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Madeleine Curletto Brian Harris Warm Helwig Blake Jondon LARAMIE Tennedy Miller Sarah Robinson Natalee Stuart Tabe Root









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## WELCOME TO OPPAI.....

Welcome to OPPA!'s Production of The Laramie Project! On Pitch Performing Arts (OPPA!) started just over 7 years ago here in Layton to give a home to theatre In Layton and a place for education in the arts. We believe that through the arts we can help create a better community for our families to live, work and play in. OPPA! is a non-profit run by an amazing staff and board of directors who work everyday to further our mission. We encourage you to take a minute and look through our website and find out how you can help support the arts here in our community.

The Laramie Project is the first this season in our Creator's Series, presented on our Creator's Stage. This series of shows allows us to do shows that may not always be the "norm" in Utah. Shows that have small casts, or may touch on subjects that aren't widely discussed in our state. We are excited to bring this space and series to life with works of Art that we hope will challenge our audiences to think and ask questions, to be better, and to empower themselves to see the value of art in our community.

We would like to thank Layton High School, Rachel Helwig, First Community Bank, Intermountain Healthcare of Layton, and all our community partners for their generous support of this show and our 2023 season.

Please take a moment to look at our upcoming shows and get tickets or better yet get season tickets to our amazing 2023 season full of shows that will for sure keep you coming back for more. The last few years have been something of an eye opening for all of us and one thing I know for sure is theatre matters and is needed in our world and community right now.

Now sit back and let yourself be open to the possibilities that art can change

minds, that art can make a difference

and that Theatre Matters

Sending love

Brandon Stauffer

**Executive Director** 

#### ON PITCH PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS:

# THE ARAMEPROJECT

Written By:

Moisés Kaufman & the Members of Tectonic Theater Project

The Laramie Project was developed in part with the support of The Sundance Theatre Laboratory.

The US West World Premiere was produced by:

The Denver Center Theatre Empany Donovan Marley, Artistic Director in association with Tectonic Theatre Project Moisés Kaufman, Artistic Director

Originally produced in NYC at Union Square Thetre

by Roy Gabay and Tectonic Theater Project in association with Gayle Francis & Araca Group Associate Producers: Mara Isaacs & Hart Sharp Entertainment

Direction

Kristie Post Wallace

Stage Manager

Anna Graff-Rice

Light Design

Costume Design

Sound Design

Set Build/Paint

Dan Tate

Sawyer Balisinski

Fosh Rice Heather Poulsen

#### OPPA! STAFF

**Executive Director** 

Admin. Coordinator

**Education Director** 

Brandon Stauffer

Leslie Barrett

Tiffani Allen

Director of Development

Marketing/Ed.Dpt Admin

Costume Shop Manager

**Production Mangement** 

Danielle Bendinelli

Quesley Bunch

Amanda Larsen Stacey Haslam

The Laramie Project

TNritten by Moisés Kaufman and the Members of Tectonic Theater Project

Head Writer: Leigh Fondakowski

<u>Associate Writers:</u> Stephen Belber, Greg Pierotti, Stephen Wangh

<u>Dramaturgs:</u> Amanda Gronich, Sarah Lambert, Fohn McAdams,

Maude Mitchell, Andy Paris, Barbara Pitts, Kelli Simpkins



On Pitch Performing Arts



### MOMENTS:





#### ACT ONE

Moment: A definition

Moment: Journal Entries

Moment: Rebecca Hilliker

Moment: Angels in America

Moment: Journal Entries

Moment: Alison and Marge

Moment: Matthew

Moment: Who's Getting What?

Moment: Easier Said Than Done

Moment: Journal Entries

Moment: The Word

Moment: A Scarf

Moment: Lifestyle 1

Moment: The Fireside

Moment: McKinney and Henderson

Moment: The Fence

Moment: Finding Matthew Shepard

Moment: A Laramie Man

Moment: The Essential Facts

Moment: Live and Let Live

Moment: The Gem City of the Plains

Moment: Medical Update

Moment: Seeing Matthew

Moment: Email

Moment: Vigils

Moment: Medical Update

Moment: LIve and Let LIve

Moment: It Happened Here

Moment: Shannon and Jen

Moment: Homecoming

Moment: One of Ours

Moment: Two Queers and a Catholic Priest

Moment: Christmas

Moment: Lifestyle 2

Moment: That Night

Moment: Medical Update

Moment: Magnitude

Moment: H-O-P-E

### NTERMSSION

### MOMENTS CONTINUED:

After Intermission:

Moment: Snow

Moment: Jury Selection

Moment: Russell Henderson

Moment: Angels in America

Moment: A Death Penalty Case

Moment: Aaron McKinney

Moment: Gay Panic

Moment: Aaron McKinney (Continued)

Moment: The Verdict

Moment: Dennis Shepard's Statement

Moment: Aftermath Moment: Epilogue Moment: Departure



This play was created using Moment Work which is "creating plays based on moments in time—to 'tell stories that move us."

Therefore, it is structured and titled accordingly. The locations of each of these Moments is not specified, though one can deduce some places as being at a home, The Fireside Bar, the front of a hospital, or at the fence. Our production creates all these location with simple set pieces and relies on the performers and the audience to create a sense of place in the shared theatrical space.



Video or Photography of this show is strictly Prohibited The Laramie Project is presented by special arrangement with Broadway Licensing, LLC, Servicing the Dramatists Play Service collections. www.dramatists.com

### LDIRECTOR'S NOTE

Beautiful boy, why do you cry?
Do you feel so alone even with friends in the sky?
The moon and the stars bathe you in grace,
Before the sun sends its rays to kiss your sweet face.
Excerpt from: To Matthew Shepard: The Unwilling Representative of a Greater Issue by Brandon Lopez, Poet

October 12, 1998 at 12:53 a.m. A moment that shook a small community, a greater community, and the global community.

The wound is the place where the light enters you. Rumi

In 1998-1999 Moisés Kaufman and the Tectonic Theatre Company spent several months conducting over two hundred interviews with the residents of Laramie, Wyoming. Including their own journal entries, news reports, and news conferences, they developed a verbatim play based on those interviews surrounding the brutal murder of 21-year-old Matthew Shepard and the trial of his killers. Verbatim Theatre is a form where performers use word for word what was said during an interview. What you will hear is direct from the mouths of the residents of Laramie, friends and family of Matthew Shepherd, as well as people who knew of him or, in some cases, *never* knew him. As you watch, please consider which story do resonates most with you? Why? How are you changed by hearing different perspectives other than your own? I invite you, in particular, to pay special attention to Jedidiah Schultz's journey.

Moisés Kaufman said "The experience of working on *The Laramie Project* has been one of great sadness, great beauty and, perhaps most importantly, great revelations—about our nation, about our ideas, about ourselves." I have had a similar experience. Take up the challenge to interrogate *your* treatment of the people who live differently or think differently than you...*your* neighbors: take care with the words you use as they are potent weapons that can be used for good or bad. We do not have to lose anyone else. We do not need any more wounds to let light enter us. Light is kindness, light is hope, light is understanding another, light is joy, and light is change. Light *IS* love. And love is *LOUD*. How will you use your words tomorrow and everyday? How will you change your words to be more inclusive and kind? How will you hold space for people who think, believe, and behave differently than you? I create theatre so the light we wish to see in the world begin with us and begin *now*.

-Kristie Post Wallace

### L AUTHOR'S NOTE

The Laramie Project was written through a unique collaboration by Tectonic Theater Project. During the year-and-a-half development of the play, members of the company and I traveled to Laramie six times to conduct interviews, then conducted several workshops in which the members of the company presented material and acted as dramaturgs in the creation of the play.

As the volume of material grew with each additional trip to Laramie, a small writers' group from within the company began to work closely with me to further organize and edit the material, conduct essential work in Laramie, and collaborate on the writing of the play. This group was led by Leigh Fondakowski as Head Writer, with Stephen Belber and Greg Pierotti as Associate Writers.

As we got closer to the play's first production in Denver, the actors, including Stephen Belber and Greg Pierotti, turned their focus to performance, while Leigh Fondakowski continued to work with me on drafts of the play, as did Stephen Wangh, who by then had joined us as an Associate Writer and "bench coach."

by Moisés Kautman

### WHY LARAMIE?

We chose "The Laramie Project" because this story remains relevant and resonates today. Despite discussing events of over twenty years ago, this significant story about a town's reaction to a hate crime reminds us to listen, learn, and love.

This production is a piece of documentary theatre, meaning it was created from over 200 interviews with real people connected to the town of Laramie, Wyoming and the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard. Because it is real people speaking their truths this show features strong adult language.

 $\frac{2023}{\text{Season Tickets on Sale}}$ 





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#### Leigh Fondakowski

AUTHOR'S BIOS

Leigh Fondakowski was the Head Writer of THE LARAMIE PROJECT and has been a member of Tectonic Theatre Project since 1995. She is an Emmy-nominated co-screenwriter for the adaptation of THE LARAMIE PROJECT for HBO. Her work THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE has been performed under her direction at Berkeley Repertory Theatre, Perseverance Theater, American Theater Company, and The Guthrie Theater, and received the Glickman Award for Best New Play in the Bay Area in 2005. Another original play, I THINK I LIKE GIRLS, premiered at Encore Theater in San Francisco under her direction and was voted one of the top ten plays of 2002 by "The Advocate." Other directing credits include: GERDA'S LIEUTENANT by Ellen Greeves and Bennett Singer (Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts), THREE SECONDS IN THE KEY by Deb Margolin (San Francisco Playhouse), THE LARAMIE PROJECT (Berkeley Repertory Theatre, La Jolla Playhouse, Perseverance Theater) and LA VOIX HUMAINE by Jean Cocteau (Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh). Leigh is a 2007 recipient of the NEA/TCG Theatre Residency Program for Playwrights and has developed a play about 19th century actress Charlotte Cushman with About Face Theatre and Tectonic Theater Project. She is an adjunct faculty member in the Masters in Contemporary Performance program at Naropa University.

#### <u>Moisés Kaufman</u>

Moisés Kaufman is a Tony and Emmy nominated director and playwright. His play 33 VARIATIONS, starring Jane Fonda, was nominated for five Tony awards (including one for Ms. Fonda). Previous to that, Mr. Kaufman directed the Pulitzer and Tony award-winning play I AM MY OWN WIFE, earning him an Obie award for his direction as well as Tony, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle, and Lucille Lortel nominations. His plays GROSS INDECENCY: THE THREE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE and THE LARAMIE PROJECT have been among the most performed plays in America over the last decade. Mr. Kaufman also directed the film adaptation of THE LARAMIE PROJECT for HBO, which was the opening night selection at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival and won the National Board of Review Award, the Humanitas Prize, and a Special Mention for Best First Film at the Berlin Film Festival. The film also earned Mr. Kaufman two Emmy Award nominations for Best Director and Best Writer. He is the Artistic Director of Tectonic Theater Project and a Guggenheim Fellow in Playwriting. Other credits include BENGAL TIGER AT THE BAGHDAD ZOO (Mark Taper Forum); MACBETH with Liev Schreiber (Public Theater); THIS IS HOW IT GOES (Donmar Warehouse); ONE ARM by Tennessee Williams (Steppenwolf Theater Company); MASTER CLASS with Rita Moreno (Berkeley Repertory Theater); and LADY WINDERMERE'S FAN (Williamstown Theater Festival).

#### <u>Stephen Wangh</u>

has been a playwright, director, and teacher of acting. He is the author of An Acrobat of the Heart, a physical approach to acting inspired by the work of Jerzy Grotowski (Vintage, Random House, 2000) and of The Heart of Teaching: Empowering Students in the Performing Arts (Routledge, 2012).

He is the author of 15 plays, and was one of the writers of The People's Temple (Glickman award: Best play in the Bay Area, 2005). He was Associate Writer for The Laramie Project (Emmy nomination 2002), and dramaturg of Moisés Kaufman's Gross Indecency, the three trials of Oscar Wilde (1997).

Stephen now teaches the Acrobatics of the Heart immersive summer training for performers. And he leads seminars and workshops on the Inner Dynamics of Teaching for teachers of the performing arts.

### AUTHOR'S BIOS

#### Andy Paris

Andy Paris has made a career of developing new works for the stage and screen, including "The Laramie Project" (Emmy nomination), GROSS INDECENCY: THE THREE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE by Moises Kaufman, Lucie Tiberghien's THE QUIET ROOM, and INNOCENTS by Rachel Dickstein. As a writer/director Andy created THE FANMAKER'S INQUISITION, adapted from the novel by Rikki Ducornet. He also developed GOLDSTAR OHIO by Michael Tisdale, directing the stage version at The Cleveland Public Theatre, and the short film starring Bill Irwin, Alison Pill, Mercedes Ruehl, and Michael Emerson. He is also the writer of THE LARAMIE PROJECT: 10 YEARS LATER, an Epilogue to THE LARAMIE PROJECT. For The Women's Project he wrote THE CORPORATE CARNIVAL, which was presented in the Winter Garden at the World Financial Center. Andy was invited to participate in The Lincoln Center Directors Lab in 2008. As an actor he has performed in countless plays in New York, regionally, and in Europe. Regionally, he has been seen at Playmaker's Rep, Cincinnati Playhouse, Hartford Stage, Theatre Virginia, Berkeley Rep, and La Jolla Playhouse. He performed in OR, by Liz Duffy Adams, at The Women's Project in 2009. He has also been the recipient of two AUDIE Awards for his audiobook narrations. As an original member of Tectonic Theatre Project, Andy has worked under the mentorship of Mr. Kaufman, and now teaches the techniques which he and Tectonic developed over the past couple decades. He has taught workshops at New York University, DePaul University, Naropa Institute, and in Osaka, Japan, among others. Andy grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and is a graduate of NYU.

#### <u>Greg Pierotti</u>

Greg Pierotti is co-author of THE LARAMIE PROJECT: 10 YEARS LATER. He is associate writer of THE LARAMIE PROJECT (2001 New York Drama Desk and Lortel Award nominee), and co-writer of THE LARAMIE PROJECT teleplay for HBO (2002 Emmy nominee). He is head writer of THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE (2005 Glickman Award). His short story "lude" has been anthologized in "Men to Men: New Voices in Gay Fiction." As an actor he has performed in new and classical work in New York and regionally. He originated roles in the world premieres of THE LARAMIE PROJECT, THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE, and GROSS INDECENCY: THE THREE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE. He teaches English, Writing, and Performance in colleges and MFA programs around the country. He is one of five master teachers of moment work, a technique for writing and developing performance developed by Moisés Kaufman and Tectonic Theater Project. He is currently developing two pieces: a screenplay, "Mineshaft," about the infamous queer sex club of the same name, and a play, MR. APOLOGY, based on transcribed confessions of criminals and wrongdoers of all stripes collected by the artist Allan Bridge in New York during the 1980s, He has been a member of Tectonic Theater Project for over 14 years.

For More information on The Laramie Project and the Tectonic Theatre Project, visit tectonictheaterproject.org and follow the company on social media.

The Matthew Shepard Foundation
We amplify the story of Matthew Shepard to inspire individuals, organizations and
communities to embrace the dignity and equality of all people.
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# Our exclusive Creators Club

ADMIRER:

Anonymous

ENTHUSIAST:

Rachel Helwig

Dan Tate

Creator Club Members are our most passionate supporters, and their monthly giving ensures that our mission will continue.

The support we receive from the Creators Club allows us to create children's theatre, community theatre, produce new works, and expand the arts in our community.

Select perks may include: Priority performance seating, Exclusive Creator Club events, Advance ticketing opportunities, Autographed cast memorable, gift shop discounts and VIP invitations.

All club members receive complimentary access to select performances of shows in our Creator's Stage series.



#### PATRON:

Amanda Larsen Amy Shaffer Danielle Bendinelli Dave Green **Emily Child** Eric Ludlow Glenda Smith Heather Jackson Jeffery Duncan Jennifer Morgan Joshua Rice Kelly Silvester Leslie Barrett Loren Lunt Mandi Harris Teresa Howell Anonymous

#### **SUPPORTER:**

Anne Jones
Ashley Ramsey
Beau Barrett
Caitlin Olsen
Chelsea Morris
Matt Higgins
Natalee Stuart
Anonymous

Thank You is never enough.

### CAST AND CREW

Blake London
(Ensemble)



Blake is both excited and humbled to further pass on the vital story of Matthew Shepherd in his first production with OPPA. His previous credits in the local community include The Play That Goes Wrong, The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged), and Wait Until Dark. As always, he sends his love and gratitude to his incredibly supportive friends and family. - For his brave and beautiful LGBTO "family" who change the world a small degree every day just by being who they are.

Brian Harris (Ensemble)



Brian has been in one prior production with OPPA and is enjoying making new friends and learning new skills. He works in management consulting research by day and spends his free time practicing his guitar and banjo, reading to his kids, and exploring Utah's state and national parks.

Carly Haberman (Ensemble)



Carly is excited to get back into the theatre world with this show! Growing up in Columbus, OH, she was heavily involved in her high school productions, such as Beauty & the Beast, West Side Story, Thoroughly Modern Millie, and more. Since graduating college and beginning a career in teaching special education, she took a step back from performing, but is extremely grateful to have found OPPA through her niece & nephew's involvement in the children's program and to get back on stage!

Gabe Root
(Ensemble)



Gabe discovered theatre four years ago and since then has grown a passion for it. He is currently studying for his BFA in the University of Utah's Actor Training Program. His most notable roles at OPPA have been as C.C. White in Dreamgirls and Prince Christopher in Cinderella. Gabe's favorite movie is Sister Act 2, and he loves reading, suits, and photography.

Kennedy Miller (Ensemble)



Kennedy is very excited to be a part of this production. She is honored to be able to help tell this meaningful story.

Madeleine Curletto (Ensemble)



Maddie is excited to once again be working with OPPA! for her debut on the new Creator's Stage and first dialogue play. Previous credits include RENT at OPPA! (Mimi) and originating a role in the brand new musical The Good Shepherds (Amy). She feels honored to take part in such a meaningful show and hopes audiences will walk away feeling impacted.

Natalee Stuart
(Ensemble)



While better known at Fear Factory, Natalee has been in several shows here at OPPA and has loved every minute. She is honored to help make this play a reality and share the message.

### CAST AND CREW

Niamh Helwig (Ensemble)



Niamh is so excited that you're here to see this show! It is a truly one of a kind experience that in her opinion everyone should see once. Being apart of this production has been so wonderful and she hopes you feel the feels.

Sarah Robinson
(Ensemble)



Sarah is a mom of three girls who all love theatre. She was in Beauty and the Beast and Matilda most recently and in many production in her youth and she loves theatre.

Kristie Post Wallace
(Director)



Kristie Post Wallace is thrilled to be working with OPPA!
Kristie is a Salt Lake City-based director dedicated to
theatre that inspires a world of curiosity, community, and
inclusion that focuses on stories that center on women and
marginalized people. Notable productions include The
Thanksgiving Play, Accidental Death of an Anarchist, Ada
and the Engine, Body Awareness, The Drowsy Chaperone,
The Giver, Hamlet, Hairspray, and an ASL Shadow
Interpreted production of The Lion King, Jr. Kristie is
proud to hold an MFA in Directing from the University of
Washington and to be an Associate Member of SDC.
Contact at www.kristiepostwallace.com.  $\infty$ JBEB

Anna Graff-Rice (Stage Manager)



Anna's lifelong love of story and song is closely tied to the bond with her four sisters and their chaotic adventures - from creating their own storylines and mud dishes, to breaking into song whenever they are together. Now she can usually be found attempting dance moves with her hubby or humming and singing her favorite musicals to herself while enduring her 9 year old son's heckling.

Sawyer Balisinski (Costume Designer)



Sawyer is a Theatre Education major at Weber State University. When he isn't gracing us with costuming skills he is collecting Pokémon cards, playing Dungeons and Dragons, or hanging out with his wife and dogs. Sawyer hopes that you enjoy the show.

Dan Tate
(Lighting Design)



Dan has always loved the theatre and got his foot back in the door just a few years ago he has been in West Side Story, Forever Plaid, The Drowsy Chaperone and the Music Man. He can also frequently be found on the production team and has contributed to Aida, The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940, Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street, and most recently for OPPA's production of Beauty and the Beast. When not on stage Dan enjoys quiet nights at home with his wife and 3 children, 2 dogs and 2 cats.

Josh Rice (Sound Design)



Josh graduated from NC State with a BS in mechanical engineering but has been involved in sound engineeing for over 10 years. When not at the theater with his wife and son, he's recording sound or shooting pictures and video. He was in his first musical here at OPPA! as Uncle Fester in OPPA's production of The Addams Family.

## RICE MEDIA MIRIM CAST PHOTOS

