

Kimberly Akimbo

by David Lindsay-Abaire

May 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 & 9 2015

Sunday May 2 at 2pm, all other performances at 8pm

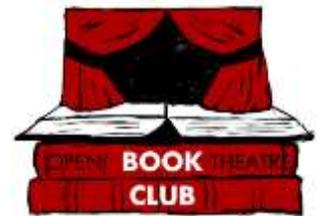
The performance on Sunday May 2 at 2pm will be followed by a discussion with the artists.

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

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What does Akimbo mean? How is Kimberly "akimbo"? What other things in the story might be considered akimbo?
- 2) Kimberly ages 4 ½ times faster than normal. What problems does this create within the world of the play? What other problems do you think it would create?
- 3) At the beginning of the play it is snowing in April. How is this unseasonable weather a metaphor for Kimberly's life?
- 4) How did you feel about the characters? Whom did you like or not like and why?
- 5) What do you think Kim's intention for the money was? What might have changed her mind?
- 6) What did you think of the ending?
- 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?

Most theatrical productions start with a book – the script. These are literary works designed for the stage. The playwright, or author, writes the story that is the jumping off point for the production. A playwright uses many of the same tools an author of a novel uses such as character development, plot, dialogue (okay, LOTS of dialogue!), place, and mood. The playwright must trust that different artists such as actors, designers, and directors will take the written book and bring it to life. Just like a book lives differently in each reader's imagination, a script lives differently in each staged production. We invite you to delve deeper into our plays by looking at them not just as a performance, but as a literary work. Think about and discuss the choices the playwright made... and the other artists involved. How does the story relate to your life?



Our discussion questions are designed for both groups that want to simply see the play and discuss it, or read the play before seeing it. Scripts for all of the plays in our season are available for purchase online from Amazon, Dramatists Play Service (www.dramatists.com) and other places. Discussion questions are available to download from our website, follow the links on our "Book Club" page!

For each production we will offer a talk back after the Sunday matinee, a great time for your group to discuss the play with the artists involved. If your group is attending a different performance and would like to speak to someone involved in the show let us know by sending an e-mail to krista@openbooktc.com, we might be able to arrange a brief discussion with an artist.