

Red by John Logan

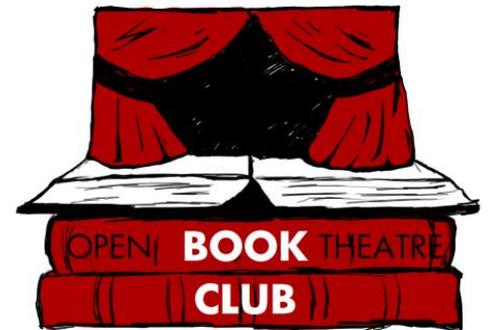
December 5, 6, 7, and 11, 12, 13

Sunday December 7th performance at 2pm – followed by a discussion with the artists

All other performances at 8pm

- 1) What kind of art/books/music do you like? Do you consider any of these guilty pleasures? Rothko says “Of course you *like* it – how can you not *like* it?! Everyone likes everything nowadays... Where’s the discernment? Where’s the arbitration that separates what I *like* from what I *respect*, what I deem *worthy*, what has... *significance*.” Is there art you deem worthy but don’t particularly like?
- 2) Describe the tension between past, present and future in *Red*. What were Rothko’s take on them? Ken’s? What do you think?
- 3) Why do you think Rothko was so focused on creating a space? What did he hope to accomplish? (learn more about the space he finally did create at www.rothkochapel.org)
- 4) Rothko has a love for his own paintings, like a parent to a child. “It’s risky to send it out into the world,” he says. Does art require an audience?
- 5) Rothko describes a painting that has affected him deeply (*Matisse’s Red Studio*). Have you been deeply affected by a painting? How so? What about other types of art? Share your experiences of how particular pieces of art have affected you.
- 6) Mark Rothko is a real person, but his assistant Ken is fictional. Can you think of other writings in which the master teaches a student? In the world of the play do you think Ken is real, or a figment of Rothko’s imagination- a manifestation of his own doubts and fears as he struggles with the art he is creating?
- 7) What do you think Ken is saying in the final line of the play, when Rothko asks (just like the opening line) “What do you see?” and Ken answers “Red”?
- 8) Has *Red* made you think differently of art? Do you think you will look differently at paintings? How about other art: will you have different considerations for music, theatre, dance, etc?

Looking for a companion book for *Red*? We suggest *Mark Rothko: A Biography* by James Breslin and *The Artist’s Reality: Philosophies of Art* by Mark Rothko



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