

## **The Laramie Project Audition Mini-Monologues**

*The Laramie Project* tells the story of the town of Laramie, Wyoming in the aftermath of the murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard. The Tectonic Theatre company, led by Artistic Director Moises Kaufman, travelled to Laramie in the months after Matthew's death and interviewed nearly 200 people. Transcripts of the interviews were then placed together to create what is seen on stage. Each actor will likely play between 2-6 different characters in our production. **PLEASE CHOOSE THREE (3)** excerpts below to prepare and be sure to change acting choices to portray different characters between pieces. You are encouraged to play at least one character that does not match the gender that you identify with.

### **Male Mini-Monologues**

#### **Jedidiah Schultz, university student, nineteen years old**

If you had asked me before, I would have told you Laramie is a beautiful town, secluded enough that you can have your own identity...A town with a strong sense of community--everyone knows everyone...A town with a personality that most larger cities are stripped of. Now, after Matthew, I would say that Laramie is a town defined by an accident, a crime. We've become Waco, we've become Jasper. We're a noun, a definition, a sign!

#### **Baptist Minister, originally from Texas, fifties**

My dear brothers and sisters: I am here today to bring you the Word of the Lord. Now, I have simple truth that I tell to my colleagues and I'm gonna tell it to you today. The word is either sufficient or it is not.

Scientists tell me that human history, that the world is five billion or six billion years old--after all, what's a billion years give or take. The Bible tells me that human history is six thousand years old.

The word is either sufficient or it is not.

#### **Matt Galloway, bartender at the Fireside Bar; student at the University of Wyoming; bartending the night that Matthew Shepard was kidnapped from the Fireside; twenties**

So the thing is--and this is what I'm testifying to--'cause, you know, I'm also, basically the key eyewitness in this case uh, (*pause*) basically what I'm testifying is that I saw Matthew leave. I saw two individuals leave with Matthew. I didn't see their faces, but I saw the back of their heads. At the same time, McKinney and Henderson were no longer around. You do the math.

### **Female Mini-Monologues**

#### **Marge Murray, Reggie's mother, she has had emphysema from many years of smoking but continues to smoke, seventies**

As far as the gay issue, I don't give a damn one way or the other as long as they don't bother me. And even if they did, I'd just say no thank you. And that's the attitude of most of the

Laramie population. They might poke one, if they were in a bar situation, you know, they had been drinking, they might actually smack one in the mouth, but then they'd just walk away. Most of 'em said, they would just say, "I don't swing that way" and whistle about their business. Laramie is live and let live.

**Romaine Patterson, very young lesbian; energetic; leather jacket; twenty-one years old**

I did hear from Matthew about forty-eight hours before his attack. And he told me that he had joined the gay and lesbian group on campus, and he said he was enjoying it, you know, he was getting ready for Pride Week and whatnot. I mean, he was totally stoked about school--yeah, he was really happy about being here.

**Officer Reggie Fluty, the policewoman who responded to the 911 call and discovered Matthew at the fence; forties**

He was tied to the fence--his hands were thumbs out in what we call a cuffing position--the way we handcuff people. He was bound with a real thin white rope, it went around the bottom of the pole, about four inches up off the ground.

His shoes were missing.

He was tied extremely tight--so I used my boot knife and tried to slip it between the rope and his wrist--I had to be extremely careful not to harm Matthew any further.