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The Laramie Project

Otterbein University Theatre and Dance Department

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**Otterbein
College
Theatre
& Dance**

the

LARAMIE

project

by Moisés Kaufman
and the Members of
Tectonic Theatre Project

Direction by Dennis Romer

Scenic & Lighting Design by Rob Johnson

Costume Design by Katie Robbins

Sound Design by Stephen Sakowski

May 1-10, 2003

Campus Center Theatre

100 W. Home St. ~ Westerville, OH 43081

Cast

STEPHEN BELBER	DAVID BEUKEMA
AMANDA GRONICH	MOLLY CAMP
MERCEDES HERRERO	ERICA ANDERSON
JOHN McADAMS	JEREMY BOBB
ANDY PARIS	ZACH KLEINSMITH
BARBARA PITTS	NATALIE ARNOLD
GREG PIEROTTI	TOM WEAVER
KELLI SIMPKINS	MOLLY BARNES

Production Staff

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR	DENNIS ROMER
AUDIENCE SERVICES DIRECTOR	ELIZABETH SALTZGIVER
PRODUCTION MANAGER	KRISSY STETAR
TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	KEVIN J. LOWRY
ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTOR	TIMOTHY D. ALLWEIN
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR	TAIBI MAGAR
ASSISTANT TO THE LIGHTING DESIGNER	CORA EVANS
MOVEMENT COACH	MELINDA MURPHY
COSTUME SHOP SUPERVISOR	MARCIA HAIN
STAGE MANAGER	BRYANNE E. BORNSTEIN
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	CHRISTINA HODGES
MASTER CARPENTER	FRANK CIRIVELLO
MASTER PAINTER	STEFANI BERGQUIST
MASTER ELECTRICIAN/VIDEO ENGINEER	MATT CHRISTIAN
PROPS MASTER	KATIE SIEG
WARDROBE MASTER	ERIC KASPRISIN
ASSISTANT MASTER ELECTRICIAN/LIGHT BOARD OPERATOR	TRENT KUGLER
SOUND ENGINEER	MARISA KEITH
HOUSE MANAGER	TIFFANY ROLLINS
BOX OFFICE MANAGER	MATTHEW SHERR
GRAPHIC DESIGNER	ELLEN PARKE

SCENIC STUDIO ASSISTANTS

Jennifer Borrer, Marybeth Cave, Frank Cirivello, Eric Kasprisin,
Kevin J. Lowry, Cortney Lucia, Stephen Sakowski, Katie Sieg

ELECTRICS CREW

Stephanie Ahern, Jonathan Anderson, Lauren Baker, Catherine Barricklow, Corinne Betz,
Jennifer Borrer, Matthew Hodge, Christina Hodges, Zach Kleinsmith, Trent Kugler, Cortney
Lucia, Nichole McClintock, Natalie Simmerman

SET/PROPERTIES RUNNING CREW

Kati Rousculp

WARDROBE CREW

Rusty Harding, Rick Rinner, Geneva Hyman

SCENIC STUDIO PARTICIPATION STUDENTS

Sara Alvarez, Molly Camp, Marybeth Cave, Meg Lancaster, Mayme Moyer,
Tiffany Rollins, Kati Rousculp, Lindsey Powell, Daniel Everidge, Katie Whetsell

BOX OFFICE CREW

Adam Humphrey, Erin Detrick, Ellen Parke, Kati Rousculp, Jessica Sedlock, Matt Wolfe

Scene Synopsis

Time: 1998-1999

Location: Laramie, Wyoming, U.S.A.

Act I

***** 10 Minute Intermission *****

Act II

***** 5 Minute Intermission *****

Act III

Production Note

In October 1998, a twenty-one-year-old student at the University of Wyoming was kidnapped, severely beaten and left to die; tied to a fence on the outskirts of Laramie, Wyoming. His name was Matthew Shepard, and he was the victim of this assault because he was gay. Moisés Kaufman and fellow members of the Tectonic Theater Project made six trips to Laramie over the course of a year and a half in the aftermath of the beating and during the trial of the two young men accused of killing Shepard. They conducted more than 200 interviews with the people of the town. Some people interviewed were directly connected to the case and others were citizens of Laramie. *The Laramie Project* explores the depths to which humanity can sink and the heights of compassion of which we are capable.

Special Thanks

Mills/James

Dr. James Bailey

Chris Wiger, Publicity & Public Relations Manager
Denver Center Theatre Company

Rebecca Hilliker, Professor of Theatre
University of Wyoming

The Tectonic Theatre Project

Ball State University

SPECIAL NOTE: Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

Some of the images of Laramie, Wyoming were taken by and are the property of
Linda C. Smith and are provided courtesy of the
Ball State University Department of Theatre and Dance.

Biographies

Dennis Romer (Director) has directed many productions for the Otterbein College Department of Theatre and Dance. Some favorites include *Death of A Salesman*, *Stop Kiss*, *A Little Night Music*, and *Phantom*. He will be directing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for the Riverside Shakespeare Festival in Iowa City during the summer. Dennis was recently promoted to full professor and serves the department as Artistic Director. He would like to thank all members of the collaborative team for their dedication and commitment to *The Laramie Project*.

Rob Johnson (Scenic and Lighting Designer) has designed sets and lights for the last 15 years at Otterbein College and continues to freelance professionally. Recently he designed the set for the hit show, *A Tuna Christmas*, produced at the Capitol Theatre in Columbus for the Contemporary American Theatre Company (CATCO). Rob also designed the lighting for fall quarter's *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* and the recent setting for *Scapino!*. He is the author of an interactive CD-ROM on basic lighting technology published worldwide through First Light Video in California and continues to work on freelance projects in the area of computer graphics. Feel free to visit him at his website: <http://www.otterbein.edu/home/fac/RBRWJHNS/>

Katie Robbins (Costume Designer) is in her 17th season as resident costume designer for OCT. You may have seen her work in previous productions, such as *To Kill A Mockingbird*, *Arcadia*, *The Miser*, *Ctrl+Alt+Delete*, or most recently, *Scapino!*. When not teaching or designing, Katie spends her time at the gym, scuba diving and traveling. Her most recent adventure was a trip to Bali, Indonesia this past summer. She plans to spend two weeks this summer, with colleague Chris Kirk, studying the art of mask making and performance at Dell Arte, Int. in California.

Stephen Sakowski (Sound Designer) will be graduating in June with a BFA in Theatre Design/Technology. Steve has been working here in the Columbus area since his return from an internship in New York this fall. He has recently served as the Lighting Designer for The Collaborative Dance Project, as well as Columbus Dance Theatre. Steve would like to thank Tim, Dana, Greg, and all of his brothers of Pi Beta Sigma.

Erica Anderson (Mercedes Herrero) is a Sophomore Acting major from Boulder, CO. Previous Otterbein roles include Mrs. Medlock in *The Secret Garden*, a Twin Doll in *Raggedy Ann & Andy*, and the Waitress in *Scapino!* Erica is grateful for this opportunity and the enchanting cast, Ed, Melinda, and Dennis for their guidance, and sends love to Catherine, Katie, Matt and Taibi for their indispensable friendship; however, without the patience and devotion of her parents, Erica would be lost.

Natalie Arnold (Barbara Pitts) is a Senior BFA Acting major from Reynoldsburg. Some of her favorite Otterbein roles include Fiona in *Longevity Abbreviated*, Keely in *Keely & Du*, and most recently, Theresa in *Boy Gets Girl*. Natalie spent Winter Quarter in New York City, where she interned in the casting office at NBC. After graduation, Natalie plans to, "do something with her life." She thanks Dennis for the opportunity to participate in this challenging and beautiful project. Natalie also offers her unending gratitude to those in her daily life who "lend me their ears," especially the Harmony House and J. Brennen.

Molly Barnes (Kelli Simpkins) is a Junior BFA Acting major from Chicago. She was previously seen on the OCT stage as Beck in *Boy Gets Girl* and Ginger in *Book of Days*. It has been a great honor for Molly to be a part of this show. She wishes to thank Taibi, Bryanne and Christina for helping to keep her sanity, her family for their tremendous sacrifices and support, and the Oxford Crew for writing *Hail to the Thief*. She dedicates her performance to all of her rainboy boys. "You are the reason my life is wonderful and you are my angels, the brightest lights of my taxi ride."

Stefani Bergquist (Master Painter) is a Junior BFA Design/Tech major from Hoffman Estates, IL. Her previous Otterbein credits include Stage Manager for *A Guy*, *A Girl* and *Gershwin* and *Ctrl+Alt+Delete*, ASM for *Galleria de Danse* and *What's Behind That Curtain?*, and Wardrobe Master for *Book of Days*. Her outside credits include Stage Manager for *Macbeth* at Edge Hill College. She is looking forward to her upcoming internships in Chicago this summer as well as England this coming January. Stefani would like to thank Amber, Kellie, Paul, and Kevin for all of their help, love, and support and for putting up with her obsession with the "Brit-Land."

David C. Beukema (Stephen Belber) is a Junior Acting major from Minneapolis, MN. His previous Otterbein credits include *Scapino!* (Sylvestro), *Boy Gets Girl* (Mercer), *The Mikado* (KoKo - Irene Ryan nomination), and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Snout). He is honored to be working on a play of this importance and would like to thank the cast for their incredible support, the powers that be (Dennis, Melinda, Taibi, Bryanne and Ed) for their guidance, and his family and friends for their love.

Jeremy Bobb (John McAdams) is a BFA Acting major in his final quarter here at Otterbein College. He thanks all of those who have supported him. "Mom, Dad, I love ya."

Bryanne E. Bornstein (Stage Manager) is a Senior BA Theatre major from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. *The Laramie Project* marks her final Otterbein production. Bryanne would like to thank Dennis, Taibi, the cast and crew, especially Christina, for their hard work and co-operation. "Thank you Mom and Dad...I love you so much. Thank you for your understanding. Thanks to Lorelei, Matt S, Kate, Carrie and David...without you, I'd be lost. Thank you Blue Jackets for making me smile. M.P.B.: Here's to seeing what happens." "I hope that everybody can find a little flame."-Adam Duritz

Molly "Junior" Camp (Amanda Gronich) is currently a Freshman and is very excited to be part of *The Laramie Project*. She most recently appeared in the CATCO production of *Kindertransport*. Molly would like to thank God for his many blessings and her family and friends for their love and support. She would also like to thank the amazing cast for being such an inspiration.

Cora Evans (Assistant Lighting Designer) is a Senior Design/Tech major from Whitehall. Her most recent work at Otterbein was Master Electrician for the Dance Concert, *A Guy, A Girl and Gershwin*. During fall quarter she was on internship at Visual Terrain in Los Angeles, CA. This will be her last Otterbein production and she is excited to be graduating. "Thanks for all of your support, Mom and Dad, Lenora and Josh. I love you all."

Christina Hodges (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Freshman Design/Tech major from Dublin. This is her second show here at Otterbein College. Previously, she was the Assistant Stage Manager for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. She would like to thank her family and friends for all of their love and support and Bryanne for being the coolest Stage Manager ever. "Enjoy the show!"

Marisa Keith (Sound Operator) is thrilled to be back at Otterbein after spending a quarter at the Denver Center Theatre Company in Denver, CO. Her previous credits include Scenic Designer for *Raggedy Ann & Andy*, Master Painter on *The Secret Garden*, and Assistant Scenic Designer on *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. She sends love and hugs to her wonderful friends and boyfriend and to her ever supportive, ever dramatic family. "Go Heather and Amanda! You ROCK!"

Zach Kleinsmith (Andy Paris) is a first year BFA Acting student from Louisville, KY. He was most recently seen as the title role in *Scapino!*. He is very excited to be a part of *The Laramie Project* and a part of this cast.

Kevin Joseph Lowry (Technical Director) is a Junior Design Technology major from Redlands, CA. While at Otterbein, he has served as Master Carpenter and Assistant Technical Director for many productions. Kevin would like to thank the faculty for giving him this opportunity, his friends and family, Tim for everything that he has done and all the support he has given over the years and to his girlfriend, Alex, for the most real love that he has ever felt for someone.

Taibi Ann Magar (Assistant Director) is a BA Theatre major with a focus in Directing. Last quarter marked her first directing venture here at Otterbein with her production of *Bread*. She is very much looking forward to her summer in London studying at The Globe Theatre. She sends thanks to Dennis Romer, John Stefano, Rob Johnson, Dr. Bailey, Bryanne, the cast, crew and the people of Laramie, Wyoming.

Melinda Murphy (Movement Coach) teaches Alexander Technique and Feldenkrais Method® in the Otterbein Theatre and Dance Department, with application to movement, voice, characterization, singing and dance. Melinda is one of the few teachers trained in both methods; she combines them in her private practice in Columbus, and in classes and seminars for performing artists at other Ohio colleges. She has coached in Otterbein productions including *Our Country's Good*, *CTRL+ALT+DEL*, *Fuddy Meers*, *The Secret Garden*, and *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. She has also coached equestrians, figure skaters, musicians, and competitive barbershop quartets and choruses including the two-time international gold medallist Southern Gateway Chorus. She would like to thank Dennis, and the cast and crew for the experience of working with a great team on this challenging production.

Katherine R Sieg (Props Master) is a Sophomore Design/Technology Major from Huron, OH. Here at Otterbein, she has previously served as Assistant Sound Operator for *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, Assistant Technical Director for *Raggedy Ann & Andy*, Wardrobe Master for *Scapino!* and Otterbein Summer Theater 2002. She has also worked for The Huron Playhouse and is looking forward to a fun summer working for Cedar Point. She would like to thank her parents, friends, the sisters of Kappa Phi Omega, and the wonderful Palace Girls for their continued support throughout the years.

Tom Weaver (Greg Pierotti) is a Senior BFA Musical Theatre major from Camp Hill, PA. Some of his favorite roles at Otterbein include Eddie Fisher in *Ctrl+Alt+Delete*, Bobby Groves in *Book of Days*, Walter in *Keely & Du*, and Sagot in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*. Tom spent the winter as an intern at Stuart Howard Associates in New York City. It was fun. Tom wishes to thank the cast, crew, Dr. Bailey, and Dennis for casting him as the 2nd waiter. He can not thank his parents enough.



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