

## **Acting**

Contrast the power of the ensemble cast to deliver the film's vision versus that of the individual

## **Performances**

Ask Club Members to reflect on Molly Parker's portrayal of 'healing' through her interpretation of Agnes.

Begin an open discussion on the chemistry between the sisters by asking a Club Member to comment on her relationship with a sister.

## **Direction**

Discuss Wiebke's subtle direction in lieu of overt messages: was she completely successful?

Wiebke's emphasis on finding truth in the 'small moments' was critical in her rendering of the story. Ask Club Members to recall one of these 'small moments' and reflect on whether it rings true for them.

Discuss Wiebke's background as a film editor and its effect on the structure and pace of the film.

## **Themes**

How does the film contrast small-town values and more urban perspectives?

Ask Club Members to talk about their personal process of discovery as they watched the film.

How are the subtexts of Catholicism, religion and emotional spirituality addressed in the film?

## **Screenwriting**

Is there irony in the ability of a male screenwriter to capture the essence of intimate female relationships? Or did he?

How is the use of alcohol and its effect on the family dealt with in the script?

Discuss the fact that the Screenplay was adapted from a successful stage play -- by the playwright.

## **Story**

What is the nature of Agnes' message to Joanie regarding who her mother is?

Discuss the disproportionate the impact of the father in the film -- although he had no lines and was only on-screen only briefly.