



THE LARAMIE PROJECT



September 4-20, 2020

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Aloha Theatre

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Directed by Jerry Tracy

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 McAdams,
Maude Mitchell, Andy Paris, Barbara Pitts, Kelli Simpkins

MAHALO TO OUR SHOW SPONSORS

The Arne and Ruth Werchick Charitable Fund

John Holliday

Kona Impact

Nina Eejima's 'Ohana

Victor Lugo & Melissa Geiger

Hawaii State Foundation on Culture and the Arts

Kukio Fund of the Hawaii Community Foundation

CAST

Catherine Williams

Eileen Engen, Jury Foreperson, Lucy Thompson, Marge Murray, Waitress

Dan McCoy

Aaron's Anonymous Friend, Conrad Miller, Governor Jim Geringer, Jonas Slonaker, Moisés Kaufman, Philip Dubois, Rulon Stacey, Russell's Mormon Home Teacher

David A. Payne

Baptist Minister, Doc O'Connor, Harry Woods, Jeffrey Lockwood, Matt Mickelson, Rob Debree

Jaquelynn Jeanne Collier

Alison Mears, Email Sender, Leigh Fondakowski, Romaine Patterson, Sherry Aanenson

John Holliday

Understudy (Baptist Minister, Doc O'Connor, Harry Woods, Jeffrey Lockwood, Matt Mickelson, Rob Debree)

John Sucke

Dr. Cantway, Reverend Fred Phelps, Father Roger Schmit, Trial Judge

Lindsay Roth

Andrew Gomez, April Silva, Kerry Drake, Newsperson #3, Zubaida Ula

Nicole Gour

Cal Rerucha, Kristin Price, Rebecca Hilliker, Shadow, Sherry Johnson, Tiffany Edwards

Riley Saboro Lum Saito

Aaron McKinney, Bill McKinney, Andy Paris, Jedadiah Schultz, Matt Galloway, Shannon, Stephen Mead Johnson

Sara Sweetass Hagen

Amanda Gronich, Catherine Connolly, Jen, Newsperson #4, Trish Steger

Stefani Pelletier

Arraignment Judge, Baptist Minister's Wife, Barbara Pitts, Newsperson #1, Reggie Fluty, Zackie Salmon

Stephen Alves

Aaron Kreifels, Bailiff, Funeral Priest, Newsperson #2, Phil Labrie, Russell Henderson, Stephen Belber

Victor Lugo

Dennis Shepard, Doug Laws, Greg Pierotti, Jon Peacock, Murdock Cooper, Sergeant Hing

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director..... Jerry Tracy
Assistant Director..... Tiffany Kutsunai
Costume Designer..... Karen Barry
Props Master..... Kate Jacobsen
Set Designer..... Gerald Lucena
Sound Designer/Operator.... Jeff Rowand
Light Designer/Operator..... Miguel Montez
Hair & Makeup..... Audrey McCandless
Stage Manager..... Kerry Matsumoto
Assistant Stage Manager..... Brooke Aragon
Filmographer..... Mike Sato
Artistic Director..... Courtney Booth
Staff Producer..... Stefani Pelletier
Technical Director..... Rich Bickel

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

When I mentioned Matthew Shepard in one of our adult theatre classes recently, one student did not know who I was talking about. I was wistfully surprised and knew then that passing the knowledge of this tragic event on to a new generation was the right thing for me to do at this time in my life, and the right thing for the Aloha Theatre. Because *The Laramie Project* is composed almost entirely of the actual words of real people, I wanted all aspects of the production to be secondary to the text. I wanted all design elements to be simple, support the script, and not draw undue attention to themselves. Actors had perhaps the most challenging assignment. Every actor played multiple characters and created honest authentic renderings of each. Before Matthew Shepard is relegated to the dustbins of history, here is his story again, offered with respect, honor, and dignity. Thank you to my dedicated, fierce cast and crew for making my Aloha Theatre swansong memorable and meaningful.



LARAMIE MOMENTS

The Laramie Project is written in small, intimate moments that allow audience members to view the play as unadulterated documentation of actual events. These moments encourage us to examine the people who live in Laramie, what they present to us as the truth, and help tell the story of a small town that is trying to come to terms with lost hope. This play consists of three acts, and traditionally, there would be an intermission after acts one and two, so please feel free to take a break, and pause your video during between acts. Runtime is 2 hours and 36 minutes. Please enjoy the show!

OUR BRAVE NEW WORLD

Theatre is about human connection. It actively exercises empathy muscles helping us to see different points of view. It is a personal connection that happens between actor and audience, which is why performing arts during a pandemic is so difficult. But challenges born out of necessity are now opportunities for us to reimagine theatre. We recognize that theatre is not solely tied to theatres; the existence of our building is not a necessity for our performance. We are grateful to discover alternate forms of theatre, and we strive to make quality performances more accessible. This pandemic has forced us to seek new ways to share the work we do here in Kainaliu with audiences across the nation. This is a chance for us to create an awareness of not only who we are but of the substantial work that we do here. We are grateful to discover alternate forms of theatre, and we strive to make quality performances more accessible. Thank you for your continued support as we openly explore new avenues of delivering theatre.

Mahalo,

Courtney

BIOGRAPHIES



Catherine
Williams

Eileen Engen, Marge Murray, Debbie the waitress, Jury Foreperson
Catherine has stopped keeping track of how many shows she's done since her performance art on the Big Island began back in 1982, calling this her "umpteenth" production. Some of her favorite roles include Abby Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace* and Stephana in *The Tempest*, both with the Aloha Theatre. She's also directed Hamlet for Hilo Community Players. She'd like to thank Jerry Tracy for all the love, laughter, and tears over their 25 years of friendship.



Dan
McCoy

Moises Kaufman, Philip Dubois, Rulon Stacey, Anonymous Friend of Aaron McKinney, Russell Henderson's Mormon Home Teacher, Conrad Miller, Governor Jim Geringer, and Jonas Slonaker
Dan may be new to the Aloha Theatre stage, since *The Laramie Project* is his first scripted performance, but he's previously played an Ensemble Writer and Performer for "Double Delicious" with Are We Delicious; Lucas Maxwell in *The Boarding House Reach* with Gibbville Community Players; and acted as an Improviser at "Improvaganza HI" with The Alohas. Dan would like to thank his incredible wife Amy and his three beautiful daughters, Mercy, Eowyn, and Bethel for their sacrifices enabling him to do this show; this superbly talented cast who have shown such vulnerability and commitment throughout this artistic yet very personal process; and all who have lived intentionally, set an example, and shown him the Way.



David A
Payne

Doc O'Connor, Baptist Minister, Matt Mickelson, Harry Woods, Rob Debee, Jurist #2, Jeffrey Lockwood
David has performed in more than 20 productions with the Aloha Theatre. Traveling from his home in Washington, quarantining for 14 days, and arranging his on-island month-long stay were all well worth the effort if it meant being part of Jerry's final production with the theatre. David dedicates this performance to "Jerry Tracy - You have been "The Aloha Theatre" for decades. You fought to keep theatre relevant even when we had no place to perform; Sara Beery Hagen - for letting me know about this send off show and how to audition, for being my backstage "WTH" are we doing partner; Suzie Beebo Boyum, and Robin Ohara, your individual love of theatre definitely rubs off and kept me auditioning; and Grand Master Jennifer Branch for being both an amazing teacher and a friend."

BIOGRAPHIES



Jaquelynn
Jeanne
Collier

Leigh Fondakowski, Alison Mears, Romaine Patterson, Sherry Aanenson, Email Sender

Jaquelynn may be the Education Director for the CREATE program, and you've likely seen her in a few musicals - Marisa in *The Fairytale Project* with Tribeca Performing Arts Center, as Columbia/Usherette in Aloha Theatre's 2017 and 2019 renditions of *The Rocky Horror Show*, and as Morticia Addams in *The Addams Family Musical* also with Aloha Theatre, just to name a few favorites. *The Laramie Project* marks her first straight play with at Aloha. Her time is often filled with thriving off of coffee, work as an educator teaching (virtual) dance for various arts organizations, advocating for social justice in the community, and enjoying the beach (social-distance style). Jaquelynn would like to dedicate this performance to Zach for putting up with Zoom rehearsals and line readings during these quarantined times, the Aloha Theatre for bringing this show to Big Island (and online) audiences, and to anyone who has taken the time to let this story impact their lives.



John
Sucke

Narrator, Gil Engen, Dr. Cantway, Father Roger Schmidt, Reverend Fred Phelps, Judge at Russell Hendersen's Trial

John may have retired back in 2002, having previously served as NY Executive Director of the Screen Actors Guild, but he's still going strong in performances with the Aloha Theatre! *The Laramie Project* is John's sixth performance, and he names Truscott in *Loot* and Dr. Gibbs in *Our Town* as a couple of his favorite roles. You may have also caught him as King Lear at Waimea Community Theatre. When not performing, John is mentoring an Education for Ministry course at St. James Episcopal Church in Waimea and online. He would like to thank Jerry Tracy for giving him such great opportunities and for his skillful direction.



Lindsay
Roth

Zubaida Ula, Andrew Gomez, Kerry Drake, April Silva, Mercedes Herrero, Newsperson #3

Lindsay joins *The Laramie Project* in her premiere theatrical performance. When she's not at the Aloha Theatre acting or doing improv, she's normally working with the animals at 3 Ring Ranch Exotic Animal Sanctuary and as a Mental Health Specialist with Child and Family Services. She also enjoys running, dancing and interpreting dreams, and says she dreams of someday being a performer at the Old Blue Front Opera House and Good Time Emporium. Lindsay would like to thank everyone who made the production possible, especially Jerry Tracy! "What an honor it's been to be a part of your last production with the Aloha Theatre."

BIOGRAPHIES



Nicole
"Nikki"
Gour

Rebecca Hilliker, Kristen Price, Shadow, Newsperson, Tiffany Edwards, Sherry Johnson, Juror #3, Cal Rerucha

Nicole is no stranger to performing arts, with more than 10 productions at the Aloha Theatre alone, and countless hours on the air at The Wave 92 FM. Although some of her favorites include Annie Sullivan in *The Miracle Worker* at the Aloha Theatre, Lucy Thurston in *The Conversion of Ka'ahumanu* with UH Hilo Performing Arts Center, and Miss Hannigan in The Chance Theatre's *Annie*, she still dreams of all the roles she could portray in community theatres across the country. Nikki would like to thank The Academy, of course, as well as her mom and dad for years of supporting her wild ride - which may someday include traveling in a "pimped-out" van to all the National Parks in America. She dedicates this performance to "my amazing friends, you know who you are, who have been there for me during the good, the bad and the ugly."



Riley Saboro
Lum Saito

Andy Paris, Jedadiah Schultz, Aaron McKinney, Stephen Mead Johnson, Matt Galloway, Shannon, Bill McKinney

This is Riley's second show with the Aloha Theatre, and he is sincerely thankful for the opportunity to be a part of *The Laramie Project*. He is most grateful to be a part of Jerry's last production directing with the Aloha Theatre before his retirement. Some of Riley's favorite roles have included Raoul de Chagny, *Phantom of the Opera*, The Stanford Light Opera Company; Rapunzel's Prince, *Into the Woods*, Aloha Theatre; Don Caire, *Carmen* by Bizet, Bay Shore Lyric Opera Company, and he dreams of singing at The Met someday. Riley would like to thank his amazing family and friends, and his wonderful production mates. "They are so wonderful it hurts. Thank you all for watching and supporting the arts."



Sarah
Sweetass
Hagen

Amanda Gronich, Trish Steeger, Catherine Connelly, Newsperson #4, Jen

What a rare gift to write a bio at the end of a run. This show has been one of the hardest shows I have ever done for many reasons. Seeing our show come alive was worth it. This cast was amazing and I am so grateful to have shared the stage and the screen with you. Sharing Matthew's and the people of Laramie's stories with the world was an honour. Jerry, I love you to the moon and back. You will be sorely missed my friend.

BIOGRAPHIES



Stephen
Alves

Stephen Belber, Aaron Kreifels, Russell Henderson, Phil Labrie, Priest at the Funeral, The Bailiff, Newsperson #2

The Laramie Project is Stephen's seventh production with the Aloha Theatre, some of his previous favorite roles include James Keller in *The Miracle Worker*, Sky in *Mamma Mia!*, and Riff Raff in *The Rocky Horror Show* - all at the Aloha Theatre. In his free time, Stephen studies copious amounts of Old Hollywood films and its stars, especially Judy Garland, and loves to read. He considers himself a bit of a holiday junkie and also collects vinyl records. Stephen feels incredibly fortunate for the stories he's been blessed to tell thanks to the guidance, trust, support and passion of Jerry Tracy.



Stefani
Pelletier

Barbara Pitts, Reggie Fluty, Zackie Salmon, Baptist Minister's Wife, Arraignment Trial Judge, Newsperson #1

This is Stefani's first show as an actor with the Aloha Theatre, having previously stage managed and acted as staff producer since moving to Kona last year. Her world is filled with performing arts, currently serving as Operations Manager for the theatre, and also performing at events with the Dirty Girl Comedy team around Kona and recently online. She loves film-making, dancing and being in the ocean. She'd like to thank Jerry Tracy for including her on cast for his final show with the theatre, and dedicates this performance to her friends in the LGBTQ community back in San Francisco who she hopes to visit sometime soon.



Victor
Lugo

Dennis Shepard, Doug Laws, Greg Pierotti, Jon Peacock, Murdock Cooper, Sergeant Hing

Victor is so thrilled and honored to be part of this meaningful and timely production. It is so relevant to our current times and he is glad to be able to bring out this message. Also, the challenge of performing during these times has given a whole new insight into being a performer and it has taken respect of one's cast members to a new level. Victor wants to dedicate this performance to his son Alec who is his inspiration during this time. "You are my hero. Keep being who you are."

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 six times to conduct 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 essential work 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 Waugh, who by then had joined us as an Associate Writer and "bench coach."

AUTHOR BIOGRAPHY

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).

MAHALOS

Tiffany Edwards, Will Jacobson, Laura Roland, Tori Sanford,
Rebecca Villegas

Kona Dance & Performing Arts, Korner Pocket, Los Habaneros,
Na Leo TV, Rebel Kitchen

Set Builders: Rich Bickel, Will Jacobson, Gerald Lucena, Victor Lugo,
Miguel Montez, Stefani Pelletier, Michael Tringali

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We would like to extend a special mahalo to the Board of Directors of the Aloha Theatre for their continued support of *The Laramie Project*, during an exceptionally difficult time. Thank you for your belief in the mission and your efforts to keep the theatre healthy and stable.

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Courtney Booth, Artistic Director
Jaquelynn Collier, Education Director
Stefani Pelletier, Operations Manager
Rich Bickel, Technical Director

MISSION VALUES VISION

Mission Statement

The mission of the Aloha Theatre is to enrich the lives of Hawaii residents and visitors by providing quality live theatre, performing arts education, and a venue for artistic expression.

Value Statement

The Aloha Theatre strives to live up to our name by fostering the feeling of 'Ohana. We are committed to cultivating a respectful, inclusive environment. Together we aspire to present high quality programs, embracing diversity which reflects the rich culture of our Hawai'i home and celebrating individual artistic endeavor to ensure positive experiences for artists, patrons, volunteers, and staff.

Vision Statement

The Aloha Theatre will be an anchor in West Hawaii for shared artistic experiences in our historic space, which will be preserved and renewed for the use of future generations. We will be recognized for our commitment to our diverse home culture, enabling participation in the creation, understanding, and appreciation of the arts for all, regardless of background, experience, or ability. The Aloha Theatre will be a catalyst for growth by presenting high-quality performing arts, and we will nourish the growing needs and interests of our community by integrating comprehensive arts education for all ages into every aspect of our work.

