

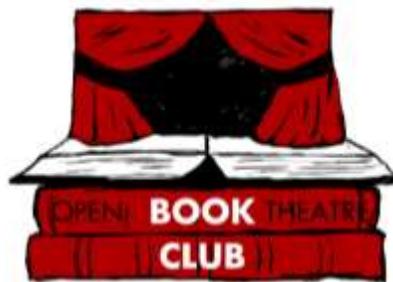
Independence

by Lee Blessing

Feb 27, 28 and March 1, 5, 6 and 7 2015
Sunday March 1 at 2pm, all other performances at 8pm

The performance on Sunday March 1 at 2pm will be followed by a discussion with the artists.

- 1) What is the significance of the word *Independence*? Why do you think the playwright chose it as the location and title of the play?
- 2) In Act 1, scene 2 Kess and Jo discuss a Scottish Border Ballad about a mother and her three dead sons. How does that story compare or contrast with the mother and three daughters in *Independence*?
- 3) Kess asks Joe “What do you need from Mom?” (Act 1, scene 2) What do you think each daughter is looking for from their relationship with their mother? From each other? What does Evelyn want/need from her daughters?
- 4) The girls remember Evelyn taking them to James Bond movies when they were children, laughing about how she pointed out that the women in the movies “a-l-l-l-l-l-l die.” How might this reflect Evelyn’s attitude towards men in general? How does she speak about the men in the story (her husband Henry, Jo’s “baby daddy” Don, Sherry’s various boyfriends)?
- 5) Evelyn breaks several things over the course of the play (a picture frame, china, the cameo). What might the broken items represent?
- 6) How do the characters change or stay the same through the course of the story?
- 7) With a novel, the author paints the scenery and draws the character with his or her words, which are enhanced by the reader's imagination. A playwright must trust various directors, designers and actors to reinterpret the story with each production. How did the theatrical choices (set, costumes, lighting, acting choices, movement, etc.) enhance or detract from the story?
- 10) If you read the play before seeing the production, how did it differ from what you imagined when you read it? What surprised you? Was anything clearer?



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All performances are held at Penelope’s Venue, 12219 Dix Toledo Road in Southgate, MI