

The Laramie Project

By Moisés Kaufman
and the members of
The Tectonic Theater
Project

Directed by Miranda Hawk

Live Streaming
March 24 – March 28, 2021

madisoncollegetheater.org



Poster Art by Marie Helser



MADISON
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Theater in 2021

As theater artists, we are driven to tell stories of humanity. 2020 reminded us that our stories are sometimes ugly and often overwhelming. In addition, a pandemic shuttered businesses, canceled events and barred all performances for the unforeseen future.

But our stories continue. And so do we.

To maintain the safety and health of all involved in this production, all interviews were conducted through recording on cell phones or through video conferencing programs.

A Note About the Show

Thank you for joining us.

The Laramie Project is a theatricalization of interviews conducted over two years, following the 1998 brutal torture and murder of Matthew Shepard. This series of interviews shine a national spotlight on humanity's potential to hate.

After 1998, Matthew Shepard's savage killing was used to strengthen the argument for hate-crimes legislation. Twenty-five years later, our nation still struggles with violence against humanity for the sole reason of difference.

May this production join the chorus of the millions of voices calling for accountability, understanding and change.

Miranda Hawk, director

Matthew Wayne Shepard



Timeline:

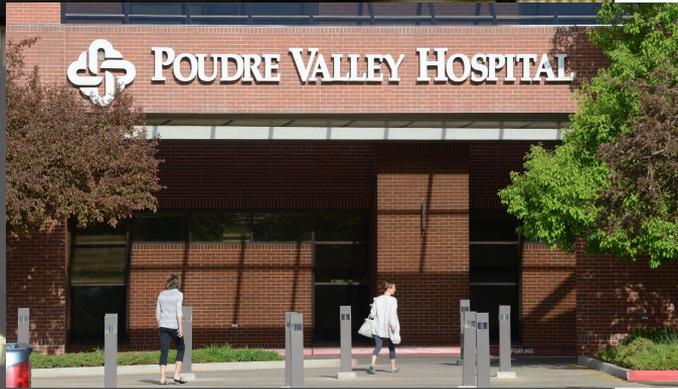
Shepard was born on December 1, 1976 3 weeks premature in Casper WY.

Spring of 1995 during a senior class trip in high school he was attacked by three men. They sexually assaulted him and stole his shirt and shoes. The crime was reported and investigated but no charges were ever filed.

In May of 1998 Matthew finds an apartment and enrolls at the University of WY.

September 1998 Matthew joins the U of WY Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Association. He meets his academic advisor, Jon Peacock, and declares a major in Political Science.

Tuesday, October 6, 1998-- After a meeting of the LGBTA to discuss preparations for Coming Out Day celebrations scheduled for October 11, Matthew goes to The Fireside Bar where he meets Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson. The three men leave together sometime between 11pm and Midnight.



Between the hours of midnight and 12:30 am, Aaron and Russell assault Matthew, take his wallet, and drive him out to a buck fence at the end of a long route that is at the edge of town. Both men beat Matthew with their fists and the butt end of a .357 Magnum pistol. They tie his hands to the fence, take his shoes, and leave him. They go as far to rob his apartment afterwards.

At 12:45 am at the Laramie Police department receives a call reporting a disturbance and vandalism near Matthew's apartment. When they arrive the men flee. They police search Aaron's truck near by and find some of Matthew's belongings and his ID.

Around 6pm Aaron Kriefels, another University of WY student was out biking and sees Matthew's barely conscious body.

4 charged as Laramie man clings to



Russell Arthur Henderson, 21, and Aaron McKinney, right, 22, appeared in Albany County Court in Laramie on Friday, where they were charged with the attempted murder, kidnapping and robbery of openly gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, 22. They were ordered held on \$100,000 bail.

Laramie community reeling from attack
 Activists, Geringer debate hate crimes

By KERRY DRAKE
and JEFF TRILLESSEN
 Star-Tribune staff writers

LARAMIE — The address and anger over the beating and kidnapping of a gay University of Wyoming student was high with the Laramie community on Saturday.

“I am an activist and I am not afraid of what they don’t know,” Geringer said. “I’m not afraid of what they don’t know.”

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A recent photo of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, 22, who was beaten and burned near Laramie on Wednesday.



By KERRY DRAKE
 Star-Tribune staff writer

LARAMIE — The Laramie community was charged with a new meaning Saturday in Albany County Court when Russell Arthur Henderson, 21, and Aaron McKinney, 22, were charged with the attempted murder, kidnapping and robbery of openly gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard, 22.

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Friday, October 9, 1998 Aaron, Russell, and Chastity are arraigned in the Albany County courtroom. Aaron and Russell are charged with three counts of kidnapping, aggravated Robbery, and attempted first-degree murder.

On Saturday, October 9, 1998 the University of Wyoming homecoming parade features an impromptu ending procession behind a yellow banner that says “no hate” in honor of Matthew. By the end of the parade route an estimate 500-800 participants joined that part of the march.

Monday, October, 13, 1998 at 12:53 am Matthew dies without ever regaining consciousness.

On October 14, 1998 The Human Rights Campaign holds a candlelight vigil on the steps of the U.S. Capitol.

Russia requests humanitarian aid

By MICHAEL S. GORON
 The New York Times

MOSCOW — Russia by its own request is to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Chechnya.

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Fertility techniques from two

By The Associated Press

Scientists have come up with another possible way of helping women overcome infertility.

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Casper man guilty in

By BILL LUCKETT
 Star-Tribune staff writer

CASPER — A Casper man pleaded guilty Wednesday to charges related to using the Internet to solicit child pornography.

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Meet The Cast



Aidan Salzer is a Freshman at Madison College and is completing his Liberal Arts courses. *The Laramie Project* is his first appearance in theatre. He is grateful to be a part of this production with Madison College and the opportunities it has provided him so far.

Characters: Andy Paris, Doug Laws, Jedediah Schultz, Matt Galloway, Gil Engen VO, Russel Henderson, Newsperson #2



Lia Smith-Redmann is a freshman in the Liberal Arts Transfer Program at Madison College. Her favorite high school theatre credentials include *The Addams Family* (Wednesday), *Big Fish* (The Witch), and *Hello! My Baby!* (Frances). She is moved by the enduring community of the performing arts and would like to thank her friends, family, and Madison College for their support.

Characters: Amanda Gronich, Shannon, Kristin Price, Romaine Patterson, Zackie Salmon, Newspaper #1



Kylie Miller is a 3rd year student at Madison College who is graduating this semester. She is also attending Edgewood College majoring in Art Therapy. Some past theatre experiences with Madison College include *Student Body* (Lucy), *Puffs* (Sally Perks), and *These Shining Lives* (Charlotte Purcell). She is excited for the chance to be a part of another production and wants to thank their family and friends, as well as the cast and crew for their kindness and support.

Characters: Barbara Pitts, Catherine Connolly, Tiffany Edwards, Cal Rerucha, Email VO, Trish Steger



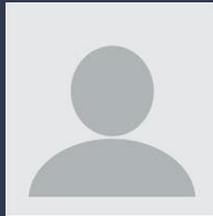
Danny Swenson is an alumnus of Madison College. He is honored to have been a part of many of the college's productions including *Our Town*, *Columbinus*, *Student Body*, and more. Recently, he has been studying acting and comedy at The Second City in Chicago. He is ecstatic for this opportunity to help bring this story to life. He wants to thank Miranda for being amazing, and he loves his mother very much.

Characters: Stephen Belber, Murdock Cooper, Stephen Mead Johnson, Rev Fred Phillips, Matt Mickelson, Sgt Rob Debre



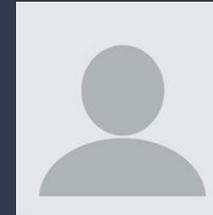
Mike Lussenden has been involved in theatre for over 45 years. Favorite roles include husband, father, teacher, and friend.

Characters: Dennis Shepard, Judge VO



Jason Ugarte is honored you have joined us for his second show with Madison College. Last fall, he played Launce in *Shake Up Shakespeare!* and has enjoyed the process of developing multiple characters in *The Laramie Project*.

Characters: Moises Kaufman, Conrad Miller, Anonymous Friend, Bill McKinney, Baptist Minister, Mormon Home Teacher to Russel



Abe Tapia is a student at Madison College. They will be graduating this Spring semester of 2021 with an Associate Degree in the Arts. They were previously in the show *Puffs* (Cedric Diggory) and enjoy all aspects of theatre. They are happy to have the chance to be in another production with Madison College and would like to thank everyone on the show for doing such a tremendous job during these chaotic times.

Characters: Harry Woods, Andrew Gomez, Newspaper VO, Governor Geringer



Shruti Subramanian is part of the Early College STEM Academy at Madison College and dual enrolled at Sun Prairie High School. She will graduate this spring with her Associate in Science Degree and her High School Diploma. This is her second theater production and is very excited to be a part of it. She is very grateful for this opportunity and wishes to thank her family and friends for their support.

Characters: Alison Mears, Zubaida Ula, Dr. Cantway,

Foreperson, Baptist Minister's Wife VO, Newspaper #4

Meet The Cast



Grace Richter

Characters: April Silva, Lucy Thompson, Rebecca Hilliker, Sherry Johnson, Jeffrey Lockwood



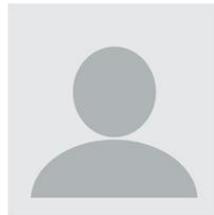
Katy Agans

Characters: Leigh Fondakowski, Eileen Engen VO, Jen, Kerry Drake, Reggie Fluty



Isaiah Coleman

Characters: Father Roger Schmit, Aaron McKinney, Jonas Slonaker, Phil Labrie, Sgt Hing, Greg Pierotti
Newsperson #3



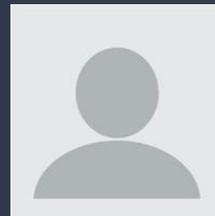
Max Anderson

Characters: Jon Peacock, Philip Dubois, Shadow



Reggie Kellum

Characters: Doc O'Conner, Rulon Stacey, Priest VO (funeral), Newspaper VO



Anna Freudenberg

Characters: Waitress, Marge Murray, Sherry Aanenson, Newspaper VO

Production Team

Director

Miranda Hawk

Stage Manager

Marie Helser

Asst. St. Managers

Abigail Felstehausen & Ryan Jorenby

Video Editor

Austin Bernardt

Asst. Video Editor

Isaac Ernzen

Prop Designer

Robin Fonfara

Program Design/Dramaturg

Emma Krueger

Wisconsin LGBT+ Support

Fair Wisconsin

[Fair Wisconsin – Advancing, achieving and protecting equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender \(LGBT\) Wisconsinites.](#)

PFLAG Madison

Briarpatch Youth Services

2720 Rimrock Road

Madison, WI 53713

www.youthsos.org

24-Hour Helpline: 608-251-1126 or 800-798-1126

Their services include:

Teens Like Us

- Excellent group for youth in the process of coming out.
 - 24-Hour Helpline: 608-251-6211 800-798-1126
 - Briarpatch is a runaway and homeless youth program.
- 24-Hour Helpline: 608-251-6211 800-798-1126

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