## Boise State University ScholarWorks

Crimes of the Heart (2016) - Lighting

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## **Brandon Washington**

## **Emotional Response - CRIMES OF THE HEART**

Although this show is viewed as a dark comedy, the problems and difficulties that the three sisters face are extremely depressing. Between; Babe shooting her abusive husband Zackary, the discussions of why their mother killed herself (and why she would also kill the cat with her), their grandfather falling into a coma around the time of Lenny's birthday, as well as Babe's attempted suicides at the end of the show, it is hard to just view this material as a "dark comedy." With all of these very real events being discussed, I can also feel how real the world must look around them. No crazy abstractions of reality, but simply viewing this family discussing their lives. The show fits very well into the realism category of plays and art.

Diverging from the "realness" of the piece and the conversations that take place in the piece, the Kitchen (the only location in the show) feels very stale. Almost like that the air isn't moving, no white noise, no radio playing, just a very stale environment that can set the tone for the action/conversations that takes place thorough the show. This "staleness" for me, evokes the need for honesty. These sister's don't want silence, they want discussion, however how can they not discuss their own personal demons/avoid these huge "white elephants" (in a sense) in the room? Silence speaks the truth, and this play definitely shows that well.

I feel like the lighting for the show can follow the same emotional structure that the characters follow as the play progressively reveals the tension and struggles that each of the girl's have. My initial gut instinct is having the sun follow a complete path from a very intense afternoon angle (Act One), a more dramatic/lower angle for evening/on the cusp of a sunset (Act Two), and finally representing this feeling of a new beginning with a bright and crisp morning sun (Act Three).