



Celebrity Series of Boston

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EMERSON COLLEGE

For Immediate Release

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Presents

The Laramie Project, 10 Years Later...An Epilogue

Monday, October 12, 8pm

Cutler Majestic Theatre

(Boston) Emerson Stage in collaboration with Celebrity Series of Boston will present ***The Laramie Project, 10 Years Later...An Epilogue***, by Moisés Kaufman, Leigh Fondakowski, Greg Pierotti, Andy Paris and Stephen Belber on **Monday, October 12 at 8pm at the Cutler Majestic Theatre**, 219 Tremont Street. The production will be cast with Emerson College students and prominent members of the Boston community including: Jarret Barrios, President of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) and Derrek L. Shulman, Regional Director of the Anti-Defamation League's New England Region. Additional community participants to be announced.

In June 2008, members of Tectonic Theater Project returned to Laramie, Wyoming to explore how the town had changed in the ten years since the murder of gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard. The result is a new play about how we construct our own history. This is the continuing story of an American Town.

The Laramie Project, was written a month after Matthew Shepard's murder in 1998. The piece has been seen by more than 50 million people around the country and made into an HBO film. With the original play, The Tectonic Theater Project wanted to record how such a hate crime had affected a small town in the hope of shedding light on the ideas and beliefs that were shaping the nation. In writing an epilogue a decade later, the writers sought to investigate the kinds of changes that occur after a pivotal event. Tectonic Theater Project returned to Laramie for a second round of interviews, including new segments with Matthew Shepard's mother Judy Shepard and murderer Aaron McKinney, as well as follow-up conversations with many of the individuals from the original piece. These interviews formed the basis for *The Laramie Project, 10 Years Later...An Epilogue*.

The Celebrity Series and Emerson College presentation is part of a series of performances at 100 other theaters across the country, and in Canada, Great Britain, Spain, Hong Kong and Australia on October 12, 2009. As part of the national community aspect of the event, a pre and post show component will be broadcast live from Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall to all the participating theaters. The pre show portion will include an introduction by the writers, as well as appearances from special guests to be announced. The post-show will consist of a Q&A in which questions will be taken from audience members in theaters around the country.

(more)

“All of us at Emerson College are excited to have the opportunity to participate in this dynamic event,” said Grafton Nunes, Emerson College’s dean of the School of the Arts. “Matthew’s legacy reminds us how much work remains before we can achieve social justice, tolerance, and equal rights for gay, lesbian, and transgendered people in our society.”

“This is an important event for Boston, our nation, and the world,” said Melia Bensussen, Emerson College’s chair of the Department of Performing Arts. “Performing arts can tell stories in ways that change lives and thinking. Matthew’s tragic story is certainly one that should be shared with the next generation.”

In tandem with the premiere, an online interactive community at community.laramieproject.org/ will be launched where participants can blog, upload video and photos and share their stories about the play, experiences in preparing and presenting the Epilogue in their communities. The members of Tectonic Theater Project will be active participants in the online community, offering participants feedback and encouragement.

TICKETING INFORMATION

Free tickets for *The Laramie Project 10 Years Later* can be ordered starting September 29 from Telecharge at 800-233-3123 or online at BroadwayOffers.com. You can also get tickets at the Cutler Majestic Theater Box Office, 219 Tremont Street, Boston.

About Celebrity Series of Boston

Celebrity Series of Boston is New England's leading presenter of music, dance, and the performing arts from around the world. Founded in 1938, the Series incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in 1989. Each year, the Celebrity Series brings to Boston's major concert halls performances by instrumental and vocal soloists, symphony orchestras, chamber ensembles, dance companies, jazz and popular music performers, folk and ethnic performance groups, and other performing artists. The Celebrity Series' Arts, Education and Community Program was initiated in 1984. The program reaches thousands of students annually in Boston area schools and communities. The program includes the award-winning AileyCamp Boston, a six-week summer dance program for Boston middle school students, and ACT 2, an after-school initiative for former participants of AileyCamp Boston. For more information on Celebrity Series of Boston, call (617) 482-2595 or visit us online at www.celebrityseries.org.

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