Blink Once for Yes - Questionnaire 11/1/2016

Age: **Sex**:   Female   **Are you a media maker?**   No

Multiple Choice. Put an X next to your answer. Check all that apply.

    This piece made me:

    x- Laugh

    x- Cry

    x- Want to leave the room

Which scenes did you find the most compelling? (please describe)
Mom talking after her suicide attempt, about how Michael had become her baby again: giggling, cuddling, feeding, cleaning. Brought home the horror, joy, intimacy of situation.

The end scene with Mom taking her old dogs outside at 4am. One blind, one demented, stars out, talking to Michael. Thanking him for being her son. It was such a relief to come to that place, that scene of gratitude and peace (however fleeting it is in her day), after sitting with John's doubt about the decision to let him get.

What scenes did you find the least compelling? (please describe)
Dad becoming a house-painter liason at the end felt tacked on – we don't know him well enough to be invested in this change, esp. after going through such a wrenching story, there isn't energy left to invest. I think this is partly bc I had trouble distinguishing his voice, tracking his story and experience, I wasn't sure when he was talking.

The scene after the fall, voices describing Michael's state of mind. Frustrating to know who is talking.

Any moments of confusion you found distracting? Please describe.
Had trouble tracking who was speaking. Were all the siblings participating? Also confused by the description of Michael's state of mind before the fall. Was it fellow students? What was their relationship to him? How long had he been away at school? Had mental illness been on anyone in the family's radar? Was confused by the voices describing him as shoeless and far away – what authority do they have to know him and describe him? I feel like more introductions of speakers throughout, more context for each voice, would clarify.

Did anything in the piece surprise you or catch you off guard? If so, please describe.
The replay of the video with Deb and John at the end. It is a punch in the gut to hear John say "we did the wrong thing." Not expecting it.

Which character did you empathize with the most (why)?
Mom.
Deb.
James

Which character did you empathize with the least (why)?
Dad, his voice is hard to distinguish. It's not emerging clearly.

Are there any characters you would like to hear more from?
John.

Overall, how did you feel about the pacing of the piece? (just right, too fast, too slow, uneven)
The pacing was hard only insofar as I didn't know how much time was passing. How long had Michael been away at college when he died? How long had it been since the fall when he died? What is time lapse from Mom's suicide attempt and decision to let Michael go?

Also there is a sudden switch to his fall, switch to his behavior changes at school. In to this topic. Meningitis found. Hard to know when it happened, the switch, over freshman year? Frame time clearer. January. Switch from family to dorm students. Voices are to distinguish from each other.
Hard to distinguish family voices, too – will introductions be added, ala Ira Glass?

Were you satisfied by the ending of the piece? If not, please explain.
Yes, I thought it found a real place to leave it. Beautiful, honest, sad and simple ending.

What themes or ideas does the piece suggest to you?
It looks at the possible meaningless of suffering and death. It deosn't tie up with a bow the decision and the feelings that come with it. It suffers in ambiguity. It feels very real.

Then mom. Acknowledges that no amount of love and care is every going to fix him. And that what very painful. Relapsed.
Tried to kill herself. "He became like a baby to me again". –omg so heartbreaking.

James says "What do you mean "level of awareness"? Mike was my good friend."

Which suggests the power of love and also limitations of it and our potential for projecting our needs and expectations onto each other.

What are your thoughts about the temp music?

I didn't notice it – probably good sign.

Do you listen to any podcasts? If so, name a few of your favorites. Either way, briefly explain your listening habits.
Yes. Strangers, TAL, Brian Lehrer Show, Dan Savage, The Read.

Would you listen to this piece again?

Yes. I want to listen to this piece again.