Tectonic Theater Project and acclaimed director Moisés Kaufman make their BAM debut with The Laramie Project Cycle, a historic repertory engagement of two celebrated contemporary American theater works.

The Laramie Project Cycle at BAM reunites the majority of the cast from the original 2000 production of *The Laramie Project* and includes the first fully staged New York production of *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*.

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### The Laramie Project Cycle

**Tectonic Theater Project**

*The Laramie Project*
Written by Moisés Kaufman and members of Tectonic Theater Project

*The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*
Written by Moisés Kaufman, Leigh Fondakowski, Greg Pierotti, Andy Paris, and Stephen Belber

Directed by Moisés Kaufman and Leigh Fondakowski

**BAM Harvey Theater** (651 Fulton St)
Feb 12—24

Weekend marathons (Parts 1 & 2 in one day): Feb 16, 17, 23 & 24 at 2:30pm Approx 5hrs, with 3 intermissions and dinner break

Weeknight packages* (Parts 1 and Part 2 on consecutive evenings): Feb 12 & 13; Feb 14 & 15; Feb 19 & 20; Feb 21 & 22 at 7:30pm Part 1: 3hrs with 2 intermissions; Part 2: 2hrs with 1 intermission

*Please note: Weeknight packages must be purchased as consecutive evenings*

Tickets start at $40 (includes parts 1 & 2)
**Artist Talk: Judy Shepard and Moisés Kaufman**
Moderated by Neda Ulaby
Feb 16 at 12noon
BAM Fisher (Fishman Space)
Tickets: $15 ($7.50 for Friends of BAM)

**Workshop: Introduction to Moment Work**
With Tectonic Theater Project
Feb 20 at 3:30pm
BAM Fisher (Hillman Studio)
Fee: $25
Apply online: BAM.org/Masterclass

"A pioneering work of theatrical reportage and a powerful stage event."— *Time* magazine

**January 8, 2013/Brooklyn, NY**—This February, BAM presents a new production of Tectonic Theater Project’s groundbreaking and internationally acclaimed play *The Laramie Project*, as well as its sequel, *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*. The 2013 Winter/Spring Season offers New York audiences their first chance to see a fully staged production of *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, as well as to see both works as part of a repertory engagement, one that reunites the majority of the original cast and is collectively called The Laramie Project Cycle.

In 1998, 21-year-old Matthew Shepard, a gay college student, was beaten to death, the victim of a hate crime that left the small town of Laramie, Wyoming—and many national and international observers—in shock. In the aftermath of Shepard’s death, acclaimed playwright and director Moisés Kaufman (*Gross Indecency, The Heiress*) and members of the Tectonic Theater Project made six trips to Laramie and conducted more than 200 interviews with its residents. Using these interview transcripts, court documents, and media reportage as source material, they created *The Laramie Project*, which went on to become one of the most performed pieces of theater in the US and, via its adaptation into an HBO film, reached an audience of more than 30 million people.

On October 12, 2009 (the 11th anniversary of Shepard’s death) audiences in more than 150 cities in all 50 states as well as Tel Aviv, Melbourne, and Hong Kong attended the simultaneous premieres of *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, which used many of the same techniques from the first play to document changes in the community since the 1998 murder. The new play was also, in part, a rebuttal to an emerging narrative that falsely characterized the murder as “a drug deal gone wrong.” In New York the production was performed by the original cast members of the play and film as a reading, while other cities’ productions featured professional regional theaters, community groups, high schools, and universities, including Shepard’s alma mater, the University of Wyoming.

Both “projects” broke ground in terms of the creation and presentation of socially engaged theater, leaving Kaufman to pose a compelling question in *American Theatre* magazine: “If in fact we created a national audience that was ‘together’ even though they were geographically separated, how do we maintain and foster this kind of collectivity?”
In addition to the new productions, BAM will present two related events: an Artist Talk featuring original director Moisés Kaufman and Judy Shepard, Matthew’s mother; and a workshop on Tectonic’s Moment Work technique, which was used to create both plays.

About the artists

**Moisés Kaufman** is a playwright, a Tony- and Emmy-nominated director, and a founder of Tectonic Theater Project. His plays *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* and *The Laramie Project* have been among the most performed plays in the US over the last decade. He is also the author of *33 Variations*. Kaufman was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2002 and made his Broadway directing debut with the 2004 production of Doug Wright’s *I Am My Own Wife*, for which he received an Obie Award and a Tony Award nomination for Best Direction of a Play. He is currently directing Jessica Chastain in the Broadway revival of *The Heiress*.

**Leigh Fondakowski** is the head writer of *The Laramie Project* and has been a member of Tectonic Theater Project since 1995. She is an Emmy nominated co-screenwriter of the HBO adaptation of *The Laramie Project*, and a co-writer of *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*. Her plays *The People’s Temple* and *I Think I Like Girls* have been performed under her direction to critical acclaim. Fondakowski has two projects currently in development: *SPILL*, a play and art installation (co-created with visual artist Reeva Wortel) about the Deepwater Horizon/BP oil disaster, and a new play about the 19th-century American actress Charlotte Cushman. Her first work of creative non-fiction, *Stories from Jonestown* will be published by the University of Minnesota Press in spring 2013.

**Greg Pierotti** is a co-writer of *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, associate writer of *The Laramie Project* (Drama Desk Award nomination), co-writer of the HBO adaptation of *The Laramie Project* (Emmy Award nomination), and head writer of *The People’s Temple*. He is currently developing a new play called *Apology*. For *The People’s Temple*, Pierotti and his collaborators won the Will Glickman Award for best new American play. Pierotti is also an actor and has performed classical and new work at Berkeley Rep, La Jolla Playhouse, and Union Square Theater, among others, and is featured in The Laramie Project Cycle at BAM. He is currently a nominee for the 2013 Alpert Award in the theater.

**Andy Paris** is an original member of Tectonic Theater Project, as well as one of the original writers and performers in *The Laramie Project* and co-writer of *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*; as well as an actor in The Laramie Project Cycle at BAM. Other writing credits include *The Fan-Maker’s Inquisition*, an adaptation of Rikki Ducornet’s novel with wife Anushka Carter, and The Women’s Project’s *Corporate Carnival*, in which he also performed. Paris and Carter are currently writing *Square Peg, Round Hole*, a play about living on the autism spectrum, which employs the Moment Work process as developed by Moisés Kaufman and Tectonic Theater Project. Paris has performed in countless plays in the US and abroad, including *Two Men of Florence*, directed by Edward Hall, and all of the male roles in Melanie Marnich’s *A Sleeping Country*.

**Stephen Belber**’s work as a playwright has been produced on Broadway and in over 25 countries. He is an associate writer of *The Laramie Project* (Drama Desk and Lucille Lortel Award nominations) and a co-writer of *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, as well as a performer in The Laramie Project Cycle at BAM Other plays include *Match*, for which Frank
Langella received a Tony Award nomination, *Tape* (Naked Angels; New York, Los Angeles, and London productions), and *Geometry of Fire* (Rattlesticks Playwright Theater), among others. Movie credits include associate writer for *The Laramie Project*, for which he earned an Emmy Award nomination, and writer and director of *Management*, starring Jennifer Aniston and Steve Zahn. Belber recently directed a film adaptation of his play *Match*, starring Patrick Stewart. Current projects include an adaptation of the book *Eat The Document*, for director Bennett Miller, and a new play called *The Power of Duff*, which was produced last summer at New York Stage and Film and starred Greg Kinnear.

**Tectonic Theater Project** is an award-winning company whose plays have been performed around the world. The company is dedicated to developing innovative works that explore theatrical language and form, fostering an artistic dialogue with audiences relating to social, political, and human issues. Tectonic supports readings, workshops, and full theatrical productions, as well as training for students around the country in its play-making techniques. Tectonic Theater Project was founded in 1991 by Moisés Kaufman and Jeffrey LaHoste. Tectonic refers to the art and science of structure and was chosen to emphasize the company's interest in construction—how things are made, and how they might be made differently. Its groundbreaking plays—*The Laramie Project* and *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, *I Am My Own Wife*, and *33 Variations*—have sparked a national discourse about their subjects and have inspired artists and audiences worldwide.

One month after the murder of Matthew Shepard, Kaufman and 10 company members traveled to Laramie to interview its residents. The play forged from these interviews was created collaboratively by the members of the company over a long workshop process in which participants were encouraged to operate outside their area of specialization: actors and designers became writers and dramaturgs, directors became designers and actors, and the company uncovered a new way of creating a theatrical event. Tectonic continues to employ these techniques in developing some of the most unique and innovative works on the American stage.

For press information contact Adriana Leshko, aleshko@BAM.org, 718.724.8021.

**Credits**

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Tectonic Theater Project Credits for The Laramie Project Cycle at BAM
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General Information
BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, BAM Rose Cinemas, and BAMcafé are located in the Peter Jay Sharp building at 30 Lafayette Avenue (between St Felix Street and Ashland Place) in the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. BAM Harvey Theater is located two blocks from the main building at 651 Fulton Street (between Ashland and Rockwell Places). Both locations house Greenlight Bookstore at BAM kiosks. BAM Fisher, located at 321 Ashland Place, is the newest addition to the BAM campus and houses the Judith and Alan Fishman Space and Rita K. Hillman Studio. BAM Rose Cinemas is Brooklyn’s only movie house dedicated to first-run independent and foreign film and repertory programming. BAMcafé, operated by Great Performances, is open for dining prior to BAM Howard Gilman Opera House evening performances. BAMcafé also features an eclectic mix of spoken word and live music for BAMcafé Live on Friday and Saturday nights with a special BAMcafé Live menu available starting at 6pm.

Subway: 2, 3, 4, 5, Q, B to Atlantic Avenue-Barclays Center (2, 3, 4, 5 to Nevins St for Harvey Theater) D, N, R to Pacific Street; G to Fulton Street; C to Lafayette Avenue
Train: Long Island Railroad to Atlantic Terminal-Barclays Center
Bus: B25, B26, B41, B45, B52, B63, B67 all stop within three blocks of BAM
Car: Commercial parking lots are located adjacent to BAM

For ticket and BAMbus information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100, or visit BAM.org.

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