
The Characters:

- EV: an elderly man in his 70's
CATHERINE: his daughter, in her mid-30's
KATIE: Catherine, as a young girl
BOB: Ev's wife, Catherine's mother
OSCAR: Ev's best friend

Playwright's Notes:

Much of the play consists of the sometimes shared, sometimes singular memories of the past, as relived by EV and CATHERINE, interacting with figures from the past. Structurally, shifts in time do not occur in a linear, chronological fashion, but in an unconscious and intuitive patterning of the past by EV and CATHERINE. A stage direction (Shift) marks these pattern changes which are often, but not always, time shifts as well. In production, music has been used to underscore the pattern shifts, however the characters' shifts from one pattern to another must be immediate. They do not "hold" for the music. The physical blocking must accommodate this immediacy and the stage setting facilitate it.

The "now" of the play takes place in the house in which CATHERINE grew up and in which EV now lives alone. The play is most effective when the set design is not a literal one, and when props and furniture are kept to a minimum. I think of the setting as one which has the potential to explode time and space while simultaneously serving certain naturalistic demands of the play.

A kaleidoscope of memory constitutes the dialogue and action of the opening sequence. It is followed by a scene set more firmly in the "now". EV is "old" during these two segments, as he is at the opening and closing of Act Two. Although EV relives the past as a younger man, we never see CATHERINE any age but in her mid-thirties. She is able to speak across time to her father, to her mother, and to her younger self. CATHERINE and KATIE blend, sharing a sense of one entity, particularly in the scenes with her father's best friend, OSCAR. This should not be interpreted to mean that CATHERINE and KATIE share one mind or are always in accord. They are often in conflict.

OSCAR is first seen in the opening sequence wearing a Twenties-era hockey uniform. He is a young man about to enter medical school. OSCAR's scenes with KATIE cover a four year period prior to and ending with BOB's death. In the scenes he shares with BOB and EV there is a longer, more chronological unfolding of time. For the most part, we see him as a man in his mid-thirties.