A Critical Analysis of Stockholm

This essay will look at the theme and form of Stockholm and its potential for performance based on the creative process we have undergone this semester. To support this study I have chosen to look at Samuel Beckett and his ideas of the human behavior as I believe this links well with the characters of Stockholm and the structure of our final piece.

Stockholm is, from the start, a minefield of behavioral abnormalities and split scenes which hint at the fact that in this seemingly perfect relationship something is not quite right. It becomes increasingly obvious that there is a battle of the oppressor and the oppressed. In the performance it is shown with the physical sequences in the kitchen and the way she is always supported by him but in ways that show he has no choice, he must support her. In the text however it is shown by Kali always questioning and Todd always giving quick responses. I originally took this to be him humoring her naivety or innocence but after re-reading the text she is always searching for those little moments, those cracks in what he says. It seems Todd learnt that to attempt to avoid the inevitable fights, simple short answers were best. Upon realising this you notice the fear when he speaks but also the tragic undying love that he will always have for her and which traps him in this situation.

If we look at Beckett’s idea of habit we will discover Kali and Todd’s world.