

# THEATERS

**PRESENTS** 

# LARAMIE PROJECT

By Moisés Kaufman and the Members of the Tectonic Theater Project

NOVEMBER 14, 15, 21 & 22 at 8 PM NOVEMBER 16 & 23 at 3 PM CAMPUS THEATRE

The use of cameras and/or recording devices of any sort is strictly prohibited during this performance. Artists and programs are subject to change.



#### **El Camino Theatre Department**

is proud to present

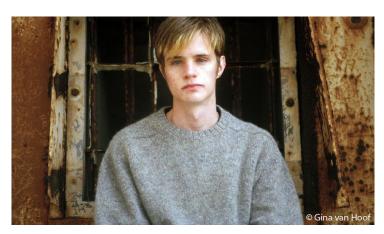
# LARAMIE PROJECT

The Laramie Project is a powerful, award-winning play that explores the 1998 murder and aftermath of a gay University of Wyoming student, Matthew Shepard, in Laramie, Wyoming. Using real interviews, it portrays the town's reaction, examining themes of hate, compassion, identity, and justice. The play challenges audiences to reflect deeply on prejudice, intolerance, community responsibility, empathy, and the capacity for change.

The Laramie Project was named "one of the 10 best plays of 2000" by Time magazine, which called it "a pioneering work of theatrical reportage and a powerful stage event." The play was created by Moisés Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project. Kaufman, who also directed HBO's film adaptation of the production, received nominations for Emmy Awards for best director and best writing, along with winning several other awards.

WARNING: This production includes strong language and mature content and includes descriptions of homophobia, violence, and death.

#### IN MEMORY OF MATTHEW SHEPARD



#### **CAST**

Jedidiah Schultz/Stephen Belber	Joshua Munoz
Dr. Cantway/Company Reggie Fluty	Ava Souza
Andy Paris, Stephen Mead Johnson	Lane Levens
Conrad Miller, Harry Woods, Priest, Juror, Dennis Shepard, Matt Mickelson	
Greg Pierotti, Sgt. Hing	Tia Rose Acrey
Baptist Minister, Rulon Stacey, Rob Debree	
Zackie Salmon/Leigh Fondakowski	Allie Diecedue
Russell Henderson/Narrator/Newsperson #4	
Zubaida Ula, April Silva	Qing Peng Joy
Sherry Johnson, Juror	
Catherine Connolly	Belen Santizo
Jon Peacock/Jonas Slonaker/Phil Labrie	Tyler Propst
Amanda Gronich, Marge Murray	Laura Arriaga
Trish Steger, Shadow	
Matt Galloway, Father Roger Schmit	Anthony Argueta
Murdock Cooper, Mormon Home Teacher,	
Rev. Fred Phelps, Governor Geringer	
Phillip Dubois, Alison Mears	Cass Atkinson
Aaron Kreifels, Tiffany Edwards, Cal Rerucha, Juror/Foreperson, Doug Laws	
	l Ta Ma dia a
Eileen Engen, Romaine PattersonSo Email Writer, Lucy Thompson	esiy forres Medina
Moisés Kaufman, Doc O'Conner	Andrés Diaz
Anonymous Friend, Bill McKinney, Andrew Gomez, The Judge	

#### PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: Jocelyn Hall
Faculty Technical Director: Kira Sherman
Stage Manager: Brent Jasso
Assistant Stage Managers:
Isabelle Daou, Aurora Diez
Sound Designer: Adam Vaughn
Lightning Designer: Andrea Heilman
Lighting and Video Designer:
Shannon Barondeau

Costume Designer:
Kim DeShazo Wilkinson
Projections Operator: Champ Chavira

Light Board Operator: Kylie Fair
Sound Board Operator: Steven Furuto
Stage/Props Crew: Kiana Frerichs,
Hana Saito, Dominic Taranto, Lann Wade
Wardrobe/Make-up Crew: Hayden

Martinez, Bear Ruedas,
Jonas Sandberg, Samantha Wilson

There will be one 15-minute intermission.

#### SPECIAL POST PERFORMANCE Q&A

On **Sunday, November 23rd**, please join us for a special post-performance panel discussion led by El Camino's LGBTQIA+ Pride Center Student Success Coordinator Kenny Simkins, featuring Director Jocelyn Hall, faculty members Sarah Leinen and Craig Sauer, and actors from the performance.

#### **ACTOR PROFILES**



JOSHUA MUNOZ (he/him) would like to welcome you to El Camino's *The Laramie Project!* He is excited to perform for you as Jedidiah Schultz/Stephen Belber/Dr. Cantway/Company. This is his 2nd production here at El Camino College. His first El Camino College show was last spring's production of *Puffs* where he played the best characters such as J. Finch and Zach Smith. Josh has been in other productions such as the play *One Man Two Guvnors* as Lloyd Boetang and *Something Rotten!* as Bard Boy/Troupe Member at PV High. Lay back, relax and enjoy the show!



**AVA SOUZA** (she/her) is so excited to perform for you in *The Laramie Project* as Reggie Fluty and many other characters! This is her first production at El Camino although she is a freshman attending Cal State Long Beach as a Theatre major! Other roles she has played include Brooke Wyndham (*Legally Blonde*), Mrs. Heron (*Mean Girls*), Hannah (*Puffs*) and many more. She also loves working behind the scenes and has directed *The Magical Land of Oz The Musical* and *Bad Auditions By Bad Actors*. When Ava is not working on performances, she loves sewing, shopping, listening

to music and hanging out with her friends! Her performance today was only made possible by all the support she has received from her family and friends and she cannot thank them enough! Enjoy the show!!!



LANE LEVENS (he/him) is thrilled to be part of his first production, *The Laramie Project*. He is deeply grateful for everything he's learned throughout the process and for the opportunity to collaborate with such an inspiring and talented group of people. Lane also enjoys art and woodworking! He is currently completing an AS in Fine Woodworking and an AA in Fine Art while working towards a certificate in Digital Art and Design. Lane is excited to keep learning, trying new things, and applying himself!



TIA ROSE ACREY (she/her) is delighted to be performing in her second production at El Camino as a Theater Major! Her first roles here being in *Puffs* as Cedric/Voldy! Having graduated from (and coached) at a Performing Arts school (HARTS Academy, look it up!). She's honored to be part of a cast as talented and open-hearted as this one. "It's been an honor and a journey to perform such a sad truth that our world faces. I hope to have given a proper retelling to such a painful memory, and to have given inspiration to all who watch. Love is love and it should be unconditional. For everyone."

#### **ACTOR PROFILES CONTINUED**



ALLIE DIECEDUE (Zackie Salmon/Leigh Fondakowski/Russell Henderson/Narrator/Newsperson #4) is really excited to be a part of the powerful story that is *The Laramie Project*. Their love of theatre and acting has been a part of them for as long as they can remember. This is their second on-stage role for an El Camino production, but they've done tech behind the scenes for many productions at ELCO. Allie has been in many productions both on and off the stage in high school, middle school, and elementary school as well! They enjoy singing, reading, gaming, making art pieces, baking, anything

horror related, and jumping spiders. They hope you'll enjoy their performance!



QING PENG JOY (she/her) is honored to make her El Camino College debut in *The Laramie Project*. Her theatrical journey began in elementary school and continued through intensive training in Hong Kong, where she performed in Windmill Grass Theatre's Youth Theatre 2024 production of *Copy Bully & Paste It>*. She studied acting technique through HKREP edu hub's beginner acting class and Teens Theatre workshop. These experiences have cultivated her deep appreciation for collaborative storytelling and character-driven theatre. As she begins her collegiate journey, Joy embraces

the artistic growth and creative possibilities at El Camino College. She extends sincere gratitude to the directors, cast, and crew for their dedication, and thanks you, the audience, for supporting live theatre.



**BELEN SANTIZO** (she/her) is an emerging artist from occupied Ohlone Territory (Bay Area, CA). After an incredible summer performing in The Hollywood Fringe Festival as the lead (Curator) in the Los Angeles Community College production of *No Category*, she is thrilled to join the courageous ensemble of El Camino College's *The Laramie Project*. She will take on several roles, including Catherine Connolly, the first "out" LGBT faculty member at the University of Wyoming. As both a professor and a queer person, Belen feels deeply honored to portray a character so close

to her heart—especially in a time when educators are under threat for their anti-racist and anti-queer/transphobic stances. She would like to thank her therapist, roommate, besties, family, and her dog, Shy, for their unwavering support throughout her journey as an actor. "And to our wonderful audience, I hope you leave this theater transformed by Matthew Shepard's life & legacy."



**TYLER PROPST** (he/him) is very excited to be performing as Jon Peacock, Jonas Slonaker, and Phil Labrie in *The Laramie Project*. This will be his first ever production at El Camino and he is so excited to work with everyone! In the past, Tyler has been in productions like *Beauty & the Beast* (ensemble), *Matilda* (Rudolpho), & *Hadestown* (ensemble). He'd like to thank his family, Jocelyn the director, the stage management team, and his fellow actors. Enjoy the show!

#### **ACTOR PROFILES CONTINUED**



**LAURA ARRIAGA** (she/her) is glad that she got the opportunity to work in *The Laramie Project* with such an amazing cast. She loved making new relationships with each and every one of her fellow actors. Laura has been involved in four other shows while at South High School in Torrance including *Chicago, Mamma Mia, Puffs,* and *The Play That Goes Wrong.* As much as she misses her old crew, she is very excited to perform *The Laramie Project* with a new set of people. Laura found the entire process of blocking the show fun and interesting! She hopes everyone loves the show just as much

as she loved being involved in it!



**ANTHONY ARGUETA** (he/him) is insanely grateful to be part of the cast of *The Laramie Project*. He has had an incredible time collaborating with his fellow castmates and Jocelyn the director. He has been pursuing theater since his freshman year of high school. The first show he was ever involved in was *Mamma Mia* as an Usher for the technical crew. After that, Anthony went on to build the set for two spring musicals and a winter play. He hopes that you are moved by the story telling of *The Laramie Project*.



**CASS ATKINSON** (she/them) is so excited to be performing in *The Laramie Project!* They have had such an amazing time working with the rest of this talented cast. When not on stage, Cass loves listening to music and going thrifting! This is their first El Camino production, but they have been in both *Sister Act* (Nun Ensemble) and *Shrek* (Duloc Dancer, Knight). Cass would like to thank her parents for all of their support throughout her theatre journey, and her friends for helping her rehearse. They would also like to thank their director, Jocelyn, for all of the time and effort that she has put into this show.

Finally, Cass would like to thank you, the audience! They hope you enjoy the show!



**SOESLY TORRES MEDINA** (she/her) is very excited to be part of this theatre production, which is based on a true story. *The Laramie Project* has taught her so much about herself both as a person and an actress through the characters of Romaine Patterson, Lucy Thompson, Email Writer, Eileen Engen, and much more. Soesly wants to pursue theatre as a career path and continue acting for as long as she can. She's also excited to see what the future has in store for her! While she is an El Camino College theatre student, this will be her third theatre production ever. She hopes you enjoy

the show and take in every moment of this powerful story being told. To everyone: "Let's enjoy the show and remember we are all important!"

#### **ACTOR PROFILES CONTINUED**



ANDRÉS DIAZ (he/him) (Moisés Kaufman, Doc O'Conner, Anonymous Friend, Bill McKinney, Andrew Gomez, The Judge) returns to the stage in his third ever theatre performance at El Camino College. As an aspiring Film/TV director, he wants to experiment in the life of an actor to gain a better understanding of how to work with them. Having played Percy in *The Miracle Worker*, and Curly in *Lost Girl*, and more recently directing in the 2025 One Acts here at ElCo, he hopes the audience will be hit right in the feels during this production of *The Laramie Project!* 

#### PRODUCTION TEAM PROFILES



JOCELYN HALL (she/her) received her M.F.A. in Acting from Cal State Long Beach, teaches Acting at California Lutheran University and El Camino Community College, and has performed in well over 40 plays throughout Southern California. Some of her favorite roles include Horatio (Hamlet), Hermia (A Midsummer Night's Dream), Mary Anne (The Kentucky Cycle), and Cody in the world premiere, Fierce Backbone production of Gorgeous. She is also a graduate of the IO West Improv program and performed with her mainstage House Sketch team, Duke. She continues to book commercials and

currently has four running, with two more on the way, so keep an eye out! (Land 'O'Lakes Butter, Eero Wi-Fi, Franzia wine, and Eat Pecans.) She is thrilled to be directing *The Laramie Project* this semester, and is extremely proud of all of her actors and stage management team for diving into this story with care and precision.



**BRENT JASSO** (he/they) is so happy to have the opportunity to work with Jocelyn Hall, the director, Izzy Daou and Aurora Diez, the assistant stage managers, on *The Laramie Project*. He is very proud of all the work and dedication the talented cast has put into the rehearsal process! Brent has been in the theater community for many years and has had the opportunity to do a variety of jobs. They have been the prop master for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, lighting designer for *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*, director for *Everything You Want*, and a part of the costume crew for a majority

of their time here at El Camino. When he's not backstage, Brent has had the pleasure of performing on stage! His favorite roles include Mrs. Bennet (*Pride & Prejudice*), the Drowsy Chaperone & Aldolpho (*Drowsy Chaperone*), Smee (*Peter Pan*), and Mr. Mushnik (*Little Shop of Horrors*). Enjoy the show!

#### PRODUCTION TEAM PROFILES CONTINUED



**ISABELLE DAOU** (she/her) is thrilled to be one of the assistant stage managers for *The Laramie Project*. She has had a great time working with Jocelyn, the director, Brent and Aurora, and all of the talented actors. Technical theater wise, Isabelle was an assistant producer for *Mamma Mia* and was in stage/props crew for *Pride and Prejudice, Rent,* and *Puffs* here at El Camino! She was recently an assistant stage manager for El Co's 2025 One Act plays. Besides technical theater, Isabelle has had a few opportunities to act. "I'm definitely a theater kid, but a background theater kid, you know?"

says Isabelle herself, "I did take 2 years of improv though!" She'd like to thank everyone in the company for making this such a fun and memorable time. Isabelle hopes you enjoy watching this play and learn a lot from it, as it is a true and heartbreaking story. Enjoy!



**AURORA DIEZ** (she/they) is a theater major at El Camino. This is her first time as an Assistant Stage Manager! They have been participating in theater since the 6th grade as both an actor and a technician. She currently works for the Redondo Beach Unified School District as a technician and mentor to high school theater students. She would like to thank the rest of the stage management team, Izzy and Brent, as well as the director, Jocelyn, for their dedication and talent. Aurora can't wait to start working on her next project!



**ADAM VAUGHN** (Sound Designer) Hailing from Tennessee, Adam has been involved in sound for live events for over 17 years. While most of his experience in sound design has been in the film industry, he loves having the opportunity to bring his skills to the theatre. Past plays Adam has designed include *The Little Mermaid, Sense & Sensibility,* and *Hamlet*. With interest in all areas of audio, Adam also produces podcasts, mixes for live concerts and film productions, and DJs dance parties. His favorite play is *The Book of Mormon*, his biggest hobby is playing board

games, and his favorite sound effect is the seismic charge explosion from *Star Wars:* Attack of the Clones.



ANDREA HEILMAN (Lightning Designer) is a freelance scenic and lighting designer with over twenty years of professional design experience in theatre, film, and live events. They hold both an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and an MFA in Design, bringing together creative artistry with research-informed teaching and leadership practices. Andrea's career has encompassed a wide range of work, from creating dynamic lighting for live performance to evocative environments for theater and film. Their approach emphasizes visual storytelling as a way to transport audiences, spark imagination, and

invite new perspectives. In addition to professional design, Andrea spent many years in higher education, where they integrated trauma-informed pedagogy and collaborative practices into the classroom and beyond. They prioritized student agency, peer support,

#### PRODUCTION TEAM PROFILES CONTINUED

and inclusive learning environments that empowered students to take risks and grow as artists. Most recently, Andrea has been producing a theatre documentary series focused on the unseen practitioners, highlighting the artistry and voices of craftspeople whose work often remains unknown. This project reflects Andrea's commitment to bridging design, education, and wellness, while creating platforms that celebrate creativity and foster community. Andrea thrives in collaborative environments where design and education intersect. They are dedicated to cultivating spaces where artists and students can explore, take creative risks, and discover their full potential.



KIM DESHAZO WILKINSON (Costume Designer) is Costume Instructor for the Theatre and Dance at El Camino College as well as Resident Costume Designer for International City Theatre. Other theatres that have showcased her skills include L.A. Opera, the L.A. Philharmonic, Pasadena Dance Theatre, Long Beach Opera, Shakespeare Festival/LA, the Gary Marshall Theatre, the Odyssey Theatre, Theatricum Botanicum, PCPA and Ebony Rep. College collaborations include designing for the Theatre and Dance Department UCI, Chapman University, Cal State Dominguez Hills.

LB City College, and Mt. San Antonio College. Her work has been seen at industrial shows for Nike, Adidas, Skechers, Cherokee and Diesel clothing. Commercials include AFLAC, Target, Disney, McDonald's, and Mattel. Television credits range from The Real, The Price is Right, and an Ozzy Osbourne's Variety show, to work for the Academy Awards, Nickelodeon, and the Disney Channel.



**SHANNON BARONDEAU** (Lighting and Video Designer) Lighting and video designer who received her MFA from the University of Missouri Kansas City. Design credits at El Camino include lighting design for *Amélie* and *Lost Girl* and projection design for *One Acts: 2025*. Other design credits include lighting and projection design for *No Place Like Gandersheim* for Skylight Theatre Company, projection design for *Both And (A Play About Laughing While Black)* for Boston Court Pasadena, as well as *Jersey Boys* for Plan-B Entertainment. Assistant credits include: Assistant Lighting

Designer for *Am I Roxie?* at the Geffen Playhouse, Assistant Video Designer on *A Trip to the Moon* for LA Phil, and Assistant Lighting Designer on *A Dream Of Red Pavilions* for Pan Asian Repertory Theatre.



KIRA SHERMAN (Faculty Technical Director) Exactly a decade ago, El Camino College produced *The Laramie Project* for the first time. It was Kira's first ever show as a student at El Co, and she is so thrilled to be revisiting Laramie 10 years later, as a faculty member. After graduating from California State University Fullerton with a bachelor's degree in theatrical design and production, Kira jumped into the professional world as a stage manager, tour manager, and occasional light designer, and is so pleased to be back for another show as technical director. Thank you all for coming and supporting

your local theater!



## THEATERS



#### STAFF

Betty L. Sedor, Interim Dean, Arts, Media, & Entertainment
Matt Dickey, Ticket Office Coordinator
Georgi Levine, Event Specialist
Stacy Firehart, Stage Manager
Bryan Bates, Scenic Technician
Andrew Wolski, Lighting Technician
Kenny Lefort, Sound Technician
Patrica Amezcua, Administrative Assistant
Erica Dawson, Senior Clerical Assistant

#### THEATER DEPARTMENT FACULTY

Ayla Harrison, Gloria Garayua, Dee-Marie Nieto Sarahjeen Francois, Frank Caeti, Kira Sherman Jocelyn Hall, Kelly A. Herman

#### SPECIAL THANKS

**Matthew Shepard Foundation** 



www.matthewshepard.org

El Camino College LGBTQIA+ Pride Center and **Kenny Simkins**, LGBTQIA+ Student Success Coordinator

El Camino College Humanities Division and **Sarah Leinen**, English Instructor
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