The taking of pictures or the making of recordings of any kind during the performance is prohibited.

*Member of Actors’ Equity Association (AEA), the Union of Professional Actors & Stage Managers in the United States.

The Laramie Project

CAST (LISTED ALPHABETICALLY)

David Bardeen*
Jessica Bedford*
Taysha Marie Canales*
Mike Dees
Jack Henry*
Stephen Novelli*
Brandon J. Pierce*
Katherine Perry
Amanda Schoonover*
Cathy Simpson*

LIGHTING DESIGNER
LILY FOSSNER
STAGE MANAGER
COURTNEY BANKS
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
BARBARA GARCIA-LIPSCOMB

Executive Honorary Producer: Rebecca Bradbeer
Associate Honorary Producers: Angela Mullen & Lisa Yanak

Artistic Sponsors:
Richard Couch & James Stein
Dan & Joann Higgins
Kevin Maurer & Jim Schneider
Michael & Edward Donato
Robin & Saifuddin Mama
Jenny Smith & Beth Slating

THE LARAMIE PROJECT is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.
The US West World Premiere was produced by The Denver Center Theatre Company, Donovan Marley, Artistic Director in association with Tectonic Theater Project Moisés Kaufman, Artistic Director.

Originally produced in New York City at the Union Square Theatre by Roy Gabay and Tectonic Theater Project in association with Gayle Francis and the Araca Group Associate Producers: Mara Isaacs and Hart Sharp Entertainment. The Laramie Project was developed in part with the support of The Sundance Theatre Laboratory.

The Laramie Project
Written by Moisés Kaufman and the Members of Tectonic Theater Project
HEAD WRITER Leigh Fondakowski
ASSOCIATE WRITERS: Stephen Belber, Greg Pierotti, Stephen Wangh
DRAMATURGS: Amanda Gronich, Sarah Lambert, John McDermott, Maude Mitchell, Andy Paris, Barbara Pitts, Kelli Simpkins

THE LARAMIE PROJECT
2018/19 SEASON

THE LARAMIE PROJECT | 2018/19 SEASON
FROM THE AUTHOR

by Moisés Kaufman

The Laramie Project was written through a unique collaboration by Tectonic Theatre 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 with the people of the town. We transcribed and edited the 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 additional research in Laramie, and collaborate on 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.”

NOTE FROM OUR HONORARY PRODUCER

Dear Subscribers, Friends and Newcomers to Theater Horizon,

It is with great joy and anticipation that I welcome you all to Theater Horizon’s 2018/19 Season and to the staged reading of The Laramie Project. As the Executive Honorary Producer for this production, I am deeply honored to be supporting the process of bringing this profoundly painful and resonant story to fruition – not only once to Theater Horizon as its inaugural performance in 2005, but again now to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the horrific events that made Matthew Shepard an American household name.

With veteran Director Kathryn (KC) MacMillan and a top-notch Philadelphia cast, I invite us all to look inside ourselves as we are introduced or reintroduced to the experiences of that fateful and tragic night, and to reflect on what achievements have occurred within the LGBTQ+ community over these past two decades. Where are we now? What have we learned from the telling of this story through live performance? And finally, how must we continue to change perceptions around those who are deemed “different” in our society?

On behalf of all the Matthew Shepards in our midst, I thank you for your patronage.

Rebecca Bradbeer

LEARN MORE ABOUT MATTHEW SHEPARD AND HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HATE

The Matthew Shepard Foundation
An advocacy group seeking to erase hate
www.matthewshepard.org

The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr., Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2009
A Prevention Act to provide funding and technical assistance to state and local jurisdictions to help them more effectively investigate and prosecute hate crimes. www.hrc.org

PFLAG - Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
One of our partner organizations for The Laramie Project
www.pflag.org

GSA Network - supports LGBTQ+ youth organizers across the country
www.gsanetwork.org
ABOUT THE WRITERS

Moisés Kaufman  Tony- and Emmy-nominated director and playwright, and recipient of the National Medal of Arts from President Obama, Moisés Kaufman has led Tectonic Theater Project since its founding in 1991. His Broadway directing credits include the revival of Harvey Fierstein’s Torch Song. The Heiress with Jessica Chastain, 33 Variations (which he also wrote) starring Jane Fonda; Rajiv Joseph’s Pulitzer Prize finalist Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo starring Robin Williams; and Doug Wright’s Pulitzer and Tony Award-winning play I Am My Own Wife with Jefferson Mays. His play The Laramie Project (which he wrote with the Tectonic Theater Project company) is among the most performed plays in the United States.

Leigh Fondakowski  was the head writer on The Laramie Project, a co-writer of The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later, and an Emmy-nominated co-screenwriter for the HBO adaptation of The Laramie Project. She has been a member of Tectonic since 1994. Her original works as playwright/director include SPHU (Swine Palace, TimeLine Theater, Ensemble Studio Theatre, 2015 Kinzy List); The People’s Temple (Berkeley Repertory Theatre, American Theater Company, the Guthrie Theater, Glickman Award for Best New Play in the Bay Area 2005); and I Think I Like Girls (Encore Theater, Bay Area Critics Circle nomination for Best Production, voted one of the top ten plays of 2002 by the Advocate). Leigh is a 2007 recipient of the NEA/TCG Theatre Residency Program for Playwrights, a 2009 MacDowell Colony Fellow, and a 2010 Distinguished Visiting Chair at the University of Minnesota, where she lectured and developed Casa Cushman, a work-in-progress about nineteenth-century American actress Charlotte Cushman. As director, she headed the national tour of The Laramie Project and Laramie: Ten Years Later, and co-directed The Laramie Cycle with Moisés Kaufman at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. She has directed and developed plays with playwrights Anne Marie Cummings, Colman Domingo, Laura Eason, Julius Jordan, Deb Margolin, Lisa Ramirez, Ellen Gordon Reeves, and Bennett Singer. In 2013, she released her first nonfiction book, “Stories from Jonestown,” and she is currently adapting it for film. Leigh is a teaching artist at New Orleans Center for Creative Arts and Naropa University.

Stephen Belber’s plays have been produced on Broadway and in over 25 countries. They include Match, Tape, Don’t Go Gentle, Duck Rings a Bell, McReele, Finally, Geometry of Fire, Fault Lines, Carol Mulroney, A Small, Melodramatic Story, One Million Butterflies, The Power of Duff and The Muscles in Our Eyes. They have been produced at Roundabout, Atlantic, MCC, Primary Stages, Naked Angels, Labyrinth, Rattlestick, The Huntington, and The Geffen. He was an Associate Writer on The Laramie Project, and co-writer on The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later. Movies include Tape (directed by Richard Linklater), The Laramie Project (Associate Writer), Drifting Elegant, Management, starring Jennifer Aniston, and Match, starring Patrick Stewart, the last two of which he also directed. Television credits include Rescue Me, Law & Order SVU, and pilots for FX, Amazon, The History Channel, FTVS and HBO. Upcoming films include O.G., starring Jeffrey Wright.

Greg Pierotti joined Tectonic Theater Project as an actor in Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde in 1996. He was an actor and an associate writer on The Laramie Project. He was co-writer of the HBO teleplay The Laramie Project, for which he and fellow company members share a Humanitas Prize and an Emmy nomination. He was a co-writer on Laramie: Ten Years Later. As a writer and actor with Tectonic he has performed and developed original work at La Jolla Playhouse, Denver Center, Minetta Lane, Union Square Theater, Alice Tully Hall, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Arena Stage, The Magic, The Atlantic Theatre Company, Sundance Theater Lab, and NYTW’s lab at Dartmouth. He has been a master teacher of Moment Work since 2004. He was head writer on Leigh Fondakowski’s The People’s Temple. He has developed his plays Apology and B More at Berkeley Repertory’s Ground Floor, The Orchard Project, The University of California-Davis, and at Maison Dora Maar in Ménerbes, France, where he was a Brown Fellow. He is a nominee for the Pulitzer Award in the arts in the category of theater. His latest research explores cross-pollinations between theater and anthropology. He uses theatrical devising techniques to help ethnographic writers create performance or to re-engage the empirical data they have collected in field research as they write. He is an assistant professor in the MFA of generative dramaturgy at the University of Arizona.

Stephen Wangh 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.

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Next weekend marks the 20th anniversary of the attack on Matthew Shepard. Tonight’s event is a solemn commemoration of those days, a celebration of the victories of LGBTQ+ activism over the last twenty years, and a reminder that the work of achieving equality for all Americans is not finished.

Matthew’s legacy has been profound. In 2009, President Barack Obama signed into law the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which expanded existing hate-crimes law to include those motivated by gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. Byrd was the victim of a brutal murder by white supremacists in Jasper, Texas, just a few months before the attack on Matt.

Byrd’s and Shepard’s names sharing this landmark legislation suggests that white supremacy and homophobia are part of the same long-standing practice in our culture of scapegoating, oppressing, and brutalizing the vulnerable among us; one that is easily stoked. Over the last two years, hate crimes have increased in our country. There is a crisis of violence against trans women, particularly trans women of color, yet the national dialogue surrounding trans rights is dominated by punitive laws...or hostile tweets from the administration. Tonight we retell Matt’s story, a story about love, justice, and valuing life, because the story is not finished. Justice for all.

Kathryn MacMillan
ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Kathryn MacMillan  (DIRECTOR) is a Philadelphia-based director of more than 40 productions. Work for Theatre Horizon includes I Am My Own Wife, Fully Committed, and The Revolutionists, recently nominated for six Barrymore Awards including Best Production & Best Director. Other credits include Arcadia, Mrs. Warren’s Profession, and Don’t Dress for Dinner (Lantern Theatre), Romeo and Juliet (Commonwealth Classic Co.); and Grounded (InterAct). Honors include: The Beauty Queen of Leenane (Best Production of 2012/13 & Best Director from Philadelphia Weekly), which called her “sensationally gifted”, Doubt (named one of the Best Plays of 2015 from the Philadelphia Daily News), and she’s one of Billy Penn’s Next 16 Young Philadelphians: Shaping the Arts Scene. K. was Guest Artist Director here at Theatre Horizon last season; she’s the Producing Artistic Director of Tiny Dynamite.

David Bardeen  Theatre Horizon (Peter and the Starcatcher, Grand Concourse, Circle Mirror Transformation), Yale Rep, South Coast Rep, Walnut Street Theatre and Studio 3, Arden Theatre, Wilma Theatre, Delaware Theatre Company; InterAct Theatre, Azuka Theatre, Lantern Theatre, IRC. TV: Medium, Weeds, NUMB3RS, Dirty Sexy Money. Thanks to KC, Erin, Matt, Rebecca, and everyone at Theatre Horizon for another amazing experience. Yale MFA, 2005. David is a five-time nominee for the Barrymore for Supporting Actor in a Play, receiving the award in 2009 and 2017. He can be seen next in a holiday reading of The Santaland Diaries at 1802 Productions.

Jessica Bedford  Previous TH credits: The Revolutionists (Marie Antoinette) & WHITE (Jane). Recent credits: Don’t Dress For Dinner (Suzanne/Lanternt; Mousetrap (Molly)/McCarter Theatre; White Guy On The Bus (Molly)/Delaware Theatre Co & S9ES9); A Christmas Carol (Mrs. Cratchit)/McCarter Theatre; City Of Conversation (Anna)/Delaware Theatre Co; And Then There Were None ( Vera)/Walnut Street. Of Mice & Men (Curley’s Wife) and Noses Off (Vicki Brooke)/People’s Light & Theatre Company and Pride And Prejudice (Jane) at the PA Shakespeare Festival; People’s Light and Bristol Riverside Theatre. DeSales University, B.A.; Villanova University, M.A. With gratitude to KC and the good folks at TH. Love, as always, to Sean.


Mike Dees  is excited to be returning to Theatre Horizon. Previous shows include The Laramie Project and The Violet Hour. He has an MA in Theatre from Villanova University, where he won a Barrymore Award for Supporting Actor in a Musical. He has performed with the Wilma Theatre, Lantern Theatre Company, Azuka Theatre, 1822 Productions, and Irina Nua Theatre, among others. He also teaches for various theater companies in Philly!

Jack Henry  Last seen in Theatre Horizon’s production of Peter and the Starcatcher. Pronouns: they/them, he/him. Past credits include: Down in the Holler (Paypenn), Sensitive Guys (InterAct Theatre), The Gap (Azuka Theatre), An Octocron (Wilma Theatre), Rodgers & Romance (East Lynne Theatre Co.); A Children’s Hour (EgoPo Classic Theatre), Cat in the Hat (Arden Theatre Co.), and Kitter Homes and Gardens (Bearded Ladies Cabaret), among others. TV: “HBO’s Masterclass Series with Patti Lupone.” Training: BFA Musical Theatre from the University of the Arts. They are a YoungArts Finalist and Silver Winner in Theatre in the next adventures. Always the Argo. For M.

Stephen Novelli  Theatre Horizon debut. a company member for People’s Light since 1954, he is currently an Artistic Associate and most recently appeared there as Carl in Mornings at Seven. Other area theatres include Act II Playhouse, The Lantern Theatre, Quintessence Theatre Group, Bristol Riverside Theatre, The Wilma Theatre, The Walnut Street Theatre, and The Arden Theatre Company.

Katherine Perry  is a Jersey girl who has made her artistic home in Philadelphia as an actor, teaching artist, and improvisor. Her previous credits include the Arden Theatre Company, On the Rocks, the IRC, EgoPo Classic Theatre, and the Scantoon Shakespeare Festival. During the year Katherine is a teaching artist for Theatre Horizon’s Autism Drama Program. She also teaches with 1822 Productions, Philadelphia Young Playwrights, The Walnut Street Theatre, and Delaware Theatre Company. Katherine is the creator/performer behind Brooke Spatz and SEX TALK (the show). Much love to parents and pulpo. www.kathleenperry.net

Brandon J. Pierce  is thrilled to be joining Theatre Horizon for this reading! Off-Broadway: Exit Strategy (Primary Stage). Regional: Kill Move Paradise (Wilma Theatre); Welcome to Fear City (KC Roy); Shakespeare in Love, Richard II, Troilus and Cressida, The TAMING of the Shrew (PA Shakespeare Festival); Midsummer Night’s Dream, Metamorphoses, Peter Pan, Charlotte’s Web (Arden Theatre Company); The City of Conversation (Delaware Theatre Company); Dutch Masters (Azuka Theatre); Comedy of Errors; Romeo and Juliet (Shakespeare LIVE! - The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey); Fair Maid of the West (Philadelphia Artists’ Collective), Education: BFA University of the Arts.

Amanda Schoonover  is a two-time Barrymore Award recipient as well as receiving a special award from Pgp Iron and being a Julline Single Solo Performance Program Artist in Residence at 1802 Productions and an F. Otto Haas Emerging Artist Finalist. Regional: Arden; Exile; Egopic; Azuka; People’s Light; Theatre Horizon; Bristol Riverside; New City Stage; Iron Age; Pgp Iron; Luna; Lantern; The Eagle Theatre, New Paradise Laboratories and Simpatico. Some of her favorite roles include Minnie in The Terrible Girls by Jacqueline Goldfinger and Clara Bow in The Girl written by herself, Brenna Gjeffer and Anthony Crosby. Film/Television: Do No Harm (NBC opposite Phythia Rashad). She appeared on Cosmo and Jezebel when her photo project with Kate Raines garnered national notoriety. Look for her this season in Betty’s Summer Vacation with Ido Idiqopic Ridiculopolythorpus. Follow her on Instagram @amandabethschoonover

Cathy Simpson  is a company member of People’s Light and the Freedom Rising Company at the National Constitution Center. Her work in some local theaters include: InterAct, Philadelphia Theatre Company, Philly Shakes, Hedgerow Theatre, Arden Theatre, Wilma Theatre, Flashpoint Theatre, Theatre Horizon, 1822 Productions, New City Stage, Revolution Shakespeare, Orbiter 3 and Junior. Regional theater credits include: Arena Stage, The Kennedy Center, Studio Theatre, Source Theatre, Woolly Mammoth, Theatre J, Theatre of the First Amendment, Roundhouse Theatre, Orner Theatre Center, St Louis Black Rep, St Louis Rep, Indian Rep and Fo. Big Arts. Finally, Ms. Simpson is a Member Board for local production company, White Pines. She is a four-time Barrymore nominee and winner for the Freedom Theatre production of The Old Settler, and Kevin Kline Award winner for St Louis Black Rep’s production of A Song for Coretta. She has also been nominated twice for the Helen Hayes Awards in Washington D.C. and won the Best Performer Award in Toyama, Japan.Her film and television credits include: local television commercials, PBS Education Series, Indy films as well as first Run Films.

Courtney Banks  (STAGE MANAGER) is a Kansas native and a Temple University graduate class of 2017. Courtney has worked in stage management at Theatre Exile, Philadelphia, such as idolation directed by Joe Canuso and Really directed by Brenna Geffers. Her other credits include working in the production department at the Santa Fe Opera. Her upcoming engagements include Theatre Horizon’s The Color Purple.


Erin Reilly  (ARTISTIC DIRECTOR) A King of Prussia native and graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, in 2005 Erin co-founded Theatre Horizon with Matthew Decker, and led a $1 million campaign to build and open a new venue for the company in Norristown in 2012. Erin has directed over 15 productions, working with both professional actors and students. As an Equity actress she has performed on numerous area stages including the Walnut Street Theatre and The Wilma Theatre. She established Theatre Horizon’s Education Department twelve years ago, and its programs now serve over 950 children per year. She helped to found Theatre Philadelphia and currently serves as Board President. Erin was named one of Philadelphia’s 75 Creative Connectors by Leadership Philadelphia.

Molly Brammer  (MANAGING DIRECTOR) has returned to her native Montgomery County after working in New York, on Broadway, and on tour. Stage Management credits include; Broadway and Workshops: Wicked, Collected Stories, Zorba (with Antonio Banderas and Chita Rivera), Scandalous, Magic Mike, 1st National Tours: Wicked, Little House on the Prairie. Benefit performances: Ann Harada’s Christmas Eve with Christmas Eve, Wicked Rocky Horror Show and Las Vegas, Denver). Molly has directed regionally and worked around the country to build bridges between arts and service organizations. She received the Greater Philadelphia Arts and Business Council’s Diana Wind Designing Leadership Fellowship, founded the Philadelphia Green Alliance, and is a graduate of Columbia University.

Jennifer Pratt Johnson  (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR) is originally from Virginia, where she earned her BA in Theatre and History from The College of Willam & Mary before moving to Philadelphia by way of Portland, Maine. Prior to joining the team at Theatre Horizon, Jenny was the Marketing & Development Director at Lantern Theater Company. She is also a co-founder, former Managing Director, and former board member of Simpatico Theatre Project. Jenny has her MS in Arts Administration from Drexel University and is passionate about arts marketing and fundraising as important means of building community and ensuring organizational stability.