



# Calypso's Corner

A new play by Emily Rosenbaum

May 6, 7, 13, 14, 19, 20 and 21 at 8pm

Sunday May 15 at 2pm

You're invited to stay after each performance for a discussion with the playwright, cast and director

All performances are held at

Penelope's Venue, 12219 Dix Toledo Road in Southgate, MI

**Suggested companion reading:** *Being Mortal*, by Atul Gawande (on dying); *When We Danced on Water*, by Evan Fallenberg (a novel on the Holocaust and the lasting legacy of violence); *The Storied Life of AJ Firky*, by Gabrielle Zevin (a novel set in a bookstore).

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *Calypso's Corner* is rife with literary references. How do these allusions affect your experience of the play? Were any of the texts mentioned particularly meaningful to you?
2. The structure of the play is complicated, with two time periods moving forward and one moving backwards. How does this structure impact the development of the plot and the characters?
3. There are many funny moments in a play about some serious topics. When can we use humor to discuss tragedy? Does humor help us to process the difficult moments or does it diminish the seriousness?
4. Leah, in particular, is a complicated character. Why does she act the way she does?
5. There is a stigma attached to being a child abuse survivor. People assume those who were abused as children grow up to be damaged. Does this play reinforce that notion, or does it present another possibility?
6. How do acts of violence continue to pay dividends throughout time and across populations?
7. There are two absent characters in this play--Rachel & Leah's mother and Jack. Consider the role these characters play in what happens onstage.
8. Our culture values fighting and never giving up. There are several points in this play, however, when giving up seems the healthier option. Consider the interplay between acceptance, fighting, and letting go.

**Calypso's Corner is a play for book lovers! The following books and authors are mentioned or quoted in the play:** *Owl Babies*; *Anna Karenina*; *Love You Forever*; *Henry Huggins*; *Ribsy*; *Slaughterhouse Five*; *Eat, Pray, Love*; *Grieving the Death of a Mother*; *The Loss That is Forever*; *Motherless Daughters*; *As I Lay Dying*; *Middlemarch*; *The Wasteland*; *Make Way for Ducklings*; *A Rose for Emily* (short story); *Flat Stanley*; *Animal Farm*; *Charlotte's Web*; *Artemis Fowl*; *Harry Potter*; *Sisterhood of Traveling Pants*; *Ahab's Wife*; *Moby Dick*; *The Odyssey*; *Hamlet*; *Frog and Toad are Friends*; *Fifty Shades of Gray*; *Ulysses*; *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*; *Stuart Little*; Gertrude Stein; Dylan Thomas; Alison Luterman; Zora Neale Hurston; Margaret Mitchell; Tennessee Williams; Henry James.

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