

LTA Announces Auditions for a staged reading of *The Laramie Project*

Written by Moisés Kaufman  
and the Members of Tectonic Theater Project

Directed by Paul Di Salvo

Produced by Genie Baskir

**Audition Location & Dates:**

The Little Theatre of Alexandria  
600 Wolfe Street, Alexandria, VA 22314

Saturday, August 12, 1-5 PM

Sunday, August 13, 5-9 PM

Tuesday, August 15, 7-10 PM

**The Laramie Project Auditions Sign-Up**

Auditions will be held in Classroom on August 12, the Green Room on August 13, and Academy 1 on August 15.

Please download, complete, and bring your [audition form](#). Please also be ready to provide all conflicts between August 16 and October 12.

**Performance Dates:** evenings of Friday, October 6, 2023 & Thursday, October 12, 2023

For questions regarding this production and auditions, please Producer Genie Baskir [geniebaskir@gmail.com](mailto:geniebaskir@gmail.com).

**Audition Notes:**

For auditions, please prepare two contrasting monologues (less than 2 minutes each) that highlight your ability to portray two very different characters (e.g., demeanor, age, accent, comedic, tragic, gender, worldview). Monologues do not need to be memorized for auditions for this staged reading production, but actors should be able to engage the audition while referring to the page. In addition, you may be asked during auditions and callbacks to provide some cold readings from the script.

Please bring a headshot and resume, if you have them. Rehearsals will begin immediately and are usually Tuesday-Thursday nights and weekend afternoons until tech week. Some Monday night virtual rehearsals may also be called.

**Synopsis:**

*The Laramie Project* is a play by Moisés Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project in response to the 1998 murder of Matthew Shepard, a young gay man, in Laramie, Wyoming. Kaufman and the other

company members visited Laramie on six occasions and interviewed residents, members of the police force, and Matthew's friends, in an attempt to understand what happened, and why. They were also interested in the possibility that theatre, more than any other medium, would allow people to engage with and reflect on the issues brought to public attention by Matthew's murder, such as homophobia, hatred, intolerance, and fear. *The Laramie Project* takes those real interviews and weaves them into the story of events surrounding the murder and the months beyond. This staged reading at LTA will be performed exactly 25 years from the date Matthew was attacked and the date he died in the hospital.

## **CHARACTERS**

There are 8 roles (4M, 4F) in this play, with each role playing multiple characters---Laramie townspeople and Tectonic Theater Project interviewers.

All roles can be portrayed by an actor of any race, ethnicity, gender identity, ability, or age.

All actors will be required to use props, minimal costume elements and stage movement, accents, and acting technique to portray multiple different characters. As this is a staged reading, no memorization of lines will be required for performances. A breakdown of the characters per role are below, however the director reserves the right to modify the list of specific characters portrayed by each actor during the rehearsal process.

**Male 1:** Stephen Belber Doc O'Connor, Matt Galloway, Anonymous Friend of Aaron McKinney, Bill McKinney, Andrew Gomez, Fred Phelps, Mormon Spiritual Advisor, Conrad Miller, Narrator, Ensemble.

**Female 1:** Amanda Gronich, Eileen Engen (Act One), Marge Murray, Baptist Minister, Trish Steger, Shadow, Newspaper, Narrator, Ensemble.

**Female 2:** Reggie Fluty, Rebecca Hilliker, Waitress, Newspaper, Narrator, Ensemble.

**Male 2:** Moisés Kaufman, Philip Dubois (Act One), Stephen Mead Johnson, Murdock Cooper, Jon Peacock, Dennis Shepard, Harry Woods, Narrator, Ensemble.

**Male 3:** Andy Paris, Jedadiah Schiltz, Doug Laws, Dr. Cantway, Matt Mickelson, Russell Henderson, Aaron McKinney, Philip Dubois (Act Two), Kerry Drake, Narrator, Ensemble.

**Male 4:** Greg Pierotti, Sgt. Hing, Phil LaBrie, Father Roger Schmit, Rulon Stacey, Detective Sgt. Rob DeBree, Jonas Slonaker, Narrator, Ensemble.

**Female 3:** Barbara Pitts, Catherine Connolly, April Silva, Zubaida Ula, Sherry Aenonson, Lucy Thompson, Eileen Engen (Act Two), Narrator, Ensemble.

**Female 4:** Leigh Fondakowski, Zackie Salmon, Alison Sears, Romaine Patterson, Aaron Kreifels, Tiffany Edwards, Narrator, Ensemble.

## THE LARAMIE PROJECT CHARACTERS

AARON KREIFELS — University student. 19 years old.  
AARON MCKINNEY — One of the perpetrators. 21 years old. A roofer.  
ALISON MEARS — Volunteer for a social service agency in town. 50s. Very good friend of Marge Murray.  
AMANDA GRONICH — Member of Tectonic Theater Project.  
ANDREW GOMEZ — Latino from Laramie. 20s.  
ANDY PARIS — Member of Tectonic Theater Project.  
ANONYMOUS FRIEND OF AARON MCKINNEY'S — 20s. Works for the railroad.  
APRIL SILVA — Bisexual university student. 19 years old.  
BAILIFF  
BAPTIST MINISTER — Originally from Texas. 50s.  
BARBARA PITTS — Member of Tectonic Theater Project.  
BILL MCKINNEY — Father of Aaron McKinney. 40s. Truck driver.  
CAL RERUCHA — Prosecuting attorney. 50s.  
CATHERINE CONNOLLY — Out lesbian professor at the university. 40s.  
CONRAD MILLER — Car mechanic. 30s.  
DENNIS SHEPARD — Father of Matthew Shepard. 40s. Wyoming native.  
DOC O'CONNOR — Limousine driver and local entrepreneur. 50s.  
DR. CANTWAY — Emergency room doctor at Ivinson Memorial Hospital in Laramie. 50s.  
DOUG LAWS — Stake Ecclesiastical leader for the Mormon church in Laramie. 50s. A professor at the University of Wyoming.  
EMAIL SENDER  
FATHER ROGER SCHMIT — Catholic Priest. 40s. Very outspoken.  
GIL AND EILEEN ENGEN — Ranchers. He is in his 60s, she is in her 50s.  
GOVERNOR JIM GERINGER — Republican Governor. 45 years old.  
GREG PIEROTTI — Member of Tectonic Theater Project.  
HARRY WOODS — Gay Laramie resident. 52 years old.  
JEDADIAH SCHULTZ — University student. 19 years old.  
JEFFREY LOCKWOOD — Laramie resident. 40s.  
JEN — Friend of Aaron McKinney. In her early 20s.  
JON PEACOCK — Matthew Shepard's academic adviser. Late 30s. Political science professor.  
JONAS SLONAKER — Gay man. 40s.  
JURORS AND FOREPERSON

TIFFANY EDWARDS — Local reporter. 20s.  
TRISH STEGER — Romaine's sister. 40s.  
TWO JUDGES  
WAITRESS — Looks like Debbie Reynolds.  
ZACKIE SALMON — Administrator at the University of Wyoming. Lesbian. 40s. Texas accent.  
ZUBAIDA ULA — Muslim woman in Laramie. 20s.

*NOTE: When a character's name is not given (e.g., "Friend of Aaron McKinney," "Baptist Minister," etc.), it is at the person's request.*

KERRY DRAKE — Reporter with the Caspar *Star Tribune*. 40s.  
KRISTIN PRICE — Girlfriend of Aaron McKinney. 20s. Tennessee accent.  
LEIGH FONDAKOWSKI — Member of Tectonic Theater Project.  
LUCYTHOMPSON — Grandmother of Russell Henderson. 60s. Working-class woman who provided a popular day-care service for the town.  
MARGE MURRAY — Reggie's mother. 70s. She has had emphysema for many years but continues to smoke.  
MATT GALLOWAY — Bartender at The Fireside Bar. 20s. Student at the University of Wyoming.  
MATT MICKELSON — Owner of The Fireside. 30s.  
MEDIA/NEWSPAPER PEOPLE  
MERCEDES HERRERO — Member of Tectonic Theater Project.  
MOISÉS KAUFMAN — Member of Tectonic Theater Project.  
MORMON HOME TEACHER TO RUSSELL HENDERSON — 60s.  
MURDOCK COOPER — Rancher. 50s. Resident of Centennial, a nearby town.  
PHIL LABRIE — A friend of Matthew Shepard. Late 20s. Eastern European accent.  
PHILIP DUBOIS — President of the University of Wyoming. 40s.  
PRIEST AT THE FUNERAL  
REBECCA HILLIKER — Head of the theater department at the University of Wyoming. 40s. Midwestern accent.  
REGGIE FLUTY — The policewoman who responded to the 911 call and discovered Matthew at the fence. 40s.  
REVEREND FRED PHELPS — Minister from Kansas. 60s.  
ROB DEBREE — Detective Sgt. for the Albany County Sheriff's department. 40s. Chief investigator for the Matthew Shepard murder.  
ROMAINE PATTERSON — Lesbian. 21 years old.  
RULON STACEY — CEO Poudre Valley Hospital in Fort Collins, Colorado. 40s. Mormon.  
RUSSELL HENDERSON — One of the perpetrators. 19 years old.  
SGT. HING — Detective at the Laramie police department. 40s.  
SHADOW — DJ at the Fireside. African American man. 30 years old.  
SHANNON — Friend of Aaron McKinney. In his early 20s.  
SHERRY AANENSON — Russell Henderson's landlord. 40s.  
SHERRY JOHNSON — Administrative assistant at the University. 40s.  
STEPHEN BELBER — Member of Tectonic Theater Project.  
STEPHEN MEAD JOHNSON — Unitarian minister. 50s.

## LTA Policies

LTA is committed to equity, diversity and inclusion. As such, we encourage performers of all races and ethnicities, gender identities, sexualities, abilities, and ages to attend auditions.

Masks are **strongly** recommended, but not required, for volunteers inside LTA's facilities. However, all auditionees must provide proof of full vaccination, including the most recent CDC-recommended booster, against COVID-19. This policy allows us to avoid quarantining, in most cases, should someone be exposed to COVID, and to keep rehearsals and performances on schedule. Proof of vaccination can be a physical copy or digital photograph of your vaccination record. Though masks will not be worn on stage, the LTA Safety Committee may, in coordination with the production team, require the use of masks or other safety measures if community transmission rates of COVID-19 rise above a certain level.

Those cast must be, or must become, members of the Little Theatre of Alexandria at the performers rate (\$20), or higher if desired. If this membership presents a financial hardship, please notify the producers, as exceptions can be made.