

THE LARAMIE PROJECT

BY MOISÉS KAUFMAN
and members of the Tectonic Theatre Project

By arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd,
on Behalf of Dramatists Play Service, Inc New York.

Programme

The Novarum Theatre Company

"Novarum" translates from the Latin to "of revolution", implying metamorphism and change, and this is the ethos of our company. We are currently rehearsing for a performance of *The Laramie Project*, an internationally renowned *Tectonic Theatre Company* play which focuses on the brutal murder of gay university student Matthew Shepard in the small American town of Laramie, Wyoming.

As a group of politically and socially interested young people, we feel not much has changed since Matthew died (in 1998). Despite Sydney being heralded as the "gay capital of the world", neither NSW nor Australia are yet to pass marriage equality laws that would grant the GLTBQ community the recognition it deserves.

Russia, a powerful player on the world stage, has recently passed anti-gay laws so stringent that neighboring nations are opening their borders to GLTBQ asylum seekers fleeing persecution.

We feel that *The Laramie Project* - in its exploration of the exposition of the depths to which humanity can sink in its need to ostracise those differing from the norm - needs to be heard by a generation of people growing up in this constantly volatile and shifting era of civil rights.

That's why, after many of us finished our final HSC Art exam on the 6th of November, instead of enjoying our new-found freedom, we chose to begin rehearsal on the 7th of November for our first production as a theatre company.

Thanks to:

John Thompson, Amanda Barwick, Andrea van den Bol, Jeremy Godwin, Chantel Munro, Thomas Irvine, Tamara Smith, Billy Kanafani, Angus Fraser, Morgan Gregory, Charlie Coy & Justin McInnes.

www.laramieatzenith.com



"Change is not an easy thing"



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www.laramieatzenith.com

for cast photos, information, ticketing and much more



intersticia foundation



Cast

Nick Barko	Andrew Gomez, Doc O'Connor, Shadow, Shannon, Company Member
Mark Butorac	Harry Woods, Mormon Home Teacher to Russell Henderson, Murdoch Cooper, Rob Debree, Rulon Stacey, Stephen Mead Johnson, Company Member
Lachlan Campbell	Aaron Kreifels, Cal Rerucha, Bailiff, Judge, Moisés Kaufman, Company Member
Jake Carr	Aaron McKinney, Dr. Cantway, Father Roger Schmit, Governor Jim Geringer, Matt Galloway, Company Member
Siân Davies	April Silva, Tiffany Edwards, Kristin Price, Minister's Wife, Sherry Johnson, Trish Steger, Waitress, Newsperson
Georgie Dowse	Marge Murray, Barbara Pitts, Eileen Engen, Email Sender, Sherry Aanenson, Newsperson
Julia Fraser	Reggie Fluty, Amanda Gronich, Kerry Drake, Zubaida Ula
Barret Griffin	Anonymous friend of Aaron McKinney's, Bill McKinney, Greg Pierotti, Jeffery Lockwood, Sgt. Hing
Charlie King	Catherine Connolly, Jen, Leigh Fondakowski, Lucy Thompson, Rebecca Hilliker
Henry Lister	Baptist Minister, Matt Mickelson, Conrad Miller, Foreperson, Priest, Stephen Belber
Laura McDonald	Alison Mears, Romaine Patterson, Zackie Salmon, Company Member
Campbell McLauchlan	Jedadiah Schultz, Jon Peacock, Philip Dubois, Phil Labrie, Reverend Fred Phelps
Luke Tisher	Andy Paris, Bailiff, Dennis Shepard, Doug Laws, Jonas Slonaker, Newsperson

Crew

Director
Producer
Assistant Director and Stage Manager
Design
Composer
Lighting Designer/Operator
Promotional Design
Violin
Cello
Guitar
Photographer
Front of House



Ravenna Gregory
 Anni Rowland-Campbell
 Robert Boddington
 Alistair Watts
 Emily Irvine
 Chris Page
 Ian McPherson
 Emily Irvine
 Thomas Irvine
 Brendan Walsh
 Jeff Agapitos
 Sam Campbell, Locky Donohue & Duncan Campbell



The Production

In October 1998, Matthew Shepard, a gay 21-year-old university student, was brutally beaten, tied to a fence and left to die on the outskirts of Laramie, Wyoming. In November 1998, Moisés Kaufman and the members of *Tectonic Theatre Project* travelled to Laramie in the wake of this devastating crime and conducted hundreds of interviews with the people of the town. In February 2000, *The Laramie Project* opened in Denver, Colorado.

In March 2012 a group of remarkably brave and free-thinking school students came together to tell the story of Laramie as their Year 11 production. The play was, for all of them, a lesson in the enduring power of theatre to change perspectives and ask questions of us, not just as audience members, but as people. Laramie is a play about a devastating hate crime, but it's also a play about compassion and our boundless capacity for love and understanding. What is so striking about this piece of Verbatim Theatre is the insightful and poetic way in which Moisés Kauffman and Tectonic bring together so many achingly human stories to form one truth.

Now, in November 2013, the *Intersticia Foundation* is proud to support this same group in a return of their production of *The Laramie Project* speaking to a broader audience, and, for many, enjoying their first experience on a professional stage.

The willingness of these recent high school graduates to throw themselves into this project and take ownership of the creative process, only days after completing their HSC exams, is further testament to the strength of this remarkable play and its capacity to inspire.

"We have been charged with doing our best to 'say it correct', and it is a big responsibility. There is something very powerful about witnessing such young actors telling this complex story with such wisdom and clarity. I feel incredibly privileged to have guided these young actors and to have witnessed their growth as people and as a company." – Ravenna Gregory, Director

"It's hard to say what I've loved more, the play or the people. 'Laramie' is such a beautifully moving play. But, like the play itself, it's the people that make the memory, and I have had so much fun knowing, helping and laughing with this stellar cast of young actors." – Robert Boddington, Assistant Director and Stage Manager