

## AUTHOR'S NOTE

By Moisés Kaufman

*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."

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# The Laramie Project

## By Moisés Kaufman and the Members of Tectonic Theater Project

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 Gaby 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.

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

Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Moisés Kaufman–Author**

Moisés Kaufman is a Tony– and Emmy–nominated director and playwright. His most recent play, starring Jane Fonda, was nominated for five Tony Awards (including one for Fonda). Previous to that, Kaufman directed the Pulitzer Prize 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. 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 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 recent 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).

### **Leigh Fondakowski–Head Writer**

Leigh Fondakowski has been a member of Tectonic Theater Project since 1995. She is an Emmy–nominated co–screenwriter for the adaptation of *The Laramie Project* for HBO. Another original play, *I Think I Like Girls*, played to sold–out audiences in San Francisco and at La Jolla Playhouse, was nominated for a Bay Area Critics Circle Award for best original script and was voted one of the top 10 plays of 2002 by *The Advocate*. Directing credits include: *I Think I Like Girls* (La Jolla Playhouse, Encore Theatre), *La Voix Humaine* by Jean Cocteau (Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh), *Agatha* by Marguerite Duras (French Alliance, NYC), *Owen John* adapted from the novel by Jane Warrick (HERE, NYC) and workshops of new plays by Stephen Belber, Julia Jordan and Anne Marie Cummings. She has spent the last three years developing *The People’s Temple*. She is the first recipient of the Emerging Writer/Director Project, a grant to fund the development of new and original work for the stage.

## BIOGRAPHIES

### **Stephen Belber–Associate Writer**

Stephen Belber’s plays include *Geometry of Fire*, (Rattlestick Playwrights Theater); *Fault Lines*, (Naked Angels/Cherry Lane); *A Small, Melodramatic Story*, (LAByrnith Theater Company); *McReele*, (Roundabout); *Match*, (Broadway, Tony nomination for Frank Lagella); *Tape*, (Naked Angels, NYC/LA/London); *The Laramie Project*, (Associate Writer); *Carol Mulrone*, (Huntington Theater); *One Million Butterflies*, (Primary Stages); *Drifting Elegant*, (Magic Theater); *The Transparency of Val*, (Theater Outrageous, NYC); *The Wake*, (Via Theater, NYC); *Through Fred*, (Soho Rep); and *The Death of Frank* (Araca Group, NYC). As a screenwriter, he wrote *Tape*, directed by Richard Linklater, starring Uma Thurman and Ethan Hawke (Sundance; Berlin); *The Laramie Project* (Associate Writer) for HBO Films, (Sundance, Emmy nomination for screenwriting); and *Drifting Elegant*, directed by Amy Glazer. He also wrote and directed his first feature, *Management*, starring Jennifer Aniston, Steve Zahn and Woody Harrelson, which premiered at the 2008 Toronto Film Festival. Among other projects, he is currently developing a screenplay based on *McReele*, for Will Smith’s Overbrook production company. TV credits include *Rescue Me* and *Law & Order SVU*, (staff writer). He has received commissions from Manhattan Theater Club, Playwrights Horizons, The Huntington Theater, Arena Stage and Philadelphia Theater Company.

### **Greg Pierotti–Associate Writer**

Greg Pierotti was associate writer of *The Laramie Project*, for which he and his collaborators received a NY Drama Desk Award nomination and a Lucille Lortel nomination. They later adapted the play to the small screen for HBO. For the adaptation, he and his collaborators received an Emmy nomination for best writing of a film and were nominated for a GLAAD award. He performed *The Laramie Project* at Berkeley Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, Denver Center and The Union Square Theater in NY. He is the head writer of The People’s Temple. He and his collaborators received the Will Glickman Award for Best New American play. He performed the play at Berkeley Repertory Theater, Perseverance Theater, and the Guthrie Theater. As a writer/actor he has developed and/or performed original and classical work at Arena Stage, Hartford Stage, The Magic, The Atlantic Theatre Company, The Sundance Theatre Lab in Utah, New York Theatre Workshop, and the NYTW summer writer’s lab at Dartmouth. Most recently he is collaborating on *Laramie+10*, a new epilogue of *The Laramie Project* which revisits the town 10 years later. He has taught theater and Tectonic Theater Project’s moment work at high schools and colleges around the country and in Naropa University’s MFA program in contemporary performance.

### **Stephen Wangh–Associate Writer**

Stephen Wangh is 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 Books) and he was dramaturg for Moisés Kaufman’s *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*. His other plays include *Class!* (with Jon Lipsky), *Calamity!* (with Suzanne Baxtresser), and *The Dragon and Goin’ Downtown*. His recent directing credits include *Troilus and Cressida* (New York) and *The Taming of the Shrew* (Vienna, Austria). He teaches acting at NYU and at Naropa University.

# CAST

Jonathan Hoskins	Greg Pierotti, Sergeant Hing, Moisés Kaufman, Phil Labrie, Rob Debree, Conrad Miller, Fred Phelps, Narrator, Ensemble
Haley Mobley	Rebecca Hilliker, Zackie Salimon, April Silva, Amanda Gronich, Waitress, Kristin Price, Trish Steger, Shannon, Narrator, Ensemble
Julia Benfield*	Baptist Minister's Wife, Leigh Fondakowski, Marge Murray, Romaine Patterson, Sherry Aanenson, Sherry Johnson, Tiffany Edwards, Lucy Thompson, Narrator, Ensemble
Philip Calabro*	Doc O'Connor, Stephen Belber, Stephen Mead Johnson, Matt Galloway, Jeffery Lockwood, Murdock Cooper, Gil Engen, Narrator, Ensemble
Charish Harvey	Eileen Engen, Barbara Pitts, Alison Mears, Catherine Connolly, Zubaida Ula, DJ Shadow, Jen, Reggie Fluty, Narrator, Ensemble
Erik Brower*	Jedidiah Schultz, Jon Peacock, Doug Laws, Aaron Kreifels, Andrew Gomez, Kerry Drake, Aaron McKinney, Harry Woods, Narrator, Ensemble
Trey King	Philip Dubois, Jonas Slonaker, Baptist Minister, Anonymous Friend of Aaron McKinney, Rulon Stacey, Governor Jim Geringer, Russell Henderson's Mormon Homeroom Teacher, Cal Rerucha, Narrator, Ensemble
JT Rider	Andy Paris, Father Roger Schmit, Matt Mickelson, Dr. Catway, Bill McKinney, Russell Henderson, Dennis Shepard, Narrator, Ensemble

Special thanks to The Matthew Shepard Foundation and Laramie Project Specialist Susan Burk for resources and support in this production of "The Laramie Project."

## Artistic Staff

Director	Allison Zobel*
Stage Manager	Tyra Moody
Assistant Stage Manager	Caitlin Brown
Costume Designer	Allie Molinari
Scenic Designer	Jed Cockerill
Lighting Designer	Joseph Fry*
Sound Designer	Elizabeth Brodie
Projection Designers	Sarah Gunter*, Sydney Moore*
Properties Coordinator	Jed Cockerill

## Production Staff

Light Board Operator	Brittany Mayo
Sound Board Operator	Charner Boney
Dressers	Allie Keller, Tessa Zimmerman
Properties	Zeke Jones
Lighting Assistants	Caitlin Brown, Brittany Mayo, Abigail Olson*, JT Rider
Box Office Manager	Cecily Bigham*
House Manager	Russell Luke
Graphic Designers	Bara Wetherell, Mike Rogers
Faculty Advisor	Stephen Gundersheim
Design Faculty Supervisor	Anna Sartin

\*Denotes membership in Alpha Psi Omega, the National Honorary Theatre Society

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