

#### 4D: Observe & Analyze II

**Lauren Brickman, Adjunct Lecturer, Theatre & Speech** [00:00:00] We're going to use the Socratic questioning method today. So remember, I'm going to be posing questions throughout our discussion. Even if you respond, I may ask another question. This is to get you to rethink your answer, perhaps in a more deep way, okay? So let's just jump right in. First question, is *A Doll's House* still relevant or has the play become too dated? What do we think? Yeah.

**Student** [00:00:23] I absolutely think that *A Doll's House* should still be performed. Some of the language and the behaviors do seem dated, but the story itself and the characters don't. Not to me.

**Lauren Brickman** [00:00:35] Okay, that's wonderful. Can you be more specific about what makes the story or the characters still feel relevant?

**Student** [00:00:42] I really connected with Nora because she felt like she was forced into a role of a wife and a mother. My family is always asking me, you know, when are you going to meet the right boy and when are you going to be serious about starting a family? And those just really aren't priorities to me, but I feel like I'm forced to want them.

**Lauren Brickman** [00:01:00] Do you all agree?

**Student** [00:01:01] I don't think the play is relevant. The world we live in is really different from the world that Nora lived in and she didn't have any freedom. But most women today do.

**Student** [00:01:14] I disagree. If you hadn't told us that the story was written a hundred years ago, I wouldn't have even known it was old. And that's sad to me.

**Lauren Brickman** [00:01:21] Can you cite something specific from the text that made you feel this way?

**Student** [00:01:26] Torvald says something like, you're a wife and a mother first. And that's something that my dad says to my mom.

**Lauren Brickman** [00:01:33] Um, good. Did anyone else have a similar reaction or . . . So most of you believe that the play is still relevant? Great. So would you agree that women today, for the most part, are still dealing with many of the obstacles that Nora dealt with in this play?

**Student** [00:01:51] In my experience, yeah.

**Lauren Brickman** [00:01:53] Okay, now is this the only reason that the play is still relevant?

**Student** [00:01:57] There are lots of other reasons why this play's still relevant.

**Lauren Brickman** [00:02:00] So ultimately, let me ask you this. What do we think Ibsen's purpose was in writing this? And what is the purpose in continuing to study and produce this play today? Yeah.

**Liv, Student** [00:02:12] The purpose in writing this story was that the women in Ibsen's time were also like a lot of other women in other times. And the purpose is that we need to know that, and maybe someday that can change or something, you know?

**Lauren Brickman** [00:02:26] What do we think about this assertion?

**Student** [00:02:29] I'm not sure I understand what Liv just said.

**Lauren Brickman** [00:02:32] Okay. Let's summarize everything that we've heard up to this point. Most of us agree that the play is still relevant. Part of what makes this play feel relevant is that it's dealing with obstacles and themes that women today are still dealing with. Many of us feel like we can relate to the pressure that Nora felt. Part of the reason this play has stood the test of time, I believe, is because Ibsen wasn't setting out to, to change the world. What he was doing was holding up that mirror that we've talked about in class, right. He held up a mirror to reflect back to his society what he was seeing in the world. So my question to you is this: What, if any, lasting impact has Ibsen and his play *A Doll's House* had on the world? And, have your opinions shifted at all during today's discussion?

**Student** [00:03:16] I don't think it did much good. It's been over a hundred years and we still have the same inequalities.

**Lauren Brickman** [00:03:22] Okay. All right, anybody else have any thoughts?

**Student** [00:03:25] Honestly, my opinion didn't change. I didn't like the play when I read it, and I still don't like it.

**Lauren Brickman** [00:03:32] Okay, does everyone understand the question that I'm asking? Yeah.

**Student** [00:03:35] When you think about it how so many things in the world really haven't changed.

**Lauren Brickman** [00:03:42] Yes. Great. Good. Yes.