and students who are considered outcast. The special needs students include Jackie who is blind, Angie who is wheelchair bound and John who has Downs-syndrome. The outcast characters include Carlos who is big for his age, Ronamae who is a brown skinned minority, Steven has larger than usual ears and Lori wears a women’s size shoe. All students want to try out to be runway models. The character of Mother Nature arrives on the scene to help all students realize that “Everyone is beautiful, unique and special in their own unique way.” The fashion show turns out to be a great success. All students learn a very valuable lesson about accepting others and themselves.

# Beautiful Differences

## **Cast List**

### **POPULAR STUDENT**

TEIRA

### **OUTCAST GROUP**

STEVEN/EARS

LORI/FEET

CARLOS/WEIGHT

RONAMAE/ SKIN

### **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

JACKIE/ BLIND

JOHN/ DOWN SYNDROME

ANGIE/ WHEELCHAIR

### **OTHERS**

MARK/ STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT

TEIRA'S FRIENDS

MOTHER NATURE

Prelude

*Setting: A typical school cafeteria. The scene is the usual pecking order of students milling around the cafeteria during lunch time. The popular student of the moment seated at a table center stage with friends. Special needs students stage right and outcast students stage left. Little scenery is needed for this production. The emphasis is on the content of the characters dialogue.*

## Opening

*(Characters are set on stage. Students with special needs make an attempt to greet Teira. She ignores them and they are visibly disappointed.)*

Jackie: I wish that you could look and see the beautiful differences inside of me. I wish I could help you understand that it's Mother Nature's work at hand. I have feelings just like you, and sometimes what you say makes me feel blue.

Angie: And there is nothing that I can say or do. Because putting you down, places me on the same level as you. Inside we are all beautiful. No matter what anyone says. You can say what you want, with all the foolishness you flaunt. You can try to damage my pride, but all the blows you make I knock aside.

John: I don't care about the clothes you wear or how you style your nice long hair. People are not the same. Some are quiet, some seek fame or have Down's Syndrome like me. Respect me for who I've come to be.

Angie, Jackie, John: Oh I wish that you could look and see the beautiful differences that are we.  
*(Characters look sad and dejected except for the popular student who is ambivalent.)*

*(Mark moves from stage right to center next to Teira)*

Mark: *(to audience)* Hi, I'm Mark, the new student council president. The Mia Specialty Store is having a fashion show and they need models. I'll be passing out flyers today. *(All groups are leaning toward Mark listening intently and with interest. Mark moves toward giddy Teira)*

Mark: Good morning you look great as usual. Here make sure you read this. Mia's Specialty Store is having a fashion show. They want to select students from this school as runway models. Check it out!

Teira: This is so great and sounds really cool. A fashion show, I just love fashion shows! I love Mia's clothes; I shop there all the time!

Mark: You love shopping any time, anywhere girl!

Teira: I also love modeling. In fact, I'm the perfect model, no sweat I'll make it. Hmm! *(To audience)* I wonder how many models they need? *(She bats here eyes and primps)* who cares as long as I'm the number one model. After all I am so-o-o perfect, *(to audience)* you know I'm telling the truth.

*(Mark moves to the group of outcast students)*

Mark: *(using an insensitive tone of voice)* Here check this out. You guys may want to come and watch. It should be fun.

*(Everyone eagerly looks at the flyer)*

Steven: Wow, a fashion show. Sounds neat!

Lori: Sure, come and watch we're good at that!

Carlos: *(sheepishly)* I'd like to do more than watch. I want to tryout!

Ronamae: *(half-hearted)* I've always wanted to be a model.

Lori Oh, come and on! When do we ever get picked for anything? The same people get picked to the fun stuff all the time! It's like an exclusive club! The same members all the time, year, after year, after, year. If you're different you don't get picked. Frankly, I'm sick of it! I wish I were born beautiful and perfect!

Ronamae: Me too! They make fun of me because of my brown skin and call me awful names.

Carlos: *(sighs sadly)* I know what you're saying is true. They make fun of my weight. I am body shamed all the time, but I'd still like to tryout!

Steven: *(Sadly)* So would I.

Lori *(heavy sigh)* Me To!

*(Focus returns to Teira)*

Teira: *(points in disbelief in direction of outcast students)* Can you believe It? *(to audience then friends)* Oh, like sure, their going to get picked to be in the fashion show. Just look at Steven. How can you camouflage those big ears! *(Teira gestures by grabbing her own earlobes)*

*(Steven covers his ears in shame. Others in-group attempt to comfort him)*  
Look at Carlos! He is so overweight! It's a fact that the MOST attractive and handsome male models are supposed to be well built and gorgeous. Just look at all the TV and fashion magazines! Oh there is no way that Carlos is the perfect male model type! *(Carlos looks sad and is comforted by others)* And Lori has huge feet *(gestures by sticking out her own feet and flopping around)* She would trip all over the stage. How can anyone be graceful with feet that big! *(Lori comforted by the group)* I won't even worry about Lori tripping and flipping across the stage embarrassing the entire school, because it's not even going to happen! *(All laughs. Oh, and about Ronamae that brown skin color just won't do. (Laughs!)*

(Mark moves to students with special needs)

**Mark:** *(with great indifference gives flyer to Jackie)* Here read this. *(Chuckles slyly and moves away quickly).*

Jackie: *(annoyed)* If it were Braille I could read it! What does it say anyway? *(Waves the paper).*

John: *(takes the paper)* It's an announcement about a fashion show.

Angie: A fashion show? When? Where? Can we be in it? I mean are we allowed to be in it?

John: *(sadly)* I don't think so. I try out for everything. Softball, basketball and plays. I never get picked. I know it's because I have Down's Syndrome. When I went to try out for basketball and softball everyone laughed at me. They said, "Kids with Downs aren't good athletes." We're slow and not very coordinated. All I really wanted was just to be part of a team! I just want to have sunlike everyone else.

Jackie: *(sadly)* I remember when you went to try out. I also remember hearing them laughing and saying Down's kids can't be jocks.

John: If we can't be jocks I don't think we can be models either.

*(Focus back to Teira)*

Teira: Oh, this is really too much! The student council president actually gave the special needs kid a flyer! Fashion isn't for disabled people. Who wants to watch them? I know I don't! *(To audience then friends)* You know image is everything! People want to see normal beautiful people in fabulous, beautiful clothes. Can you imagine a blind kid in a fashion show? They can't see so they won't know what's going on anyway. And don't get me started on those kids who drool all the time. Ewww! That's sooo gross! *(To audience)* Day of the show they'll be where they always are, in the

audience watching, just wishing they could be cool and beautiful like me.

I CAN'T HELP THAT I'M FASHIONABLY FIT AND THEY'RE NOT!

I CAN'T HELP THE FACT THAT I'M PRETTY AND PERFECT AND THEY'RE NOT.

I CAN'T HELP THAT I HAVE A FLAWLESS COMPLEXION AND THEY'RE COVERED WITH ZITS.

I CAN'T HELP IT IF EVERYONE ADORES ME AND WANTS TO BE IN MY CLICK

I CAN'T HELP THAT PEOPLE HANG ON EVERY SENSELESS STUPID WORD I SAY.

YOU SEE, I'M CONCEDED AND I'M FICKLED

AND I NEED PEOPLE TO LOOK UP TO ME, ME, AND ME!

WHEN I LOOK AT MY REFLECTION I CAN'T HELP BUT SEE PERFECTION!

NO WONDER I WIN ALL THE SCHOOL ELECTIONS!

I DIDN'T ASK TO BE BORN SO PERFECT AND POPULAR. SORRY I'M IN AND YOU'RE NOT.

FOR NOW THE WORLD REALLY DOES REVOLVE AROUND ME AND WHAT WOULD I DO IF IT DIDN'T!

OH, I JUST CAN'T HELP THAT I'M FASHIONABLY FIT AND THEY'RE NOT!

I think I'll go to my locker and hang up a new picture of me!

*(Teira and friends leaves giggling. A picture falls slips from Teira's hand. The remaining groups move center stage)*

Cast: WHY ARE WE THE ONES THAT AREN'T FASHIONABLY FIT?

Jackie: WHY ARE WE THE ONES THAT JUST AREN'T HIP?

John: WHY ARE WE THE ONES THAT WATCH AND SIT?

Angie: WHY ARE WE THE ONES THAT GET THE MOST ZITS?

Steven: WHY ARE WE THE ONES THE POPULAR KIDS SKIP?

Lori: I'M TIRED OF BEING THE ONE WHO'S SKIPPED!

Carlos: I WANT TO BE FASHIONABLY FIT!

Ronamae: I WANT TO BE THE FASHION MAGAZINE HIT!

Jackie I WANT TO BE THE ONE WHO'S NOT SKIPPED!

Angie: I WANT TO BE THE ONE WITHOUT ALL THE ZITS!

**All:** WHY OH, WHY AREN'T WE THE ONES WHO ARE FASHIONABLY FIT?

Steven: I sure would like to model in the fashion show.

Lori: Just once I wish I could fit in and not be different.

Jackie: Since I'm blind no one ever asks me to help out. Just because I can't see doesn't mean I can't help out in some way.

Angie: Why did we have to be born so different? Why do I have to be confined to a wheelchair?

*(Mother Nature arrives on stage unnoticed. Looking radiant, beautiful and very fashionable in floral print dress or suit and a stylish hat with flowers. She's been listening to everything said. Then she loudly clears her throat. Teira has also returned to look for her picture. She is off to the side checking out Mother Nature and decides to stay hidden. Mother Nature is aware that Teira is hiding. )*

Steven: Shh, listen!

Mother Nature: Well, hello darlings! Why do you look so sad on such a bright and beautiful day?

*(Cast looks around trying to find source of voice)*

Jackie: Who is that? I don't recognize the voice.

Mother Nature: My friends call me *(pause)* Mother Nature. But darlings, who I am is not important right now. What is important is that I distinctly heard someone ask a very fascinating question. I believe it was "Why did we have to be born so different?"

Angie (*shyly and looking down and ashamed*) It was me. I said it.

Mother Nature: I know it was you darling. I KNOW everything!

Steven: (*puzzled*) Why ARE we DIFFERENT? Why aren't we perfect and beautiful? Why do we always have to watch and cross our fingers and wish that this time things will be different?

Mother Nature: Now, now darling, calm down. I know true beauty when I see it.  
Standing before me is a beautiful collection of children.

Lori: What planet are you from lady?

Steven: (*pokes Lori*) Don't be rude!

Mother Nature: Listen what I say is true. I don't say scandalous things like your friend, Teira.

*(Teira quietly reacts to the remark)*

John: (*scowls*) Our Friend!

Mother Nature: (*Not quite impatient and throwing a side glance a Teira*) Anyway, I hear there's

a fashion show in the works. (*Brightens up*) I adore fashion shows. HmMMM and it seems that I am in the presence of potential models

*(Students looks around in puzzlement)*

Jackie: I wish I could see who you're looking at.

Carlos: (*Miffed*) You! I CAN see! And I'm wondering who she's looking at.

Mother Nature: I am truly looking at all of you!

Lori: Look again Mother Nature my feet are too big. I'll trip and flip and fall on my face! Then everyone will laugh at me.

Mother Nature: Dear child those grand feet of yours will leave impressions that are bold and forceful. You'll lead the way for others to follow.

Lori: (*amazed and proud*) Really! (*Smiles and looks at her feet*)

Mother Nature: Really Lori darling!

Ronamae: Mother Nature: my skin is the W-R-O-N-G color to be in THIS fashion show. I just won't be a good looking model.

Mother Nature: My gorgeous Ronamae, your skin is a reflection of the beauty of nature in all of its shining glory. Whether it's gold, bronze, ivory, ebony or copper. you must always be proud my child.

Ronamae: *(brightly)* Wow, Mother Nature I am special aren't I? *(Looks at arms and legs)*  
My skin color is pretty isn't it?

Mother Nature: My dear children, you are more beautiful than you can imagine.

John: *(hopeful)* Why do I have Downs Syndrome?

Mother Nature: Dear John, the very best blessings have been saved for you. Your courage, patience and loving nature are your greatest strengths.

John: *(wipes tears from eyes)* Those are the kindest words anyone has ever said to me.

Mother Nature: Darling it's very true.

Jackie: *(timidly)* Why am I *(pause)*

Mother Nature: *(Sincerely)* Blind? My precious, precious darling, you are blessed with the most honest gift of sight. You will never be able to judge a person by the color of their skin, height, weight or physical imperfections. You have the ability to see into the heart and that's the very best way to see others. *(Cast agrees)*

Jackie: *(crying)* Oh thank you. I've never thought of my blindness the way YOU Describe it. Thank you for bringing hope and encouragement into my world.

Angie: *(upbeat)* I never thought being blind could be so-o-o- co-o-ol.

Carlos: Wouldn't it be cool, if everyone had the awesome inner sight of blind people?

Angie: Sure, then maybe people won't be so quick to judge people, especially people in wheel chairs.

Carlos: *(sadly but hopeful)* Maybe they would stop leaving us out of the fun stuff just Because they think we're different.

*(Mother Nature throws a knowing side glance in Teira's direction)*

Steven: *(eyes grow wide with an idea and snaps fingers)* You know what I am thinking?  
*(Cast leans in with nervous excitement)*

Jackie: Maybe?

John Sort of?

Ronamae: No, we couldn't.

Angie: Do you think we should?

Jackie: Even I can see a bright idea brewing!

Ronamae: Do we dare try-out?

Steven: *(with determination)* YES! We're going to try-out for the fashion show!

Carlos: I'm scared.

John: *(very nervous)* So am I!

Angie: The way I see it, there are two kinds of scared. Good scared and bad scared.

Carlos: *(puzzled)* What do you mean?

Angie: Good scared is when you're scared to do something that helps you grow  
in some way. Bad scared is when you get into real trouble. I say we go for the  
good scared. Let's take a deep breath and go for it. I'm tired of being afraid of  
want-  
ing good things.

Jackie: *(big smile)* I see your point.*(cast laughs nervously)* Just because I'm blind doesn't  
mean I lack vision. Let's do it. I'm in! We can do this!

*(Cast shakes hands, high-fives and hugs. Mother Nature smiles and twirls around and winks at Teira as she does so.)*

Cast: LET'S NOT SIT; LET'S GO FOR IT!

Jackie: I KNOW WE CAN ALL BE FASHIONABLY FIT!

Angie: I KNOW WE CAN FIND A WAY TO COVER OUR ZITS!

John: AND THERE FABULOUS CLOTHES THAT WE CAN FIT.

Cast: LET'S DO IT!

Steven: WE'LL PRACTICE HARD AMD GET IN SHAPE

Lori: AND THEN OUR CLOTHES WILL FIT AND DRAPE

Carlos: WE'LL MOVE SO FLUID ACROSS THE STAGE.

Ronamae: PEOPLE WILL THINK WE STEPPED FROM A FASHION MAGAZINE PAGE.

Cast: LET'S NOT SIT LET'S GO FOR IT. I KNOW THAT WE CAN ALL BE  
FASHIONABLY FIT!

*(Cast happily leaves stage charged with enthusiasm. Ronamae is last to leave)*

Ronamae/ *(looks around in great excitement)* Thank you Mother Nature, thank you for ever  
thing!! *As Ronamae dashes off, Mother Nature beckons Teira from her hiding place. Teira timidly moves toward Mother Nature as she speaks to the audience.)*

Mother Nature: YOUR WELCOME DARLING! *(to audience)* THAT BEAUTIFUL  
COLLECTION OF CHILDREN WILL PRACTICE, PRACTICE,  
AND PRACTICE. MEANWHILE, I'M GOING TO ENJOY THE  
VIEW OF ALL THE BEAUTIFUL YOU, YOU, AND YOU!  
BEAUTIFUL SKIN  
BEAUTIFUL EYES  
BEAUTIFUL HAIR  
BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN EVERYWHERE  
BEAUTIFUL HANDS  
BEAUTIFUL FEET  
BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN SO SPECIAL AND UNIQUE  
BEAUTIFUL FACES  
WHY THERE'S BEAUTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE RACES.  
BEAUTY HERE, BEAUTY THERE, BEAUTY EVERYWHERE.

*(Mother Nature is now twirling in a circle around a bewildered Teira)*

Just like our beautiful new models! OOPS! I let the secret out of the  
bag! Actually darlings, I bet you knew they would make it. Didn't you TEIRA?  
All they needed was encouragement and someone to believe that they could  
achieve their goals. Right Teira? *(Teira nods in agreement almost smiling)*

Now,

let's see how things turn out for everyone. *(Mother Nature with her arms  
draped lovingly on Teira's shoulder exit stage left).*

*(Mark and Jackie are waiting to step on stage. They are wearing  
matching business suits.)*

Jackie: *(Scared and holding on to Mark's arm with one hand and her free hand holding her red  
tipped white cane)* I'm scared I've never been so scared in my whole entire

life. People are going to laugh at me. I know it! I know it!

Mark: Listen, Jackie you've come this far! I'm not going to let you quit. You can do it. You look like a confident young business woman. Believe me everyone is going to applaud. You'll love it, you'll see. Oh ...I mean you'll hear.

Jackie: (*Laughs.*) I know what you mean Mark.

(*Cast presents an actual fashion show. Suggest play a soft instrument for background music.*)

Teira: (*Teira looks genuinely enthused by outcome of fashion show*) Wow, this was great. It was so diverse and the garments really looked sensational on everyone!

Mother Nature: (*Stands by Teira*) Your right Teira, darling, EVERYONE had an opportunity to share his or her own Beautiful difference. It's the most beautiful fashion show I've ever seen.

Jackie and Teira: Me too! (*both laugh*)

Jackie: I mean I had the best time of my life. I want to do this again!

(*All laugh and agree*)

Teira: (*clears her cracking voice*) Hey guys, I've got a great idea. This weekend let's have a party at my house! I know my parents won't mind!

Mark: A party sounds really cool, but you know what guys? This team has one more job to do. Let's make a beautiful difference by cleaning up!

(*Cast cheers and hugs*)

Teira: Wow, the fashion show was so incredible. I've never had so much fun in my life! Plus, I learned a great lesson about accepting others.

Lori: (*hugs popular student*) I'm just glad that I had the opportunity to be a part of the fashion show.

Teira: (*sincerely*) I am too.

Jackie: The applause was so great. I'll never forget that sound as long as I live.

Angie: It was like being in a dream. Like I was someone else (pause) but it was really me!

Jackie: Now we know that dreams and goals can be achieved. The sky IS the limit and anything is possible!

Mark: You know what the best part of the fashion was?

Ronamae: I can't imagine a best part; **every** part was the best to me.

Mark: Well that's true too, but the very best part was that we all got through it. We all got along and the show turned out great!

Teira: The greatest thing of all is that I made new friends. I learned that even though we're different in so many beautiful ways, we're so-o-o much alike in so many wonderful ways. (*Sheepishly*) Actually, we are more alike than not alike. No matter who we are, we all have beautiful differences.

Ronamae: We can do anything and be whatever our heart desires.

Mark: Let's not forget the important lessons we learn here today.

Teira: (*snaps fingers*) I have a great idea. Let's work on another project. The school dance is coming up, with all of us working together it will be incredible!

*(cast happily agrees)*

Steven: (*looks at Lori who is crying*) Why are you crying?

Lori: Oh Just another dream came true. (*They hug*)

Cast: WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DIFFERENCE WE ALL MAKE TO THIS GREAT GREAT HUMAN RACE.

Carlos and Ronamae: ALL BEAUTIFUL IN SPIRIT AND IN FACE, LET'S NOT HATE

Cast: WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DIFFERENCE WE ALL MAKE

Steven and Lori: ONE DAY WE'LL FLY HAND IN HAND IN TO OUTER SPACE AND LOOK BACK AT THE EARTH AND SAY" (*cast*) WOW WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PLACE"

John and Jackie: GEE, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DIFFERENCE WE ALL MAKE.

Jackie and Angie: TALL, SMALL, CHUBBY, OR THIN. TWO FEET OR TWO WHEELED, SIGHTED OR SIGHT IMPAIRED.

Ronamae and Carlos: BLACK, RED, YELLOW, BROWN OR WHITE

Cast: WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DIFFERENCE, THAT'S RIGHT.

Steven and Mark: (*shake hands*) LET'S CELEBRATE OUR DIFFERENCES AND NOT FIGHT.

All: LET'S MAKE THE WORLD PERFECT BEAUTIFUL AND BRIGHT, ALL RIGHT? WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DIFFERENCE WE ALL MAKE TO THIS GREAT, GREAT HUMAN RACE.

Mother Nature: (*to audience*) Darlings, you all have beautiful differences. You are unique treasures and a wondrous gift to the human race. Now it's your turn to celebrate your beautiful differences at your school, your homes, your work, your communities. Everywhere my darlings! Every where!

The End

