

# IRON CROW THEATRE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **IRON CROW THEATRE PRESENTS THE LARAMIE PROJECT IN MEMORIAM OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MATTHEW SHEPARD'S DEATH. INTERNATIONALLY ACCLAIMED, TECTONIC THEATER PROJECT, CREATORS OF THE LARAMIE PROJECT COME TO BALTIMORE!**

THE 18/19 SEASON OF BECOMING BEGINS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>

**BALTIMORE, Maryland** - August, 25 2018: In memoriam of the 20th Anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death, Iron Crow Theatre is set to launch it's 18/19 Season of Becoming with the groundbreaking and award-winning, *The Laramie Project* written by Moisés Kaufman and the members of Tectonic Theater Project. In addition, Iron Crow Theatre is honored to welcome the internationally acclaimed Tectonic Theater Project to Baltimore for the theatre's After Shows With the Crows programming in connection with *The Laramie Project* and for the debut of the CrowLabs: Masterclass series - a new educational initiative that offers Baltimore's local artist community free access to an innovative workshop experience, with Tectonic Theater Project's co-founder and Emmy and Tony-Award nominated Jeffrey LaHoste, where artistic exploration is celebrated alongside some of the nation's most renowned and accomplished theatre artists and organizations. Additional programming includes a staged reading of the rarely performed sequel to *The Laramie Project*, *The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later* benefiting the Matthew Shepard Foundation and welcoming Cathy Renna, former communications director for GLAAD, to discuss her experiences on assignment in Laramie, Wyoming at the time of Matthew's death.

In October 1998, a twenty-one-year-old openly gay student at the University of Wyoming was kidnapped, beaten, tortured, and left to die — tied to a fence in the middle of a prairie outside Laramie, Wyoming, simply for being gay. His name was Matthew Shepard. Matthew's murder brought national and international attention to the lack of hate crime legislation across the nation and forced a small community to wrestle with its identity on both the local and national levels. In this groundbreaking docudrama, Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project capture the human voice of Laramie. With just 8 actors playing over 60 characters, *The Laramie Project* weaves together interviews, journal entries, and published news reports to create a breathtaking theatrical collage exploring the depths to which humanity can sink and the heights of compassion of which we are capable.

"*The Laramie Project* means so much, to so many, especially as the 20th Anniversary of Matthew's death approaches," said Sean Elias, Iron Crow Theatre's Artistic Director. "We're honored to be able to partner with the internationally recognized Tectonic Theater Project, the creators of *The Laramie Project*, along with other prominent members of the queer community at large to help us connect our production here in Baltimore to others taking place across the country and to Matthew's legacy."

"After many years as Artistic Director for Virginia's celebrated LBGTQ theater, Richmond Triangle Players, I am beyond excited to be making my Baltimore directorial debut bringing

*The Laramie Project* to life at Iron Crow Theatre," said acclaimed Director Mr. John Knapp. "While the Laramie Project revolves around the death of Matthew Shephard, it is truly about ordinary people - a community and how we as a community come to embrace love, compassion, and acceptance over hate."

Written by Moisés Kaufman and the members of Tectonic Theater Project. Directed by John Knapp and Stage Management provided by River Hansen†. Set Design by P.J. Carbonell†, Lighting Design by Lilly Margola with Costume Design by Danielle Harrow†. Assistant Lighting Design by Justin Webb and Sound Design and Original Composition by Sam Lee.

Tickets are available for purchase online via [www.ironcrowtheatre.org/laramie](http://www.ironcrowtheatre.org/laramie). Pricing is \$35.00 for General Admission, \$30.00 for Seniors, Educators, Veterans and Active Service Members and \$20.00 for Students. Performances begin Friday, January 26th and run through Sunday, February 4th.

Iron Crow Theatre is proud to be one of the first 100 theatres across the country (and one of only two theatres in Baltimore) to take part in the Playwrights Welcome program, providing free access to theatre for playwrights, composers, and lyricists from Baltimore and around the country. To receive a ticket through Playwrights Welcome at our theater, simply present your Dramatists Guild membership card at the Box Office.

For a complete list of all offerings available in connection with *The Laramie Project* visit:  
[www.ironcrowtheatre.org/laramie](http://www.ironcrowtheatre.org/laramie)

For a complete list of all After Shows with the Crows offerings please visit:  
[www.ironcrowtheatre.org/aftershows](http://www.ironcrowtheatre.org/aftershows)

Those interested in CrowLabs: Masterclass with Tectonic Theater Project may reserve their complimentary spot by visiting: [www.ironcrowtheatre.org/crowlabs](http://www.ironcrowtheatre.org/crowlabs)

Members of the press may reserve their complimentary tickets by visiting:  
[www.ironcrowtheatre.org/laramiepresssvp](http://www.ironcrowtheatre.org/laramiepresssvp)

## **PERFORMANCES & SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Friday, September 14**

8:00pm performance of *The Laramie Project*  
Complimentary Opening Night Reception to follow.

### **Saturday, September 15**

2:00pm & 8:00pm performances of *The Laramie Project*

### **Sunday, September 16**

5:30pm performance of *The Laramie Project*

### **Wednesday, September 19**

WEB

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

PHONE

(443) 637-CROW (2769)

MAIL

P.O. Box 50074 Baltimore, MD 21211

7:00pm staged reading of *The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later*

The cast of *The Laramie Project* will present a staged reading of the sequel to *The Laramie Project*, entitled *The Laramie Project: 10 Years Later*. A Portion of all proceeds benefit The Matthew Shepard Foundation. \$20 suggested donation.

### **Thursday, September 20**

7:00pm performance of *The Laramie Project*

After Shows with the Crows: Talkback with Cathy Renna, former GLAAD Communications Director

Cathy Renna, former Communications Director of GLAAD, will join Iron Crow Theatre's cast and crew members in a dialogue following the 7:00pm performance of *The Laramie Project*. Cathy Renna was on assignment in Laramie, Wyoming, when the events surrounding Matthew Shepard's death took place and will offer our audiences a unique inside perspective on one of queer history's most defining moments.

### **Friday, September 21**

8:00pm performance of *The Laramie Project*

After Shows with the Crows: Talkback with Jeffrey LaHoste, co-founder of the Tectonic Theater Project

Tony and Emmy award nominee and co-founder of the Tectonic Theater Project Jeffrey LaHoste will join Iron Crow Theatre cast and crew members in a dialogue following the 8:00pm performance of *The Laramie Project*. Jeffrey LaHoste will provide rare insights into Moment Work, the technique developed by the Tectonic Theater Project and used to create *The Laramie Project*. Mr. LaHoste founded the Tectonic Theater Project with Moisés Kaufman and has contributed to the development and production of all of Tectonic's works, as well as serving as one of the original interviewers during the creation of *The Laramie Project*.

### **Saturday, September 22**

10:00am CrowLabs: Masterclass - Tectonic Theater Project / Moment Work

Join two certified Moment Work Teaching Artists (Tectonic Theater Project's co-founder Jeffrey LaHoste and D.C.-based theatre artist Billie Krishawn) for CrowLabs: Masterclass - Tectonic Theater Project / Moment Work. Moment Work is the process used at Tectonic Theater Project to create such classic works as *The Laramie Project*, *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, and *33 Variations*. Moment Work explores the theatrical potential of all the elements of the stage (props, sound, architecture, lights, costume, etc.) in order to create strong theatrical and dramatic narratives. The technique is the Tectonic Theater Project's approach for "writing performance" as opposed to "writing text." In this way, company members are encouraged to dream about the material they find compelling in a theatrical setting. Moment Work gives artists the freedom to create individual, self-contained theatrical units (Moments) and then sequence these units together into theatrical phrases or sentences that will eventually become a play. Register for CrowLabs: Masterclass - Tectonic Theater Project by visiting [www.ironcrowtheatre.org/crowlabs](http://www.ironcrowtheatre.org/crowlabs).

2:00pm & 8:00pm performances of *The Laramie Project*

### **Sunday, September 23**

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5:30pm closing performance of *The Laramie Project*.

IRON CROW THEATRE produces queer theatre for a queer city; celebrating the renegade and the unorthodox, in all of us.

PRESS/MEDIA INQUIRES: [pr@ironcrowtheatre.org](mailto:pr@ironcrowtheatre.org)

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