



**Sterling Playmakers *Presents***

# THE LARAMIE PROJECT

**Directed by John L. Geddie**

**Produced by Kathy Bleutge and Lora Buckman**

**Written by Moisés Kaufman and Members of the Tectonic Theater Project**



**Performances on Fridays and Saturdays:**

**June 11 & 12 – 7:30pm — Franklin Park Arts Center, 36441 Blueridge View Lane, Purcellville, VA**

**June 18, 19, 25, & 26 – 7:30pm — Sterling Middle School, 201 West Holly Ave., Sterling, VA**

**Tickets \$15 General Admission Limited Seating.**

**Information/Tickets: visit our website at [www.sterlingplaymakers.org](http://www.sterlingplaymakers.org).**

**The Laramie Project contains adult themes and language.**

**Masks are required for all audiences.**

**Sterling Playmakers is A Non-Profit Community Theatre Group in Partnership with LCPRCS - Sterling Community Center**

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Thank you for coming out to see *The Laramie Project*. We are so glad to be here. Our team was planning auditions back in March 2020 when Covid hit and the year's delay only made us more anxious to share the story of Laramie with you.

Art is important, and getting actors back on stage is a key part of re-opening. We're certainly grateful for all the online projects we've seen in the last year, but there's something special in the electricity you feel when the show is right in front of you.

*The Laramie Project* might be the perfect show these times. It confronts violence against the LGBT+ community – not dissimilar to the racial violence that's inspired the Black Lives Matter movement in our recent history. It's unfortunate that *The Laramie Project's* message is still so relevant, but I'm glad that we've managed to assemble such a talented cast to share it with you. I love this show. It's honest and brutal, but also honest and forgiving. Don't get me wrong—I love a good musical or an old-fashioned comedy. The world needs them, but we also need shows like this—show that challenge us, break our hearts and then work to stitch those hearts back together again.

There are so many powerful moments in this show, but Lorraine Patterson's response to extremists picketing her friend's funeral is to me the height of heroism and humanism. Without too many spoilers, turning your rage and hurt into a desire to comfort and shield others is a challenge to all of us.

It's not unlike the Tectonic Theater Company's reaction to the news of another gay hate crime in America. Instead of making assumptions, they decided to ask questions and create art.

There are a lot of reasons to love *The Laramie Project*, but to me its message of confronting hate with art and love for the vulnerable is uplifting.

It's also a challenge. Where in your life can you be an angel?

— **John L. Geddie, Director**

## 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, Wyoming, 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."

— **Moisés Kaufman**

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).

## **THE STORY**

In October 1998, a twenty-one-year-old student at the University of Wyoming was kidnapped, severely beaten, and left tied to a fence in the middle of the prairie outside Laramie, Wyoming. His bloody, bruised, and battered body was not discovered until the next day, and he died several days later in an area hospital. His name was Matthew Shepard, and he was the victim of this assault because he was gay. Moisés Kaufman and fellow members of the Tectonic Theater Project made six trips to Laramie over the course of a year and a half, in the aftermath of the beating and during the trial of the two young men accused of killing Shepard. They conducted more than 200 interviews with the people of the town. Some people interviewed were directly connected to the case, while others were citizens of Laramie.

## **CHARACTERS**

Sherry Anderson (Russell Henderson's landlord)  
Anonymous (Friend of Aaron McKinney)  
Bailiff  
Minister's Wife  
Stephen Belber (Tectonic Theater Project)  
Dr. Cantway (Emergency Room Doctor)  
Catherine Connelly (University professor)  
Murdock Cooper (Rancher)  
Rob Debree (Police detective on Shepard Murder)  
Kerry Drake (Reporter with Caspar Star Tribune)  
Philip DuBois (President of the University of Wyoming)  
Tiffany Edwards (Local reporter)  
Email Sender  
Eileen Engen (Rancher)  
Reggie Fluty (Policewoman who responded to Shepard call)  
Leigh Fondakowski (Tectonic Theater Project)  
Matt Galloway (Student and Bartender at Fireside Bar)  
Gov. Gil Geringer (Wisconsin Governor)  
Andrew Gomez (Former Inmate)  
Amanda Gronich (Tectonic Theater Project)  
Russell Henderson (Perpetrator)  
Rebecca Hilliker (Head of Theatre Dept at University of Wyoming)  
Sergeant Hing (Laramie police)  
Jen (Friend of Aaron McKinney)  
Sherry Johnson (University Administrative Assistant)

## CHARACTERS

Stephen Mead Johnson (Unitarian Minister)  
Judge  
Moises Kaufman (Tectonic Theater Project)  
Aaron Kreifels (University Student)  
Phil Labrie (Friend of Matthew Shepard)  
Doug Laws (Ecclesiastical Leader of Mormon Church in Laramie)  
Jeffrey Lockwood (Laramie Resident)  
Aaron McKinney (Perpetrator)  
Bill McKinney (Father of Aaron McKinney)  
Alison Mears (Social Service volunteer, Friend of Marge Murray)  
Matt Mickelson (Owner at Fireside Bar)  
Conrad Miller (Car Mechanic)  
Mormon Home Teacher  
Marge Murray (Reggie's Mother)  
Newscaster  
Doc O'Connor (Limousine Driver and local entrepreneur)  
Andy Paris (Tectonic Theater Project)  
Romaine Patterson (Friend of Matthew Sheppard)  
John Peacock (Matthew's Academic Advisor)  
Rev. Fred Phelps (Radical Minister from Kansas)  
Greg Pierotti (Tectonic Theater Project)  
Barbara Pitts (Tectonic Theater Project)  
Kristin Price (Girlfriend of Aaron McKinney)  
Priest at Funeral  
Cal Rerucha (Prosecuting Attorney)  
Zackie Salmon (Administrator at University of Wyoming)  
Father Roger Schmidt (Catholic Priest)  
Jedediah Schultz (Wyoming Theatre Student)  
Shadow (DJ at Fireside bar)  
Shannon (Friend of Aaron McKinney)  
Dennis Shepard (Father of Matthew Shepard)  
April Silva (University student)  
Jonas Slonaker (Laramie resident)  
Rulon Stacey (Hospital CEO)  
Trish Steger (Shop Owner, Romaine's Sister)  
Lucy Thompson (Grandmother of Russell Henderson)  
Zubaida Ula (Laramie Muslim woman)  
Waitress  
Harry Woods (Laramie Resident), Baptist Minister

## OUR CAST

MARC BARBRET.....	Rob Debree, Sergeant Hing, Phil Labrie, Greg Pierotti, Jonas Slonaker
LORRAINE BOUCHARD.....	Kerry Drake, Eileen Engen, Stephen Mead Johnson, Matt Mickelson, Marge Murray, Newscaster
JESSICA DALLESSANDRO.....	Romaine Patterson, April Silva, Jen, Shadow, Email Sender, Newscaster
NICK FARRO.....	Stephen Belber, Jedadiah Schultz, Aaron McKinney, Newscaster
LINDSEY JUNE.....	Dr. Cantway, Catherine Connelly, Gov. Gil Geringer, Amanda Gronich, Conrad Miller, Cal Rerucha, Trish Steger
STEVE PALKOVITZ.....	Murdock Cooper, Philip DuBois, Andy Paris, John Peacock, Dennis Shepard
CLIFF RIEGER.....	Jeffrey Lockwood, Doc O'Connor, Rev. Fred Phelps, Harry Woods, Baptist Minister
DANNY SEAL.....	Moises Kaufman, Father Roger Schmidt, Rulon Stacey, Anonymous, Priest at Funeral
ANNE SHIVELY.....	Sherry Anderson, Leigh Fondakowski, Doug Laws, Alison Mears, Zackie Salmon, Lucy Thompson
THOMAS UDLOCK.....	Matt Galloway, Aaron Kreifels, Bill McKinney, Andrew Gomez, Russell Henderson
KYRA WALKER.....	Reggie Fluty, Rebecca Hilliker, Shannon, Judge, Minister's Wife, Waitress
KAREN WHITLOCK.....	Tiffany Edwards, Sherry Johnson, Barbara Pitts, Kristin Price, Zubaida Ula, Bailiff
RACHEL SEDLAK.....	Cast Swing



## OUR STAFF

PRODUCERS.....	Kathleen Bleutge & Lora Buckman
DIRECTOR.....	John L. Geddie
ASST. DIRECTOR/COVID SUPERVISOR.....	Lauren Baker
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR.....	Scott Ruegg
PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER.....	Helen Gernhardt
STAGE MANAGER.....	Annette De Mott
COSTUMES DESIGNS.....	Lori Crockett & Margie Lazo
COSTUMES MANAGERS.....	Margie Lazo & Lora Buckman
PROPS MANAGER.....	Annette DeMott
LIGHTS DESIGN.....	Marie Casey
LIGHTS OPERATOR.....	RC Castaneda
LIGHTS CREW.....	Bill Fry
SOUND DESIGN/TECHNICIAN.....	Rick Dulik
HAIR.....	Rachel Sedlak
PUBLICITY MANAGER.....	Jen Lofquist
GRAPHICS DESIGN.....	Dale Spivey
SHOW PHOTOGRAPHER.....	Alan Price
SET CONSTRUCTION.....	Terry DiMurro, Burgan Pugh & Scott Ruegg
PROGRAM DESIGN.....	Shanna Christian
BOX OFFICE.....	Mary Abbott & Mark Humphrey
ONLINE TICKET SALES.....	Shanna Christian
HOUSE MANAGERS.....	Laura Garofolo, Steve Shively, & David Reph
AUDITION ASSISTANT.....	Shanna Christian

## THE LARAMIE PROJECT

Written by Moisés Kaufman  
and the Members of Tectonic Theatre Project

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

## SETTING

Various locations in and around Laramie, Wyoming in 1998-1999  
following the murder of Matthew Shepard

There will be a 15 Minute Intermission between Act I & II

THE LARAMIE PROJECT is presented by Special arrangement  
With Dramatists Play Service, Inc. New York, NY

## BIOGRAPHIES

### MARC BARBRET

Marc is in this show! Hooray! He is happy to see you here. No, not you. YOU! The one with the face! Thank you in particular for coming! Marc is very excited to return to the stage and would like to thank everyone for coming to see it! In his most dramatic role yet, he portrays, among others, a police officer and a gay man. Break a leg!

### LORRAINE BOUCHARD

Lorraine is grateful to John and the Sterling folks for their warmth, their talent, and the chance to play one more time before she moves away next month. You may have seen Lorraine on stage at one of the ten other local theatres where she has performed.

### JESSICA DALLESSANDRO

This is Jessica's second show with Sterling Playmakers. She would like to thank the cast for all the giggles. Happy Pride!

### NICK FARRO

Nick is beyond excited to be in this show. This is his third show with the Playmakers. His previous roles are Mr. Davis (How to Succeed) and Claudio (Much Ado). He would like to thank his family and friends for their support and as Zac Efron once said, "We're all in this together."

### LINDSEY JUNE

Lindsey makes her debut with Sterling Playmakers and is incredibly thankful to be back on stage at last! Past credits include WATCH award-winning Last Summer at Bluefish Cove at Dominion Stage and Providence Players' Leaving Iowa. She hopes you take heart from this still poignant piece, and wishes everyone a joyous Pride Month!

### STEVEN PALKOVITZ

Steve is honored to help bring Matthew's story to life in The Laramie Project", Steve's first with Sterling Playmakers. He has also acted in productions at the Reston Community Players, the Little Theatre of Alexandria, the Vienna Theatre company, the McLean Community Players, and Providence Players of Fairfax, among others. Keep an eye out for him as an extra in the movie Wonder Woman 1964.

### CLIFF RIEGER

Cliff moved to Virginia nine years ago from central Florida where he acted in community theatre for many years. Since relocating here, he has performed with the Little Theatre of Alexandria, Fauquier Community Theatre, Stagecoach Theatre and Rooftop Theatre in Manassas. This will be Cliff's first time with Sterling Playmakers.



## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **DANNY SEAL**

Danny is excited for his first production with Sterling Playmakers. He last appeared in productions of Rabbit Hole (Howie), Man of La Mancha (Ensemble), and The Full Monty (Teddy). Danny wants to thank his husband David for all his continued love and support.

### **RACHEL SEDLAK**

Rachel is a Sophomore Theatre and Performance student at Emerson College. Past performances include Mama Mia (Tanya), Anne of Green Gables (Diana), Wizard of Oz (AuntEm/Glinda), and Fools (Sophia). She is so grateful to be a part of this incredible production and hopes you enjoy the show!

### **ANNE SHIVELY**

Anne is originally from Long Island, NY, where she played flute in the pit orchestra for various shows. Her stage credits include her acting debut in Sterling Playmakers One Act Festival 2009 and in Puffs as Helga, Runes Teacher, Death Buddy and the Dragon.

### **THOMAS UDLOCK**

Thomas is thrilled to be returning to live theatre after an unexpected hiatus! He has previously been seen on stage with Sterling Playmakers in Puffs, and he also performed with the Providence Players, and Britches and Hose. During the Pandemic, he kept busy with Global Online virtual shows and even directed R.U.R. for the company. He is excited to tackle some more dramatic roles than his usual fare and hopes you enjoy the show!

### **KYRA WALKER**

Kyra is excited to be back on the stage doing what she loves. Her recent credits include In the Red and Brown Water and her own one woman show The Forgotten Sculpture. Kyra earned her BFA from Howard University and has also studied at the British American Drama Academy in England.

### **KAREN WHITLOCK:**

Karen is grateful to return to the stage after nearly a two-year hiatus. The Laramie Project has been a gracious testament to her affinity for thematic productions. Karen's last non-musical performance was back in 2015; therefore she would like to extend her thanks to those who have supported this transition.

## BIOGRAPHIES

### STEPHEN BELBER

Stephen Belber's plays have been produced on Broadway and in over 25 countries. They include MATCH; TAPE; DON'T GO GENTLE; DUSK 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 TOES. He was an associate 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, FTVS, and HBO.

### LEIGH FONDAKOWSKI

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.

### GREG PIEROTTI

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

## BIOGRAPHIES

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.

### STEPHEN WANGH

Stephen Wangh is a playwright, lyricist and director. He was Associate Writer of the Tectonic Theater Company's THE LARAMIE PROJECT and one of the writers of THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE, winner of the Glickman Award for Best Play in the Bay Area, 2005. Other plays include CLASS, CALAMITY! and GOIN' DOWNTOWN, as well as numerous collaborative theatre pieces. Since 1973 he has taught acting in Europe, Boston and New York, and Boulder Colorado, where he is currently Visiting Faculty in the Theater MFA in Contemporary Performance at Naropa University. His book on physical acting technique, "An Acrobat of the Heart," was published by Vintage Books (Random House) in 2000.

## SPECIAL THANK YOU

Sterling Playmakers and the Laramie Project company would like to sincerely thank the following organizations and individuals for help with this production:

Nicholas Wilt, Director, Sterling Community Center

Elizabeth Bracey, Les Thompson & staff at Franklin Park Arts Center

Elena Barham, Herman Mizell, Juliet Finnegan  
and staff at Sterling Middle School

Rebecca Ayling, LCPS Facility Use Coordinator

Carl Pfanstiehl, Director at Bach to the Rock, Fairfax, VA

Hurunnessa Fariad, Head of Outreach/Interfaith at Adams Center

Nighat Nasim

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

*Our sincere appreciation to anyone we may have missed  
or who contributed to our show after the program went to print*

# Sterling Playmakers

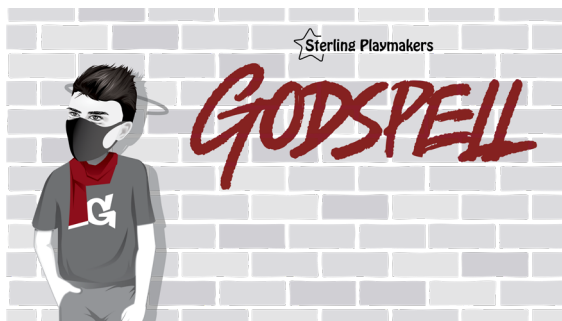
## Our 25th Season



February 2021



June 2021



July & August 2021



*Community Theatre for the Entire Community*

# Auditions



## THE SOCIAL SECRETARY

*An Original Romantic Comedy Set in Gilded Age Newport*

*By Ellen Price*



Performances: October 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, & 24, 2021

Auditions: July 22, 23, & 24, 2021

Auditions will consist of cold readings from the script.



Performances: November 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, & 21, 2021

Auditions: July 15, 16, & 17, 2021

Auditions will consist of a cold reading from the script, a song selected from the provided list, and a dance component.

**For more information about  
*The Social Secretary* or *Catch Me If You Can*,  
including detailed character descriptions and tentative  
rehearsal schedules, or to make your audition appointment,  
please visit [www.sterlingplaymakers.org](http://www.sterlingplaymakers.org)**

***Sterling Playmakers is a non-profit 501(c)(3) community theatre organization in partnership with Loudoun County Parks, Recreation, and Community Services and the Sterling Community Center.***

*Contributions to the Sterling Playmakers are gratefully accepted and fully tax deductible.*

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

Sterling Playmakers, in cooperation with Loudoun County Parks, Recreation, and Community Services' Sterling Community Center, will associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To foster and perpetuate wholesome theatrical presentations for all age groups, of both a cultural and entertainment value to the community of Sterling, ever keeping in mind our obligations to the community in the safeguarding of the principles of good taste in all our endeavors.

To produce, direct, write, teach, stage and in all ways provide all forms of performing arts activities and events for children and adults and to hire such staff as may be necessary.

To exist as a non-profit organization, which operates strictly for the enjoyment of our members, providing an outlet for the artistic talents of as many community individuals as possible.

**STATEMENT OF DIVERSITY**

Sterling Playmakers is committed to cultivating a diverse and inclusive environment for our volunteers, audiences, and the entire community. We embrace our differences and respect the unique contributions of each individual. We will not tolerate discrimination or harassment based on race, ethnicity, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, pregnancy, childbirth or related conditions, religion, creed, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status or any other protected status as established by law.

**OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Kimberly Fry, Chairman  
Aubry Fisher, Vice Chairman  
Barbara Gillen, Secretary  
Jim Collinson, Treasurer

Julia Braxton, Shanna Christian, Eric Fisher, Bill Fry, John L. Geddie,  
Angela Hepola, Ellen Price, Tim Silk, Rachel Veal

**[www.sterlingplaymakers.org](http://www.sterlingplaymakers.org)**  
**(703) 437-6117**