

arvada  center
BLACK BOX THEATRE

THE LARAMIE PROJECT





A NOTE FROM PHILIP C. SNEED

ARVADA CENTER PRESIDENT AND CEO



We are proud to present *The Laramie Project*, a play that had its genesis in our own backyard – in the tragic event (and its aftermath) that took place just over our northern border, and also in Denver, where the play was partly developed and had its premiere at what was then called the Denver Center Theatre Company. At the time the play opened – February of 2000, just 16 months after the murder of Matthew Shepard – the events were still very fresh in the minds of many. One didn't have to look far to find someone who was from Laramie, or went to college there, or had family or friends who knew one of the "characters" in the story. The play and its production had an enormous impact, locally and nationally; *TIME Magazine* named it one of the ten best plays in the country that year, and it was adapted into a film by HBO.

We are now 25 years past Shepard's murder, and that specific hate crime may not be as well known today, especially by younger people and those new to the region. This is all the more reason to produce the play, of course – in the same way that it's important to continue to offer such works as *The Diary of Anne Frank*. We must never forget the Holocaust, and we must also never forget the brutal killing of Matthew Shepard, and by extension, the violence that happens every day to members of the LGBTQ+ community. Sadly, the number of hate crimes against this vulnerable population – and especially against members of the transgender and

non-binary community – are increasing.

It's worth acknowledging that some will always question whether the theatre should tell such stories at all. Every producer and artistic director has heard the all-too-common refrain, "I just want to be entertained." And don't we all, to some extent? Much of what theatre companies produce could be said to fall into the category of "entertainment" (speaking of which, don't miss our VERY entertaining production of *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, playing in our Main Stage during the first part of the run of *The Laramie Project*, or the holiday musical, *Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella*). Yet the theatre has always tackled tough and controversial subjects, all the way back to the dramas and even the comedies of the Golden Age of Greece. Many of Shakespeare's plays addressed current events, and in more recent times, there have been plays like *The Crucible* – which dramatized a story of the Salem Witch Trials but was actually an allegory about McCarthyism and the "Red Scare" of the 1950s – and *Angels in America*, which tackled the AIDS crisis of the 1980s, among other topics.

Fortunately, the art of theatre is expansive enough to include many works which "just entertain," as well as works which challenge us to think about the world around us. I hope *The Laramie Project* will be such a play for you – whatever your personal beliefs, the rise in the number of hate crimes in recent years is something that I hope everyone can agree needs to be addressed. The next victim could be a friend, a neighbor, even a family member.

Philip C. Sneed
President and CEO



AUTHOR'S NOTE

BY MOISÉS KAUFMAN DATED 2001

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 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 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."



THE LARAMIE PROJECT

by Moisés Kaufman
and the Members of Tectonic Theater Project

ARVADA CENTER BLACK BOX THEATRE
SEPT 29-NOV 5, 2023

THE LARAMIE PROJECT is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

Directors

Kate Gleason and
Rodney Lizcano

Scenic Design

Tina Anderson

Lighting Design

Jon Olson

Sound Design

Max Silverman

Projection Design

Garrett Thompson

Costume Design

Nicole Watts

Stage Manager

Christine Rose Moore*

Assistant Stage Manager

Melissa J Michelson*

Artistic Director

Lynne Collins

Casting

Sylvia Gregory Casting

Head Writer

Leigh Fondakowski

Associate Writers

Stephen Belber, Greg Pierotti,
Stephen Wangh

Dramaturgs

Amanda Gronich, Sarah
Lambert, John McAdams,
Maude Mitchell, Andy Paris,
Barbara Pitts, Kelli Simpkins

Underwritten by:

Diana and Mike Kinsey



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AC Restroom Use Policy: Anyone that visits the Arvada Center is allowed to use a facility that best corresponds with their gender identity. The restroom policy is designed to ensure that everyone feels comfortable and safe within the existing facilities. Arvada Center is also aware of the need for a permanent, publicly accessible gender-neutral restroom. The Center is working with the City of Arvada to work through building codes, capital expenses, and other obstacles to fulfill this need.

The video and /or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited.



TIME
1998-1999

PLACE
Laramie, Wyoming, USA.

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



A NOTE FROM KATE GLEASON

DIRECTOR OF *THE LARAMIE PROJECT*

When I first was introduced to this production in 2000, I was struck by the title, *The Laramie Project*. A Project- not simply a play or a historical drama. Its title suggested something deeper and more complex.

One notable definition of "Project" can be found in the Cambridge Dictionary as "a piece of planned work or an activity that is finished over a period of time and intended to achieve a particular purpose." I began to ask myself what is the purpose of this particular project? And will it ever be "finished"?

Originally, members of Tectonic Theater Project went to Laramie, WY for the purpose of excavating and discovering, through observation and interviews, how a community responded to an event that was both traumatic and reprehensible. They explored the root and cause of such hatred and violence. They also uncovered real examples of compassion and forgiveness. The people who took part in these interviews are real people, not just characters created by a single playwright. They speak for themselves. It is an oral history and one of the most important of its kind. Their words weave together an essential truth about our society, both good and evil.

Every production of this play should be seen as a project. A task of investigation. A pursuit of something difficult and necessary. Every actor, director, designer, crew member, and audience member is part of this project. It urges us to examine the preconceived notions we bring with us into this space. What will we take with us when we leave? What will we learn? In this sense, it is absolutely an ongoing project- one that continues once we leave the confines of the

theatre. It is never "finished."

My hope, by engaging in this project and sharing it with our audience, is that we as a community can see that our humanity is tied so deeply to how we listen and treat one another. It is especially vital in this time of unprecedented attacks on our most vulnerable queer and trans communities. Our very survival rests upon our actions.

- "There is so much left to do, and so much of that relies on changing hearts and minds – people coming out and telling their stories so everybody knows who they are and where they are. That is just critical. ... In this country, the work is definitely not over."

- Dennis Shepard



A NOTE FROM RODNEY LIZCANO

DIRECTOR OF *THE LARAMIE PROJECT*

Matthew Shepard was just two years younger than me when he tragically died in 1998. I was not out of the closet to my own family and his story not only fueled more fear into my young 23-year-old self, but it also diminished my private hopes that an open queer life would be possible one day. The universal fear of gay and transgender individuals still manifests itself today in mean-spirited and often violent attacks against the LGBTQ+ community. Pick up a newspaper or listen to local or national news – hate crimes toward the queer community and specifically transgender community have reached unprecedented levels and continue to rise.

While the LGBTQ+ community has made considerable progress in the quarter century since Matthew's passing, the lessons we can draw from his life and untimely death resonate just as profoundly today. From Florida's failed "Don't Say Gay" law to the recent violent attack at Club Q in Colorado Springs to state laws banning drag shows to book bans applied against our libraries and public schools, has anything really changed since Matthew's death?

The play *The Laramie Project* ultimately is the story of a small-town community grappling with the healing process after a nationally publicized tragedy. These stories are constantly being re-told with considerable similarities in other contexts – gun violence, racial equality, justice reform, and equity & diversity employment policies. Change, to me, occurs when we, our families, and communities confront hate and bias and can reflect and question our own political and societal leanings, our religious views, and not wait when our homes and those close to us are also faced with tragedy.

Laramie, Wyoming was put to the test on a national level that questioned "What is love?" "What is hate?" And how does something like this happen in a small town populated with good and decent people? I hope you will receive this play with an open mind and open heart. I hope that this tragic event in Laramie, Wyoming sparks conversation in your homes. I hope you may see yourself, a loved one, a relative or a neighbor who could benefit from unconditional love and support.

May Matthew Shepard remind us all of what hate can do and what community can accomplish in the name of one of our own.



ACTORS



Jada Suzanne Dixon*



Chrys Duran



Torsten Hillhouse*



Christopher Hudson



Rodney Lizcano*



Susannah McLeod*



Anne Oberbroeckling*



Warren Sherrill



Steven J. Burge*



Vin Ernst



Adrienne Martin-Fullwood*



Mel Schaffer

This Theatre operates under an agreement with Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.

*Member of Actors' Equity Association



CAST

(In order of appearance)

Rodney Lizcano* Moisés Kaufman, Philip Dubois (Act 1), Reporter, Jeffrey Lockwood, Newsperson #4, Bill McKinney, Narrator, Harry Woods, Baptist Minister (Act 2), People, Rev. Fred Phelps, Bailiff, Narrator, Ensemble

Torsten Hillhouse* Greg Pierotti, Sgt. Hing, Philip Dubois (Act 2), Father Roger Schmit, Matt Mickelson, Dr. Cantway, Conrad Miller, Russell Henderson's Home Teacher, Dennis Shepard, Narrator, Narrator #1, Ensemble

Christopher Hudson Jedediah Schultz, Andy Paris, Stephen Mead Johnson, Matt Galloway, Newsperson #2, Gov. Geringer, Juror #1, Aaron McKinney, Narrator, Ensemble

Chrys Duran April Silva, Barbara Pitts, Romaine Patterson, Doug Laws, Zubaida Ula, Aaron Kreifels, Tiffany Edwards, Email Writer, Newsperson, Andrew Gomez, Juror #2, Narrator #3, Narrator, Ensemble

Susannah McLeod* Zackie Salmon, Leigh Fondakowski, Trish Steger, Jonas Slonaker, Minister's Wife, Kristin Price, Reggie Fluty, Newperson, Newperson #1, Jen, Kerry Drake, Russell Henderson, Narrator, Ensemble

Warren Sherrill Doc O'Connor, Stephen Belber, Baptist Minister (Act 1), Phil Labrie, Rulon Stacey, Judge, Gil Engen, Priest, Judge, Rob DeBree, Cal Rerucha, Narrator, Ensemble

Jada Suzanne Dixon* Rebecca Hilliker, Alison Mears, Catherine Connolly, Shadow, Sherry Aanenson, Newperson #3, Murdock Cooper, Shannon, Narrator, People, Juror #3, Foreperson, Narrator #2, Mercedes Herrero

Anne Oberbroeckling* Eileen Engen, Amanda Gronich, Waitress, Jon Peacock, Anonymous, Marge Murray, Narrator, Sherry Johnson, People, Lucy Thompson, Narrator, Ensemble

UNDERSTUDIES: Steven J. Burge*, Vin Ernst, Adrienne Martin-Fullwood*, Mel Schaffer

Understudies never substitute for listed performers unless a specific announcement is made at the time of performance.

*Member of Actors' Equity Association



ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

STEVEN J. BURGE* (Understudy) has performed at the Arvada Center in several productions, including *Saturday Night Fever* (Main Stage), *Junie B. Jones* and *Charlotte's Web* (TYA - Theatre for Young Audiences). Other credits: God in *An Act of God* and Reggie / Gabe in *First Date* (Denver Center for the Performing Arts); The Wolf in the world premiere of *Little Red* (Denver Center for the Performing Arts). Other Colorado theatres: Aurora Fox; Curious Theatre; Benchmark; others. Training: B.S.S in Musical Theatre & Communications; Cornell College. @stevenjburge

JADA SUZANNE DIXON* (Ensemble) was last seen in *The Family Tree*. Other credits: *Fireflies*, *American Son*, *The Cake*, *Detroit '67*, *White Guy on the Bus*, *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet*, *In the Red and Brown Water*, and *House with No Walls* (Curious Theatre Company); *The Firestorm* (Local Theater Company); *The Revolutionists* (BETC); *Metamorphoses*, *The Color Purple*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Crumbs from the Table of Joy* (Aurora Fox Arts Center). Training: M.F.A.; The Institute for Advanced Theatre Training at Harvard University (A.R.T.). jadasuzannedixon.com

CHRYS DURAN *They/She* (Ensemble) is thrilled to be making their professional debut with the Arvada Center, and honored that as a queer actor, they get to tell this story that catalyzed a shift in the world. She hopes it moves someone the way it moved her. Chrys has most recently appeared as Cunningham in *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* and a manipulative clown in *Pippin* (MSU Denver). Training: B.A. in Theatre from Metropolitan State University of Denver. @_c.hrys chrysduran.com

VIN ERNST (Understudy) is excited to be working with the Arvada Center for the first time. Some of their most recent credits include: *Spring Awakening* and *The Rocky Horror Show* (Phamaly Theatre Company); *Stage Kiss* and *Murder on the Orient Express* (StageDoor Theatre). Vin holds a B.F.A in musical theatre from MSU Denver.

TORSTEN HILLHOUSE* (Ensemble) Credits include: Arvada Center: *Harvey* New York: Off Broadway: *Perfect Crime*, *NY Classical*, *The Polish Play*, *WTC View* Regional: American Repertory Theatre, Cincinnati Playhouse, Indiana Repertory Theatre, Pioneer Theatre, Capital Repertory Theatre, Portland Stage, Perseverance Theatre, Theatre Aspen, Creede Repertory Theatre, The Public Theatre, Cape Fear Theatre, Stonington Opera House, Moscow Art Theatre, Edinburgh Fringe Festival Film and TV: "Law and Order", "Bull", "FBI", "Blacklist." torstenhillhouse.com

CHRISTOPHER HUDSON (Ensemble) is over the moon to make his Arvada Center debut in *The Laramie Project*. Other credits: *The Winter's Tale*, *One Man Two Guvnors* (Colorado Shakespeare Festival); *Something Rotten* (BDT Stage); *A Christmas Carol* (DCPA Theatre Company); Chad in *All Shook Up*, Baker in *Into the Woods* (Little Theatre of the Rockies). Training: B.A.; University of Northern Colorado. @christopher_t_hudson



ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

RODNEY LIZCANO* (Ensemble) has performed at the Arvada Center in *Sylvia*, *End of the Rainbow*, *A Man For All Seasons* and *The Crucible*. He has appeared in regional theatre across the country with notable appearances at DCPA Theatre Company (20 seasons), Colorado Shakespeare Festival (10 seasons), The Old Globe, Dallas Shakespeare, Theatre Aspen, BETC and LOCAL theatre companies. TV/Film: "Silver City" directed by John Sayles and "Stage Struck" on Bravo. Training: Southern Methodist University (B.F.A.) National Theatre Conservatory (M.F.A.).

ADRIENNE MARTIN-FULLWOOD* (Understudy) Arvada Center: *The Laramie Project* u/s multiple roles, *The Great Gatsby*, *Ruby in A Raisin in the Sun*, and *Intimate Apparel*. Other productions include: *DOT*, *Jeanette in Crowns* (Vintage Theatre); *Gremia/Widower in The Taming of the Shrew*, *King Hedley*, *Ruby*, *The Bluest Eye* (Theatreworks); Letter Writer #2 in *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *Sophie in Flyin' West* (Firehouse Theatre); *Dontrell, Who Kissed the Sea* (Aurora Fox Theatre); *Martha in Tell Martha Not to Moan* (Athena Project); *United Flight 232* (The Catamounts).

SUSANNAH MCLEOD* (Ensemble) is honored to be telling this heartbreaking but important story after having appeared previously at the Arvada Center in *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Seussical*, and *Junie B. Jones*. Other credits: *Hurricane Diane* (Thunder River Theatre Company); *Fun Home* (Penobscot Theatre Company); *The Other Josh Cohen*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Goodnight Moon* (DCPA Theatre Company); and *The Humans* (Curious Theatre Company.)
susanahmcleod.com.

Susannah also works behind the scenes as a photographer under the name "McLeod9 Creative"-
mcleod9creative.com

ANNE OBERBROECKLING* (Ensemble) is happy to be here! Matthew Shepard didn't get the chance to realize his dreams. Anne has realized a few: To work at The Curious Theatre; Fly with BETC in *Ripcord*; *Attack August: Osage County*, with Abster Productions; Learn comic timing from Bill McHale; Tour with the Guthrie Theatre's *Foxfire*; Study at Circle in the Square in New York and grow at the Old Creamery Theatre in Iowa!! To look forward to *Heartbeat of the Sun*. To just look forward.

MEL SCHAFFER (Understudy) is thrilled to be making their Arvada Center debut! Recent credits include Associate Director/Line Producer of *Love (Among Dreamers)* (The House) and *Lysander in A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Theatricum Botanicum); *Macbeth* (Ghost Players Theater Co.); *The Antipodes*, and *Clybourne Park* (LAMDA). Training: BA (Hons), LAMDA.

WARREN SHERRILL (Ensemble) is excited to make his debut at the Arvada Center. Credits: *Romeo and Juliet* (Colorado Shakespeare Festival); *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Full Code* (Boulder Ensemble Theatre); *The Nance*, *Casa Valentina*, *Glengarry Glenn Ross* (The Edge Theatre); *The Seafarer* (Henry Nomination), (Ashton Productions); *The Real Thing* (Henry Nomination), *The Night Heron*, *The Caretaker*, *Look Back in Anger*, *A Moon for the Misbegotten* (Paragon Theatre).



CREATIVE TEAM

KATE GLEASON (Director) is an actor, director and teaching artist. She began her career in Chicago devising original experimental theatre with the award winning Cook County Theatre Department (later becoming New York City Players). Directing credits include *By the Waters of Babylon* (Off-Square Theatre Company); *Bull in a China Shop* (Benchmark Theatre); *Biloxi Blues*, *Broadway Bound* (Miners Alley Playhouse); and Denver Center for the Performing Arts Education Department. Most recently she served as Assistant Director for the Arvada Center's production of *Our Town*.

RODNEY LIZCANO (Director) has spent 20 seasons with the DCPA Theatre Company as actor and teaching artist for the DCPA Academy where he also received his Master's degree (National Theatre Conservatory). Other Theatres: Colorado Shakespeare Festival, The Old Globe, Orlando Shakespeare Theatre, Dallas Shakespeare, BETC, Theatre Aspen, Arvada Center, LOCAL, and Off-Broadway with Actors Ensemble Theater and DreamScape Theatre Company. Director: *The Book of Will* and *Twelfth Night* (School Tour) for Colorado Shakespeare Festival, *The Quest for Don Quixote* for Little Theatre of the Rockies.

TINA ANDERSON (Scenic Design) Her most recent designs are *Eden Prairie, 1971* (Henry Award nomination for best Set Design), *Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson Apt. 2B*, *The Royale*, *Fourteen Funerals*, *Tiny Beautiful Things*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Going to a Place You Have Already Been* (Henry Award nomination), *Birds of North America*, and *The Revolutionists*

(BETC). Other designs are *Hurricane Diane* (Thunder River Theatre Company - Carbondale); *Moon for the Misbegotten*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Ann*, *Steel Magnolias*, *Tenderly* (Cherry Creek Theatre).

JON OLSON (Lighting Designer / Lighting Director) has been a member of the Arvada Center since 2003. *The Laramie Project* marks Jon's twelfth Arvada Center Black Box design. Jon has received Henry Award Nominations for *The Drowning Girls* and *Educating Rita*. Other Arvada Center design credits include *Animal Farm*, *Sylvia*, *Plaza Suite*, *Blithe Spirit*, *The Mousetrap*, *The Archbishop's Ceiling*, *All My Sons*, *The Moors*, the world premiere of *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, and the regional premiere of *Trav'lin The 1930's Harlem Musical*.

MAX SILVERMAN (Original Music and Sound Design) Arvada Center: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *Damn Yankees*, *Beauty and the Beast* (Henry Award Nomination), *Into The Woods*, *Kinky Boots*, *Elf the Musical*. Colorado: Colorado Shakespeare Festival, DCPA, Curious Theatre Company, Creede Repertory Theatre, The Catamounts, Cherry Creek Theatre, Theatre Or. Select NYC: Atlantic Theatre, MCC Theatre, TFANA, BAM, City Center, Juilliard. Regional/ International: Williamstown Theatre Festival, Trinity Rep., Hartford Stage, Hoodoo Immersive and CLB, Berlin. Max has composed for podcasts, advertisements and short films. max-silverman.com



CREATIVE TEAM

GARRETT THOMPSON's (Projection Designer) work has been featured in shows and venues all over the world, such as the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, children's theatres in South Korea, and conferences attended by tens of thousands to name a few. He has given a TEDx talk on the subject of how to incorporate live motion capture with projection design. This is his first production with the Arvada Center. garretthompsonproductions.com

NICOLE WATTS (Costume Designer) is the resident Costume Design Assistant/ Artisan at the Arvada Center. Her Arvada Center design credits include *Kinky Boots*, *Animal Farm*, *Educating Rita*, *A Christmas Carol*. She also freelances as a Designer and Technician. Other companies she has worked for include Denver Center Theatre Company, Curious Theatre Company, Creede Repertory Theatre, The Catamounts, McLeod Summer Playhouse, Yuletide Celebration, Glimmerglass Festival, New Orleans Shakespeare Festival, Loyola University, Southeastern Louisiana University. Training: BFA; University of Wyoming, MFA; Tulane University nicolekwatts.com

CHRISTINE ROSE MOORE* (Stage Manager) returns for her seventh season. Center Favorites: *The River Bride*, *Stick Fly*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Plaza Suite*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Christie Con* (virtual). Other favorites: *In the Heights*, *Clybourne Park*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Les Miserables*, *Of Mice and Men* (Pioneer Theatre Company); *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Gypsy*, *Mousetrap*, *Singin' in the Rain* (Arts Center of Coastal Carolina); *Richard III*, *All's Well that Ends Well* (Colorado Shakespeare Festival); *Pipeline*, *Maytag Virgin* (Peterborough Players). Training: University of Utah.

MELISSA J MICHELSON* (Assistant Stage Manager) is in her fourth season. Previous AC credits: *Our Town*, *The Book Club Play*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *The River Bride*, *Stick Fly*, *The Liar*, *Sylvia*, *Small Mouth Sounds*, and *Murder on the Orient Express*. Other favorites: *Beautiful: The Carole King Musical*, *Doubt*, *RENT*, *Gypsy*, *Jersey Boys* (Theatre Aspen); *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, *Tiny Beautiful Things* (BETC); *Tarzan*, *Shrek* (Berkshire Theatre Group); *Love's Labour's Lost*, *The Great Gatsby*, *West Side Story* (Orlando Shakes); Four years working with actors with disabilities (Magic Moments) B.A. Theatre; Colorado State.

SYLVIA GREGORY, CSA (Casting Director) Sylvia has cast for the Arvada Center, The Colorado Shakespeare Festival, Denver Center Attractions, Denver Center Theatre Company, LOCAL Theatre, and The Bridgerton Experience. She cast the video games *The Expanse*, the BAFTA-nominated *Life Is Strange: True Colors*, and the *Life Is Strange Remasters*. Sylvia has cast multiple films and many commercials. Training: CSU Fullerton, The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts, and an M.F.A. from The Alabama Shakespeare Festival/UofA/PAT. sylviagregorycasting.com



THE AUTHORS

MOISÉS KAUFMAN (Writer) is a Tony and Emmy nominated director and playwright. 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.

LEIGH FONDAKOWSKI (Writer) 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. 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.

STEPHEN BELBER's (Writer) plays have been produced on Broadway and in over 25 countries. They include *Match, Tape, Don't Go Gentle, Dusk Rings a Bell, McRee, Finally, Geometry of Fire, Fault Lines, Carol Mulrone, A Small, Melodramatic Story, One Million Butterflies, The Power of Duff* and *The Muscles In Our Toes*. 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 F/X, Amazon, The History Channel, FTVS and HBO.

GREG PIEROTTI (Writer) 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). As an actor, 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 Tectonic Theater Project. He has been a member of Tectonic Theater Project for over 14 years.

STEPHEN WANGH (Writer) 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.



THE LARAMIE PROJECT

PRODUCTION STAFF

Philip C. Sneed,
President and CEO

ARTISTIC

Lynne Collins, Artistic Director
Lisa Hoffman, Artistic Associate
Brian Mallgrave, Director of Scenic Design

PRODUCTION

Jacob Kenworthy, Director of Production
Elizabeth Jamison, Production Manager
Jazlynne Williams, Associate Production Manager
Christine Moore, Production Stage Manager
Christine Moore*, Stage Manager
Melissa J Michelson*, Assistant Stage Manager
Rodney Lizcano, EDI Deputy

SCENE SHOP

Nick Cimyotte, Technical Director
David Cimyotte, House Foreman
Tim Krueger, Shop Foreman
Korri Marshall, Lead Scenic Artist
Ally Lacey-Kachelmeier, Lead Carpenter
S. Layne Ely, Scenic Carpenter/Scenic Painter
Matt Granelli, Scenic Carpenter
Kenneth Stark, Scenic Carpenter
Jack Stremsterfer, Scenic Carpenter
J.C. Williams, Black Box Lead Technician

PROP SHOP

Melissa Green, Properties Shop Manager
Jalana Sloatman, Assistant Prop Shop Manager
Ryan Rouillard, Props Artisan

COSTUME AND WARDOBE

Sarah Stark, Costume Shop Manager
Crystal McKenzie, Assistant Costume Shop Manager
Samantha R. De La Fuente-Meche, Costume Shop Lead
Jessie Page, Wardrobe Supervisor
Jonathan Kimbell, Stitcher
Olivia Murrow, Costume Crafts
Nicole Watts, Costume Design Assistant/ Artisan
Lisa Pedraza, Wig Supervisor
Faylo Kennedy, Stitcher
Kami Williams, Wardrobe Dresser

ELECTRICS

Jon Olson, Lighting Director
Alex Ostwald, Asst. Lighting Director
Connor Baker, Production Electrician/ Programmer
Miranda Hunt, Production Electrician/ Programmer
Riley Nicole, Production Electrician/ Programmer

SOUND

Grant Evenson, Audio Director
Morgan McCauley, Audio Engineer
Weston Rutherford, Audio Engineer

ON THIS PRODUCTION, the Arvada Center Theatre's production staff and crew have created or coordinated all elements of set, lighting, projections, props, sound, and costumes.



ARVADA CENTER

ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Philip C. Sneed,
President and CEO

Clark Johnson, Chief Operating Officer

Teresa YoKell, Vice President of Advancement

ADMINISTRATION & FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

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Alma Vazquez, Senior Accountant
Sara DeHerrera, Administrative Coordinator
Libby Zambrano, Human Resources Manager

ADVANCEMENT

Keisha Makonese, Director of ACES
Jackie Mendenhall, Sales Account Executive
Victoria Gardner, ACES Event Sales Coord.
Erick Delgadillo, Event Supervisor

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Teresa Cirrincione, Asst. Education Director
Scottie Woodward, FRYS/Theatre Ed. Coordinator
Christina Noel-Adcock, Dance Coordinator
Molly Berger, School Programs Coordinator
Bebe Alexander, Ceramics Coordinator
Shaylyn Hubbell, Education Assistant

Jarrold Markman, Director of Individual Giving & Patron Experience

Amber Gale, Box Office Manager
Krishna Lund-Brown, Asst. House Manager & Senior Audience Services Representative
Kennedy Russell, Mateo Castillo, Teej Morgan-Arzola, Gabriel Morales, Jeff Smith, Melissa Larsen, Rebecca Lovisone, Chris DiRenzo, Audience Services Representatives

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Patty Carrico, Interim Facilities Manager
David Crespin, Maintenance, Leadworker

Sarah Kolb, Director of Marketing and Communications

Leslie Simon, Communications & PR Specialist
Hannah Powers, Graphic Designer
Collin Sanders, Digital Communications Coordinator

GALLERIES AND EXHIBITIONS

Collin Parson, Director of Galleries & Curator
Emily Grace King, Galleries Exhibition Manager & Associate Curator

Kathy Blegen-Huntley, Director of Institutional & Capital Giving

Taylor Hicks, Stewardship Coordinator
Jenny Sines, Individual Giving Coordinator
Ramzi Ghazaleh, Fundraising Event Coordinator

PERFORMING ARTS

Lynne Collins, Artistic Director
Lisa Hoffman, Artistic Associate
Jacob Kenworthy, Dir. of Production
Elizabeth Jamison, Production Manager
Jazlyne Williams, Associate Production Manager
Brian Mallgrave, Director of Scenic Design
Korri Marshall, Lead Scenic Artist
Grant Evenson, Audio Director
Jon Olson, Lighting Director
Alex Ostwald, Asst. Lighting Director
Melissa Green, Properties Shop Manager
Jalana Sloatman, Asst. Prop Shop Mgr.
Sarah Stark, Costume Shop Manager
Crystal McKenzie, Asst. Costume Shop Mgr.
Samantha R De La Fuente- Meche, Costume Shop Lead
Jessie Page, Wardrobe Supervisor
Nick Cimyotte, Technical Director
David Cimyotte, House Foreman
Tim Krueger, Shop Foreman
Ally Lacey-Kachelmeier, Lead Carpenter
JC Williams, Black Box Lead Stage Hand



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Matthew Shepard Foundation

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Dana Juniel

University of Northern Colorado

The people of Laramie, WY.

Thank you to Cynthia Storm for her invaluable knowledge of cameras and photography.

Andy Paris

Leigh Fondakowski

Tim McCracken at DCPA Education.

DCPA Education's Master Class cast, *The Laramie Project*

Alicia Batterson
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PAGE OF RESOURCES

LEARN AND TAKE ACTION

Matthew Shepard's life and story have inspired millions of people to work to erase hate from their lives, from their communities, and from the world.

His legacy lives on in anyone who replaces hatred and intolerance with understanding, compassion and acceptance wherever they can.

The organizations below offer ways for you to join them. You can scan the QR code or look up these groups to find out more about organizations that are working to make the world a safer place for all people.

Matthew Shepard Foundation - Amplifies the story of Matthew Shepard to inspire individuals, organizations and communities to embrace the dignity and equality of all people.

The Center on Colfax - The largest LGBTQ community center in the Rocky Mountain region, giving voice to Colorado's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer community

Human Rights Campaign - The Human Rights Campaign strives to end discrimination against LGBTQ+ people and realize a world that achieves fundamental fairness and equality for all.

Inclusive Guide - Inclusive Guide is an online community that lists safe and welcoming spaces for anyone that faces discrimination.

One Colorado - The state's leading advocacy organization dedicated to advancing equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) Coloradans and their families.

Transgender Center of the Rockies - Provides holistic mental health services for members of Colorado's transgender and gender expansive community.





SPECIAL COMMUNITY EVENTS

Allyship & Advocacy in Action: Supporting the LGBTQAI+ Community

October 7, 5-6 pm in the Black Box Theatre

Free to attend

Panelist: Charlie Ocean, Owner of GenderSexuality.info

Dr. Benjamin Finlayson, Director of Support Services, PFLAG

Nadine Bridges, Executive Director of One Colorado

Facilitator: Brett Lord, consultant and community advocate

Representatives from three LGBT+ support organizations in Colorado will discuss their work, and how we can all be more active allies and advocates for LGBT+, specifically transgender, communities in our state, and the world.

Talkback Conversations with Judy and Dennis Shepard

October 28 and October 29, 5-6 pm

Free to attend with an RSVP

Presented by the Arvada Center and the Matthew Shepard Foundation

Through their personal appearances across the country and around the world, Judy and Dennis Shepard are changing hearts and minds by sharing Matt's story and highlighting the importance of standing up for the LGBT community.





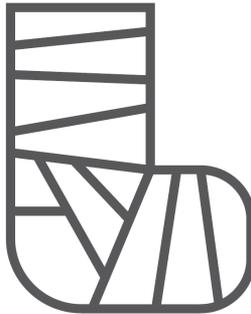
SUPPORT THE DENVER ACTORS FUND

The Denver Actors Fund is a source of immediate, situational relief when members of the Colorado theatre community find themselves needing help paying medical bills. It offers financial and practical assistance for members of the entire Colorado theatre community in medical need, on stage and off.

Since it began, the Denver Actors Fund has made \$1.28 million available to Colorado theatre artists to help pay down their medical bills, receive affordable mental-health care, emergency dental and more.

You've joined us at a show today because you love and support live theatre - thank you! Making a donation to the Denver Actors Fund supports the incredible people, on stage and off, who create theatre in our state.

Donations can be made today at **[DenverActorsFund.org](https://denveractorsfund.org)**



DENVER ACTORS FUND

For when you break a leg



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AT THE ARVADA CENTER

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S
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November 24 -
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January 23 - February 24
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**NATASHA, PIERRE
AND THE
GREAT COMET
OF 1812**

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Gala

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APRIL 13, 2024

The Arts for All Gala benefits the Arvada Center's arts education programming, as well as our theatre and gallery offerings. Help us celebrate and elevate the human condition through engaging, entertaining and enlightening programs for all.