Directed by Joshua Pohja

Sponsored by Knowlton Law Group

March 12-15, 2020

Dedicated to the people of Laramie, Wyoming and to Matthew Shepard.

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DIRECTOR'S NOTES

In October 1998, a twenty-one-year-old student at the University of Wyoming was kidnapped, severely beaten, and left tied to a fence in the middle of the prairie outside Laramie, Wyoming. His bloody, bruised, and battered body was not discovered until the next day, and he died several days later in an area hospital. 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, while others were citizens of Laramie, and the breadth of the reactions to the crime is fascinating. Kaufman and Tectonic Theater members have constructed a deeply moving theatrical experience from these interviews and their own experiences in Laramie. THE LARAMIE PROJECT is a breathtaking collage that explores the depths to which humanity can sink and the heights of compassion of which we are capable.

THE LARAMIE PROJECT has been uncut and unedited per the request of the Tectonic theatre company, and our resolve to tell this story truthfully. I would like to personally thank Principal Ostap and Jonathan Davidson for challenging their student body and community with such brave and challenging material.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Director ..........................................................Joshua Pohja
Production Designer .................................Katie Johnson
Producer ........................................................................Jonathan Davidson

ABOUT PIUS XI PERFORMING ARTS

The mission of the Pius XI Arts Program is to present outstanding performing arts, visual arts and arts eduction programs reflective of Milwaukee’s diverse communities and the mission of Pius XI Catholic High School. A central part of the mission is to introduce young people to the performing arts and visual arts, enhance their creativity, and expose them to new experiences and ideas.
CAST

Zach Rolf .......................................................... Opening Scene Narrator, Matt Galloway,
Anonymous friend of Aaron,
Bill McKinney, Stephen Mead Johnson,
Russell Henderson

Jack Ostap .......................................................... Andy Paris, Det. Debree, Phillip DuBois,
Fred Phelps, Murdock Cooper

Ky Catlett .......................................................... Doc O’Connor, Shadow, Baptist Minister,
Barbara Pitts, Aaron Kreifels, Juror 5

Paige Kearney ..................................................... Leigh Fondakowski, Trish Steger,
Newsperson A, Jen, Judge (Act 2), Jonas Slonaker

Leah McClelland ............................................. Amanda Gronich, Marge Murray,
Lucy Thompson, Eileen Engen, Bailiff

Naima Gaines .................................................. Zackie Salmon, Newsperson B (and Essential Facts),
Juror 1, Email Writer, Kristen Price,
Jeffrey Lockwood, Priest, Mormon Teacher

Indigo Dawn Lubotsky ..................................... Romaine Patterson, Alison Mears,
Dr. Cantway, Newsperson C, Kerry Drake

Selma Rivera .................................................... Greg Pierotti, Sgt. Hing, Catherine Connolly,
Sherry Johnson, Tiffany Edwards, Waitress

Magnus Bonde ................................................ Stephen Belber, Father Roger/Priest,
Rulon Stacey, Gil Engen, Conrad Miller

Sierra Caban .................................................... Rebecca Hilliker, Minister’s Wife,
Gov. Geringer, Newsperson D,
Foreperson, Juror 6

Talia Conner-Dolgnner .................................... Reggie Flutey, Matt Mickelson,
Harry Woods, Judge (Act 3), Reporter

Aleana Torres .................................................. Zubaida Ula, Sherry Aenonson,
Andrew Gomez, Juror 2, April Silva

Jada Goodwin .................................................. Moises Kaufman, Jon Peacock,
Dennis Shepard, Shannon, Juror 4

Sky Mooreschild ............................................. Jedadiah Schultz, Aaron McKinney,
Doug Laws, Juror 3, Phil LaBrie, Cal Rerucha
Magnus Bonde is excited to take part in THE LARAMIE PROJECT. Magnus has performed in the Pius XI productions of LES MISERABLES, and THE WIZARD OF OZ. This is Magnus’ first performance in his freshman year. Magnus likes to spend his time drawing and researching historical subjects.

Sierra Caban is a senior at Pius XI, and is excited to be a part of THE LARAMIE PROJECT. She has worked very closely with the theater department during her time in high school. Other productions that she performed in include NO CHILD, MUCH ADO, and her very own play that was chosen to be performed in last year’s Student Play Festival. She is Co-President and Communications Director for the school’s GSA, and hopes this play will bring attention to the very real fears that the LGBT community continues to face.

Ky Catlett likes pretending that they’re other people. They also like doing theatre. They assure you that those aren’t different hobbies. They also like writing about themself in the third person. They have appeared in MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING and RUMORS at Pius XI, and EVERYBODY at the Milwaukee Rep. "I love theatre because I love sharing stories! It makes me so happy to tell a story with others." They hope you enjoy the show!

Talia Conner-Dolgner is currently a freshman. She enjoys hanging out with her friends, eating chocolate, and doing gymnastics. THE LARAMIE PROJECT is her first Pius XI production. She just recently became interested in theater, and her very first role was Snow White in PRINCESS WHO? (Mount Olive Lutheran). Her favorite role in THE LARAMIE PROJECT is Officer Reggie Fluty. Talia likes being able to become other people through theater and the loving, accepting environment at rehearsal.

Naima Gaines is a freshman here at Pius XI. Naima has appeared in other productions such as: SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL, WILLY WONKA AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY, SHREK THE MUSICAL, and BLACK NATIVITY. She is currently in the musical THE LEGEND OF ROCK PAPER SCISSORS at First Stage. Naima is excited to participate in such a meaningful play her first year at Pius XI.
Break a leg Jack! We Love you!

-Your Crystal Lake Fans-
**Jada Goodwin** is a freshman here at Pius XI. She has been studying at First Stage theater workshops and is eager to demonstrate her acting skills. Her love for performance began as a toddler at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music’s Tiny Tots classes. In elementary and middle school, she performed with the Milwaukee Children’s Choir. Her most recent role was the Angel Gabriel for the 8th grade Christmas Play. THE LARAMIE PROJECT is her first real play performance and she is grateful for the opportunity to honor the memory of Matthew Shepard through this production.

**Paige Kearney** has been a part of Acting 1a, Ladies in Waiting and Women’s Vocal Jazz, as well as costume crew for HAIRSPRAY. This is her first Pius XI production. Paige is very excited to be a part of the Pius XI theatre community and she looks forward to being involved in more shows to come.

**Indigo Dawn Lubotsky** is honored to be a part of THE LARAMIE PROJECT. She is president of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance, as well as a member of International Thespian Honors Society. She recently graduated from First Stage’s Theater Academy after eleven fantastic years. Her Pius XI productions include Student Play Festival, costuming for LES MISERABLES, Mr. Pinky in HAIRSPRAY, and Officer Pudney in RUMORS. Indigo would like to thank the whole cast and crew of THE LARAMIE PROJECT for the incredible experience, but most importantly, she thanks Matthew Shepard. His death aided in the advancement of the LGBTQ+ rights movement, and its work towards equality, justice, and global acceptance.

**Leah McClelland** is a junior at Pius XI Catholic High School. She appeared as Ursula in MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING. She is in Poetry Club and Spectrum GSA. She also appeared in a Moth Story Slam on the theme of “Gumption.”

**Sky Mooreschild** has been in eight other plays, playing the main character in a few of them. He hopes to become a movie actor one day and is taking steps to fulfill his dreams. Sky enjoys airsofting and acting. He is excited to perform in THE LARAMIE PROJECT.

**Jack Ostap** has been a part of the Pius XI theatre department since his sophomore year and has appeared in plays such as LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING, and RUMORS. “I got into theatre because I enjoy engaging audiences and telling stories. As a part of the LGBTQ+ community, I am thrilled to be able to be in a story of this importance.”

**Selma Rivera**, a freshman, is thrilled to be in THE LARAMIE PROJECT! She previously appeared as Rona Lisa Peretti in THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE. Other theater credits include: A WRINKLE IN TIME, THE WINTER’S TALE, BIG RIVER, GIRLS IN THE
BOAT, A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS, JUNIE B. JONES IS NOT A CROOK (First Stage), OUR TOWN (Milwaukee Rep), and numerous credits at Milwaukee Youth Theater, the most recent being ALICE’S ADVENTURES IN WONDERLAND and ESPERANZA RISING. She is also a proud member of First Stage’s Young Company. Selma would like to thank JP, KJ, and her parents for their support and guidance on this show.

Zach Rolf is so excited to be in THE LARAMIE PROJECT. His Pius XI debut came when he was in 7th Grade, in which he was part of the children’s ensemble in WIZARD OF OZ. Since then he’s been in the ensembles of LES MISERABLES and HAIRSPRAY. His favorite roles include Audrey II (voice) in LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS and Leaf Coneybear in the 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE. Zach has also written and acted in Pius’s Student Play Festivals. He is a proud member of Concert Choir, Madrigals Ensemble, Forensics, and the Gender and Sexuality Alliance. Zach would like to thank his Mom and Dede for helping him get to where he is right now.

Aleana Torres, most commonly known as “Ali,” has played a variety of roles in productions at Pius XI such as MotorMouth Maybelle in HAIRSPRAY, Mitch Mahoney in THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE and the female lead Naomi in the student-led production of 21 CHUMP STREET. She has assisted in student projects for acting classes. Most of Ali’s vocal training has been learned through the art of forensics, public speaking and an abundance of singing. She has taken part in many vocal classes and two acting classes at Pius XI. Ali is currently enrolled in Advanced Mixed Choir, and next year will be part of Concert Choir and Madrigal Ensemble. She is also involved with the Milwaukee Children’s Choir.
And medicine, law, business, engineering, these are noble pursuits and necessary to sustain life. But poetry, beauty, romance, love—these are what we stay alive for. To quote from Whitman, ‘O me! O life!... of the questions of these recurring; of the endless trains of the faithless... of cities filled with the foolish; what good amid these, O me, O life?’ Answer: that you are here—that life exists, and identity; that the powerful play goes on and you may contribute a verse. **That the powerful play *goes on* and you may contribute a verse. What will your verse be?**

- John Keating, “Dead Poets Society”
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STAFF
Theater Manager ........................................................................................................ Patrick G.H. Schley
Technical Director ..................................................................................................... Terry Harvey
Assistant Technical Director .................................................................................... Casey Matson
Resident Stagehands ............................................................................................... Marisa Abbott, Izzy Flores, Molly Schafer
House Managers ....................................................................................................... Sara Albright, Katie Johnson, Chris Segedy
Ticket Office Volunteers ......................................................................................... Paula McClelland, Greg Smrz, Turquoise Welch-Loera
Theater Management Intern .................................................................................... Emma Knowlton

INFORMATION
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Food and Beverage: At select performances our concession stand offers water and snacks. Proceeds benefit Performing Arts Programs at Pius XI Catholic High School. Bottled water is permitted in the theatre. Food is not allowed in the theatre.

Electronic Devices: Please silence cellular phones, pagers and alarm watches. Photography and recording are strictly prohibited during the performance. Please refrain from using electronic devices or text messaging during the performance.

Latecomer Policy: Latecomers will be seated at a suitable break in the performance, as determined by House Management.

Emergency Calls: In case of emergency, messages may be left with the House Manager by calling 414.290.0204. If possible, please indicate the seat location of the person to be reached.

Lost and Found: Please call 414.290.7000 to inquire about lost items.

Ushers: We welcome volunteers of all ages to usher for performances and see the show for free! E-mail pacinfo@piusxi.org to be added to our volunteer list.

Theater Rentals: The Father Robert V. Carney Performing Arts Center is the perfect place for your next event! Contact Patrick G.H. Schley at 414.290.7454 or pschley@piusxi.org, or visit www.piuspac.org/rentals for rates and information.