DISCUSSION QUESTIONS for THE GHOST SONATA

1. In watching the play, do you think that the characters are alive or dead? Are some of them alive and some of them dead? If so, which ones? Is it easy or hard to tell?

2. How would you describe the relationship between the Student and the Young Woman at the end of the play? Is it marked by true love?

3. This production of Ghost Sonata is staged in a very intimate matter: the audience is placed right on stage alongside the actors. How does this make you feel as a spectator at the play? Why do you think playwright August Strindberg wanted this kind of intimacy between audience and actors?

4. What do you believe to be the nature of the Old Man’s (Hummel’s) powers? What are the limits of his powers? When and how do you sense these things?

5. Look at the Study Guide article about Sonatas, and in particular look at what it says about the four different parts of a sonata. Does this structure seem to fit The Ghost Sonata, even though it is a play and not a piece of music?