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-i-e-d.” 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?