First Impression Director Analysis 2x2L System/Two Kearns
9/7/2025
TPP 3310

1. What is the play written about? What life occurrences are happening there? In short, what is its THEME (subject matter) of the play?: How the internal logic of different beings affects the way we all interact and move about the world including our relationship with others.
2. How does the author relate to it? Why did he write about it? What is he trying to say? In short, what is the IDEA of the play?: The playwright wrote an author's note on why he wrote the play, so I am drawing my response here from that. The playwright wrote the play primarily as a commentary on internal logic of characters. Even though Naomi may seem unpredictable everything that which Naomi does on stage has logic to it. Just Naomi's own complex logic to it. While contrasted with that John and Johana have a tendency throughout the play to cause conflict repeatedly with Naomi since they have an unwillingness to truly fully understand and emphasize which each other.
3. What are THE MAIN EVENTS of the play?:
    1. Naomi gives John and Johnna a tour of the house.
    2. Johnna tells Naomi about their children that died in the car accident
    3. Naomi Moves the Stuffed Santa Pig to the Kitchen
    4. Johnna and Naomi talk about 5 subjects.
    5. Naomi has sex with a couch
    6. John returns now dressed like Johnna and an argument ensues because of it.
    7. Naomi kicks John and Johnna out of the house before concluding that it was a good visit.
4. What is THE ONE MAJOR CONFLICT of the play?: The one major conflict of the play is arguable between Naomi and Johanna. Johnanna has a more conservative view of the world while Naomi tends to move through the world in her own unique way and this repeatedly through out the play places the characters at odds, from Naomi forgetting she has met Johanna previously, to Johanna use of the word insane, to Johanna not understanding the five topics things when talking to Naomi, to arguments about Johanna and John sitting certain places, to even John becoming a source of conflict between the two during the course of the play.

5. What is the most memorable moment or moments in the play?: I think the most memorable moment in the play for us is the one characterizes the relationship between John and Johanna when John comes in dressed as Johanna. Johanna is mad at John for dressing like her and supposedly “cross dressing”. While the titular character Naomi is just mad that her child is not taking after her. While she does make some commentary towards her views on gender and gender expression in regardless, she accepts John unlike Johanna. This provides an important contrast between Naomi’s views on John when compared to Johanna’s views on John.

6. Which character or characters do you sympathize with?:

   I emphasize Naomi. Naomi moves through the world in a plural coded way while not being explicit representation of plurality. This is especially reflected by the switching of opinions in final moment of the scene from going from kicking John and Johana out of her house to then after being in a rage, suddenly switching to a conclusion that was a nice visit.

   I also empathize with Naomi’s picking up and playing with the Santa pig randomly. We ourselves have figurines around the house. Often in our case of canines/werewolves related objects, or of video games/pieces of media that we are consuming, we will just pick up and play with them randomly from time to time. Also, the wanting the jumping from topics to topic in conversation Naomi tends to do when speaking is also something we do.

   We also have had the experience of having an experience of receiving negative reactions towards partaking in more feminine gender expression from those around us in society that are captured in the experience of John in this play.

7. Do you understand THE ACTIONS of the characters in the play?: Naomi’s logic has a lot of threads to it between being driven quick to anger, wanting to be a good hostess, to being quickly bored by things, ex… John stands as a bridge between the logic of Naomi and the logic of society at large captured in Johanna. And Johanna presents a sort of neurotypical while those in the privileged class of society view things. With the play’s actions and moments being driven by the character dynamics of all three playing off each other.

8. How do you relate to a play? What do you feel about it?: I choose to direct this play because of how plural codded the character of Naomi is. Plural representation in media is pretty much not existence. Often the best thing those

of us in the plural community can settle for is an ounce of our experience being represented through plural coded characters like that of Naomi. I want to stage the character of Naomi with a plural direction for her character. Even if it is just shown within the subtext of the play between Naomi's sudden change between subsets of mannerisms and opinions. Which is one of the reasons we choose this play, in particular for our scene for directing the showcase.

9. Are there moments in the play which are hard to understand? The hardest moment of the play to understand is Santa Pig. Minus it being an additional moment that helps to characterize the character of Naomi I am having trouble understanding what the deeper meaning of the moment is to the rest of the play's themes. It seems out of place almost. Naomi already has mentioned other figurines prior so it does not provide additional information to the characterization of the titular living space itself, nor does it provide added characterization for Naomi's attention span which is already captured in the moment with her and Johnanna talking where she asks Johnanna to quickly talk her though five different subjects of conversation.
10. What is the style of the language of the play?: The style of the language of this play is absurdism.
11. Can you characterize the play with one word or a short sentence (the general impression of the play.): A visit home that brings to life the truth of varying ways in which we all move about the world.
12. Other thoughts, notes, questions. :
    1. I guess one major thing I am going to take to table reads for this play is background on the plural community at a whole and how the multiple moments throughout the play in which Namoi's opinions contradict herselves, and her change of outlooks on the world throughout the play contributes to why this is a plural coded character in the first place.
    2. Also, pushing the actors to build life into the house itself. The house and the living room is alive in this play and the characters, especially Namoi and John, have a close relationship with this location. This was John's childhood home, and Naomi is proved to have strong emotions towards this location ala her possessive feelings towards the furniture and literally having sex with a couch at one point. This sense of location needs to be brought to life throughout the play.

3. The play has a few major directing challenges that I am particularly interested in getting to tackle when directing this piece: navigating a piece with particularly tough subject matter, approaching this piece with a directorial concept that draws out a lot of the subtext of this piece that might not be obvious at first glance, bringing life to a location that holds a lot of meaning both technically, but also for all the characters themselves, tackling cutting this piece to fit within the run time while also preserving the playwrights meaning, tackling directing the play with a directorial vision that is going to require a lot of emotional vulnerability from mean, and more. This will not be more first experience directing something. I have directed things in the past and taken a directing class before coming to UWF, so I am hoping to challenge myself through this piece to keep growing in my skillsets as a director.