

## Monologue from The Diary of Anne Frank

*This play is adapted from the diary kept by Anne Frank as she and her family hid from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II. In 1942, eight Jews --- the Franks, the Van Daans and Dr. Dussel, a dentist --- sought asylum in the attic of a warehouse belonging to Mr. Frank's firm. These hunted people lived together for two years, depending on four former employees of Mr. Frank for food and necessities. Anne began her diary at the age of 13, and has given the world a tender, beautiful document about a girl growing up and the human spirit under terrible adversity. The attic hiding place was discovered in 1944 and its inhabitants were sent to concentration camps. In the next few months, they all died except for Otto Frank, who was freed in 1945 by the Russians. When Amsterdam was liberated, he returned and was given the diary that Miep, one of their benefactors during their hiding, had saved.*

*The following monologue is from a scene near the very end of the play. Peter Van Daan, a quiet and unhappy seventeen year old has just rushed into his little room in despair. Anne, displaying a developing maturity, is trying to console him. It is the last time they are together for the scene immediately precedes the entrance of the Nazis.*

**ANNE:** Look, Peter, the sky. (She looks up through skylight.) What a lovely, lovely day! Aren't the clouds beautiful? You know what I do when it seems as if I couldn't stand being cooped up for one more minute? I think myself out. I think myself on a walk in the park where I used to go with Pim. Where the jonquils and the crocus and the violets grow down the slopes. You know the most wonderful thing about thinking yourself out? You can have it any way you like. You can have roses and violets and chrysanthemums all blooming at the same time ... it's funny ... I used to take it all for granted ... and now I've gone crazy about everything to do with nature. Haven't you?