



Kentwood Players presents

# THE LARAMIE PROJECT

by Moisés Kaufman and members  
of the Tectonic Theater Project

Directed by Michael Allen  
Produced by Christine Joëlle

**January 9 - February 14, 2009**

Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.

\$18 General Admission, \$2 discount for seniors, students and servicemen

Westchester Playhouse, 8301 Hindry Avenue, Westchester

[www.kentwoodplayers.org](http://www.kentwoodplayers.org)

*Produced by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.*

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

Why should we care about a brutal crime that happened ten years ago in a small Midwestern town, that at the time garnered worldwide attention? We live in a world where the news media reports the latest atrocities, and court T.V. documents trials that become entertainment for the viewing public. The Matthew Shepard murder was just such news fodder at the time, and might have been just as easily forgotten, if not for the work of Moisés Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project.

Less than a month after reports of the young, gay, college student, found beaten and unconscious, made headlines in newspapers around the country, this theater company traveled to Laramie, Wyoming and began to document the town's reaction to what had happened in it's midst. What is striking about the theatrical work you're about to see, is that it is not the imaginative, speculative creation of a single playwright. The words you're about to hear are the ones spoken by the actual residents of the town.

That Moises Kaufman and the members of his company were able to shape these many small testimonies into a cohesive and dramatically powerful narrative about a community confronting itself, is one of the reasons why this play continues to be produced ten years after Matthew Shepard's death. You may agree and/or disagree with the voices you'll hear. Either way, you are likely to consider what the responsibility is of a community or a society as a whole, in regards to the shaping of its beliefs, morals and values that would allow this level of hate to be expressed.

Thank you for coming to our production of *The Laramie Project*.

– Michael Allen, Director

### SPECIAL THANKS

L.G. Ross, Chuck Ketter, Maria Cohen, IKEA,  
JD Webster - First Christian Church of Westchester,  
the entire cast and crew of *The Laramie Project*,  
and anyone we missed due to printing deadlines.

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**Please turn cell phones and pagers to silent,  
turn off alarms on digital watches, and unwrap  
any candy or cough drops before the play begins.**

**Thank you.**

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# CAST

Olev Aleksander  
Jerad Callen  
Tim Forsyth  
Toni Lopnow

Susie McCarthy  
Maria Pavone  
Jason Schlatter  
Tiffany Towers

# SETTING

Laramie, Wyoming, 1998/1999

- There will be one 15 minute intermission -

# PRODUCTION CREW

Director . . . . . Michael Allen  
Producer . . . . . Christine Joëlle  
Musical Advisor . . . . . Susan Goldman Weisbarth  
Stage Manager . . . . . Shari Barrett  
Set Designer and Master Carpenter . . . . . Michael Allen  
Costumer Designer . . . . . Charlotte Lee Schildkret  
Lighting Designer . . . . . Tom Brophrey  
Sound Designer . . . . . Susan Stangl  
Props Supervisor . . . . . Linda Reinhardt  
Booth Crew . . . . . Richard Potthoff and Kaye Porter  
Script Supervisor . . . . . Hilary Fitzsimmons  
Photography . . . . . Liz Reinhardt  
Hospitality . . . . . Larry Cosgrove  
Audition Assistance . . . . . Jeanne Spain  
Graphic, Lobby, Postcard and Program Design . . . . . Liz Reinhardt

## Work Sunday Crew:

Carol Becker, John Beckwith, Gail Bernardi, Barbara Brophrey, Geanne Clarke, Arlene Cohen, Maria Cohen, Michael Cohen, Sheldon Cohen, Sheridan Cole Crawford, Jim Crawford, Harold Dershimer, Roger Ehrenreich, Hal Fisher, James Manley Green, Michael Grinde, Julia Maggs, Frank Olivadoti, Lori Marple-Pereslete, Virginia Mekkelson, Calia Mintzer, Barry Nackos, Tony Pereslete, Judy Polak, Lee Polak, Lynn Reed, Victor Reinhardt, Scot Renfro, Valerie Ruel, John Russell, Adina Silo, Max Heldring Stormes, Fred Wolf and the cast and crew of *The Laramie Project*.

## THE CAST



**Olev Aleksander** - Olev is delighted to return to the Kentwood stage so soon. He recently made his debut here as Geoffrey in *The Lion in Winter*. Past area credits include Frederick in *Noises Off* and Jim O'Connor in *The Glass Menagerie*, both at Theatre Palisades. Olev is thrilled to be part of *The Laramie Project* and its powerful message. Thanks, Michael, for the opportunity to work with such a dynamic cast. Tervist!



**Jerad Callen** - On the stage since he was 16, Jerad has appeared in dozens of plays all around Southern California. From Chuck in *Larva Boy* to Mr. Blister in *The Hansel and Gretel Revision*, every play and every character has taught him something. He is pleased as punch to be working with Michael, Christine and this incredible cast. Jerad would like to dedicate this performance to his Rejershnivit; whose support always keeps him going.



**Tim Forsyth** - Tim was born in San Bernardino, attended high school in Torrance, and went to El Camino JC and CSULB, majoring in journalism, then theater arts, and finally radio/television production. He was drafted into the Marine Corps, after which he was married (then widowed) and has two beautiful adult children, Amy and Glen. He has previously appeared at Kentwood in *George Washington Slept Here* and *The Wake*. This summer, he appeared in *Agrippina* at the Hudson. Returning to work with this fine ensemble *Laramie Project* cast and director is like being rewarded for doing what you love doing. Thank you, Michael.



**Toni Loppnow** - This is Toni's third production at the Westchester Playhouse. Besides her many humanitarian works, she also spends her time caring for woodland creatures that have been displaced from the recent wildfires. Toni's creamy white skin and, uh, hair and eyes have made her somewhat of an internet sensation. She has never been to France - although maybe someday. She has also worked in many ensemble casts. She wishes everyone well during this trying holiday season and remember to tip your wait staff.



**Susie McCarthy** - Susie McCarthy is a native Angelino. She's as pleased as punch to be back upon the boards at Kentwood in such an innovative and compelling contemporary play, surrounded by such a talented cast, director and production staff. Susie's most recent theatrical adventure was a three-week run of *Greater Tuna* at the Festival Fringe in Edinburgh, Scotland this past August. "Thanks to Michael Allen for inviting me to play." This performance is dedicated her Dad. Love to J.R.



**Maria Pavone** - Maria portrayed the unflappable Constance in last season's Kentwood production, *The Constant Wife*. Her other Kentwood roles include the feisty sister, Rose in Steve Allen's *The Wake*, and the hoggish diva, Irene Livingston in *Light Up the Sky*. She has been involved in Los Angeles theatre in capacities besides acting and has served such local theatrical organizations as the Mark Taper, LA Stage Alliance, A.S.K. Theatre Projects, the Tiffany Theaters and Circle X. She is also a script analyst and has been nominated for an *LA Weekly* Award in acting.



**Jason Schlatter** - Jason was last seen on stage at the world famous Opera House in Sydney, Australia - where he was quickly escorted back to his tour group by security. His credits from stage, television, radio and online productions include *Don't Dress For Dinner*, *Romeo & Juliet*, *Guys & Dolls*, touring improv troupes, soap operas, national commercials, Achieve Radio, and more. He's glad to be performing again and thankful for the good cheer and support from his friends and family.



**Tiffany Towers** - Tiffany Towers trained at Yale School of Drama, Columbia University, HB Studios, New York Film Academy... and more. Favorite past roles include Abigail in *The Crucible*, Carol in *Oleanna*, Catherine in *Proof*, Gretel in *The Hansel and Gretel Revision*, and Archibald Mouse ([www.archibaldmousebooks.com](http://www.archibaldmousebooks.com)). Big thanks to MKA for this one. Buckets of love to the best cast ever. Eternally grateful for the support of family, friends and PitB. Attempt kindness first. As always, for Dad.

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You are invited to meet and greet with the cast in the Green Room after the performance.

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## The Crew

**Michael Allen (Director)** - Michael has been waiting to do this play since he saw the original production when it was on tour, and hopes you will be as inspired as he was with the power of it's sheer theatricality and profound message. He would like to thank his cast and crew for trusting him to lead them in this project.

**Christine Joëlle (Producer)** - An active member of Kentwood Players, Christine likes to dabble in all aspects of theatre. Her producing credits at Kentwood include *The Odd Couple* and *Nicholas Nickleby*. She has graced the Kentwood stage in *Proof*, *Picnic*, *Murder on the Nile*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *The Rainmaker*, *Nicholas Nickleby* and *Romantic Comedy*. Christine can next be seen performing in *Violet Sharp* at Theatre 40, running February - March 2009. She is thrilled to be working once again with a fabulous cast and crew, and gives her heartfelt thanks to her friends, family and her beloved Shawn Savage for their never-ending love and support.

**Shari Barrett (Stage Manager)** - When not on her computer sending emails as Publicity Director for Kentwood Players, Shari can often be found in the lobby welcoming guests or at local newsstands gathering publications. And now she is very happy to be backstage, working with a supremely talented cast in this fantastic production. Kentwood production credits include *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *The Rainmaker*, *George Washington Slept Here*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Steve Allen's The Wake*, *Proof*, *The Emperor's New Clothes* and *The Trial of Goldilocks*. Thanks to Charlotte for encouraging me to join Kentwood Players and windmills to Christine for the job offer!



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## ABOUT KENTWOOD PLAYERS

Kentwood Players was founded by the late Arky and Jan Marcom, Elizabeth Thornberg and Betty Francis in December 1949. The company actually got its start, and its name, as members of the Kentwood Elementary School PTA in Westchester, and motivated by a school play they performed there, decided to keep a good thing going. This small group of talented men and women quickly got their act together, so to speak, and in 1950, this illustrious theatre "family" officially began.

Obviously, they couldn't stay at an elementary school and looking for a permanent home wasn't easy. At times, the Kentwood "boards" included a barn, a pump house, and a restaurant before 1960, when the players finally found their present location at the corner of 83rd Street and Hindry in Westchester. In the early sixties, they transformed an old warehouse into the Westchester Playhouse that now houses a proscenium stage, dressing rooms, costume closets, a scene shop, over a hundred comfortable seats and a large, welcoming front patio.



Some of KP's loyal season subscribers have been attending KP shows for decades. The fans enjoy seeing their favorite actors on stage and through the years have become friends as well as theatergoers. The support and love among the Kentwood "family" of members also crosses multi-generations, where life-long friendships have been fomented. KP is proud of its second- and third-generation members.

Because this is community theatre, all work is done by volunteers. But the dedicated members always take their jobs seriously. They and the Board of Directors handle all aspects of running a little theatre. And, that's why this nonprofit group can afford to keep their prices low while not skimping on sets and costumes!

**For more information,  
visit [www.kentwoodplayers.org](http://www.kentwoodplayers.org).**



# Season Subscription Order Form

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Season Subscriptions are good for **six (6) consecutive productions**, and you may start your subscriptions with the show of your choice. Please allow 4 weeks for processing of your order. Circle below to indicate when you'd like to start your subscription:

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## Kentwood Players Board of Directors

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Plays Committee .....	Christine Joëlle, Scot Renfro
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# We Need Your Help

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In 1949, a group of dedicated performers came together to provide quality theatre at an affordable price for the Westchester community. More than 50 years later, the Kentwood Players are still going strong.

From Shakespeare to Simon, from Sondheim to Hammerstein, we have worked diligently, putting in countless volunteer hours, keeping our prices low enough to allow all in our community access to a magical evening or matinee in the theatre.

Now, we need your help. We have some critical improvements that will be beyond what we as a small community theatre can manage. We need a new roof, a new heating and air conditioning system, and most of our facility needs to be updated. For the first time in our history, we are asking our wonderful patrons and dedicated community members to partner with us and become sponsors of our beloved theatre.

There are many ways you can help. Of course, we welcome your contributions no matter how large or small. Together we can keep quality theatre in Westchester at prices that are still affordable for our audiences. Please take a look at our sponsorship opportunities and if we can answer any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

## **THANK YOU FROM THE KENTWOOD PLAYERS**

*Donation envelopes can be found in our lobby.*

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### **Founders Circle – \$2,500-\$5,000**

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- A seat bearing your name in our theatre
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### **Encore Patrons – \$500 - \$999**

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- Listing in our program for an entire season

### **Spotlight Supporters – \$250 - \$499**

- 2 Season tickets
  - Listing in our program for an entire season
- 

*Donations of any size will receive recognition in our programs along with our heartfelt thanks. Kentwood Players is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation and your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

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Catherine and Red Rahm  
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Directed by Catherine Rahm

**March 13 - April 18, 2009**

*All announced shows  
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A comedy by Noel Coward

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