

Doubt Director's Note

What is doubt (besides the eponymous focus of John Patrick Shanley's play)? Is it a vice for the indecisive? Is it a virtue for the fervid? Do we see it as a welcome warning? Or perhaps it is an irksome sign of vulnerability? Perhaps the better question isn't about the nature of doubt, but rather its affect on each of us individually.

In this play, Shanley is engaging the audience in a dialogue about doubt, about culpability and about established rules of order. He puts together a compelling narrative as a platform to examine these questions and ignite a discussion. He wants us to ask ourselves if there are situations where it is right to challenge the accepted order, to consider if there are ever situations where a crime could be so heinous, that perhaps a suspect should be considered guilty until proven innocent.

To help his audience better grasp this debate, Shanley composes a narrative where the characters double as symbols to better unpack the broader discussion, while placing these unique individuals in a world that will be instantly recognizable to the audience.

Shanley talks about this play being written as a one act for a reason: Act one will be everything you see on stage and "act two" will be the discussions you have with others who have shared in this communal experience. I hope you enjoy your "act two" every bit as much as you enjoy act one.

On behalf of the actors, designers, crew at UA Theatre and Dance department, I thank you for being a part of this conversation and I look forward to sharing this parable with all of you.