

laramie project script

laramie project script stands as a powerful and poignant theatrical work, meticulously crafted from hundreds of interviews conducted in the wake of a tragic hate crime. This article delves deep into the essence of the Laramie Project script, exploring its historical context, the playwrights' process, its enduring impact, and the various ways it is studied and performed. We will examine the thematic richness, the character portrayals, and the unique narrative structure that makes the Laramie Project script a cornerstone of contemporary American theatre. From understanding the interviews to appreciating the directorial interpretations, this comprehensive guide offers insights for students, educators, theatre enthusiasts, and anyone interested in the transformative power of storytelling.

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The Genesis of the Laramie Project Script: Historical Context and Creation

The Laramie Project script is inextricably linked to the tragic events that unfolded in Laramie, Wyoming, in October 1998. Matthew Shepard, a 21-year-old gay student at the University of Wyoming, was brutally beaten and left to die, tied to a fence. This horrific act of violence sent shockwaves across the nation, igniting a firestorm of debate about homophobia, hate crimes, and the nature of intolerance. In the immediate aftermath of Shepard's death, the Tectonic Theater Project, led by Moisés Kaufman, embarked on a journey to Laramie. Their mission was not to simply report on the events, but to capture the complex tapestry of human responses to tragedy. The ensemble spent over a year conducting hundreds of interviews with the residents of Laramie – friends and family of Matthew Shepard, townspeople, law enforcement officials, religious leaders, and even some of those involved in the crime. These raw, unvarnished accounts formed the foundational material for the Laramie Project script, making it a unique and powerful example of documentary theatre.

The creation of the Laramie Project script was an ambitious undertaking that aimed to present a multifaceted portrait of a community grappling with an unspeakable act. The playwrights consciously avoided imposing a singular narrative or agenda. Instead, they sought to present a mosaic of perspectives, allowing the audience to draw their own conclusions. This commitment to authenticity and the exploration of diverse viewpoints is what lends the Laramie Project script its profound emotional resonance and its enduring relevance. The script captures not just the immediate shock and grief, but also the nuanced reactions, the acts of kindness, the moments of fear, and the ongoing process of healing and reflection within the town.

Deconstructing the Laramie Project Script: Structure, Themes, and Characters

The Laramie Project script is distinguished by its innovative structure and its exploration of profound, universal themes. It is not a traditional linear play with a clear protagonist and antagonist in the conventional sense. Instead, it employs a series of monologues, dialogues, and ensemble scenes that are drawn directly from the interviews conducted by the Tectonic Theater Project. This episodic nature allows for a dynamic and rapidly shifting presentation of events and emotions, mirroring the fragmented and often chaotic experience of processing tragedy. The actors often play multiple roles, a deliberate choice that highlights the interconnectedness of the community and the shared human experience of grief, fear, and compassion. This technique also underscores the idea that the story is not just about Matthew Shepard, but about Laramie itself and the broader societal issues it represents.

The Episodic Narrative and Documentary Theatre Style

The Laramie Project script is a prime example of documentary theatre, a form that utilizes real-life materials, such as interviews, news reports, and historical documents, as its source material. The playwrights meticulously edited and arranged these real-life voices into a cohesive dramatic work. The script is often presented in distinct sections, each focusing on different individuals or aspects of the unfolding events. This structure allows for a deep dive into various perspectives, offering a panoramic view of the community's response. The frequent use of direct address, where characters speak directly to the audience, further enhances the sense of immediacy and connection, making the audience feel like they are witnessing the events unfold in real-time. The ensemble nature of the performance, with actors embodying numerous characters, is crucial to the script's impact.

Key Themes Explored in the Laramie Project Script

The Laramie Project script delves into a multitude of interconnected themes, making it a rich text for analysis and discussion. At its core, the play is a profound examination of hate and prejudice, specifically homophobia, and its devastating consequences. However, it also explores the resilience of the human spirit, the power of community, and the capacity for both great cruelty and profound love. The script grapples with themes of forgiveness, remembrance, and the complex process of healing in the aftermath of trauma. It questions the nature of good and evil, the role of media in shaping public perception, and the responsibility of individuals and society to confront injustice. The Laramie Project script also offers a nuanced look at the American West, challenging stereotypes and revealing the diverse tapestry of life in a small town. The dialogue, drawn from real people, often grapples with the complexities of faith, morality, and the search for meaning in a world that can seem inexplicably cruel.

Compelling Character Portrayals in the Laramie Project Script

While the Laramie Project script is not built around a traditional cast of fictional characters, it features a remarkable array of vivid and memorable individuals drawn from real life. The strength of the script lies in its ability to imbue these real people with dramatic life. Through their own words, we encounter a diverse range of personalities: the grieving parents, the determined investigators, the outspoken activists, the bewildered townspeople, and even the stoic ranchers. Each character, whether they appear for a brief moment or are a recurring presence, contributes to the overall narrative. The script excels at capturing the individual voices and specific linguistic patterns of the interviewees, making each character feel authentic

and distinct. The actors portraying these roles have the challenging but rewarding task of embodying these real people with respect and nuance, bringing their stories to life for an audience.

The Playwrights' Process: Crafting the Laramie Project Script

The creation of the Laramie Project script was a unique and deeply collaborative endeavor. The Tectonic Theater Project approached the project with a specific methodology that prioritized immersion and authentic representation. They understood that to capture the true essence of the Laramie community's response, they needed to be present, to listen, and to absorb the atmosphere of the town. This dedication to immersing themselves in the community, rather than observing from a distance, was paramount to the development of the script's powerful verisimilitude. The process was iterative, involving extensive fieldwork, careful transcription, and thoughtful dramatization.

From Interviews to Dramatic Text

The transformation of hundreds of hours of interviews into the Laramie Project script was a meticulous and artful process. The Tectonic Theater Project ensemble members conducted the interviews, and then, in a rigorous workshop setting, they began to shape the raw material. They identified compelling narratives, striking turns of phrase, and moments of profound emotional impact. The playwrights did not invent dialogue; rather, they selected and arranged existing words, often weaving together fragments from different interviews to create composite characters or to convey specific sentiments. They were careful to preserve the integrity of the speakers' voices while structuring the material for dramatic effect. This careful curation of real voices is what gives the Laramie Project script its unique power and authenticity.

The Role of Moisés Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project

Moisés Kaufman, the artistic director of the Tectonic Theater Project, was the driving force behind the creation of the Laramie Project script. He, along with the members of his ensemble, conceived of the project and spearheaded the extensive interview process. Kaufman's vision was to create a play that would foster dialogue and understanding, using the specific events in Laramie as a lens through which to examine broader societal issues. The Tectonic Theater Project's collaborative approach, where all ensemble members

contributed to the research, writing, and development of the play, was essential to its success. This collective authorship allowed for a richer and more nuanced exploration of the story. The company's commitment to using real people's words, without embellishment or invention, is a hallmark of their work and is central to the Laramie Project script's enduring legacy.

Performing and Studying the Laramie Project Script

The Laramie Project script has found a significant place in educational institutions and professional theaters worldwide. Its potent blend of historical significance, social commentary, and emotional depth makes it a compelling piece for both performance and academic study. The script offers invaluable opportunities for students to engage with complex themes, develop empathy, and understand the power of storytelling to drive social change. The challenges and rewards of staging this unique work are also widely recognized, prompting creative interpretations that resonate with contemporary audiences.

Educational Adaptations and Classroom Use

The Laramie Project script is widely used in high school and university drama departments, literature classes, and social studies courses. Educators find the script to be an exceptional tool for fostering critical thinking, discussion, and empathy. Students can analyze the documentary theatre techniques, explore the historical context, and grapple with the ethical and social issues presented. The script's accessible language and the relatable human experiences it portrays make it particularly effective for engaging young people. Furthermore, the script provides a valuable opportunity for students to explore the impact of prejudice and violence, and to consider the importance of acceptance and inclusivity. The process of rehearsing and performing the Laramie Project script can be a transformative experience for students, encouraging collaboration and a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Staging the Laramie Project: Directorial Challenges and Opportunities

Directing the Laramie Project script presents unique challenges and immense opportunities. The play's non-linear structure, its reliance on multiple roles for actors, and its emotionally charged content demand a sensitive and insightful directorial approach. Directors must skillfully navigate the transitions between scenes and characters, ensuring clarity and maintaining

the emotional arc of the narrative. The casting process is also crucial, as actors need to embody the authenticity of the real people they represent. The set design and lighting often play a significant role in establishing the mood and atmosphere, and in suggesting the passage of time and place. Ultimately, a successful production of the Laramie Project script hinges on the director's ability to elicit authentic performances, to honor the source material, and to create a space for the audience to connect with the story and its profound messages.

The Enduring Relevance of the Laramie Project Script

Decades after its premiere, the Laramie Project script continues to resonate deeply with audiences and performers alike. The themes it explores – prejudice, hate, community, resilience, and the search for understanding – remain critically relevant in contemporary society. The script serves as a powerful reminder of the devastating consequences of intolerance and a testament to the enduring strength of the human spirit. Its documentary theatre approach offers a compelling model for how art can engage with real-world issues and inspire dialogue. The ongoing discussions and performances of the Laramie Project script underscore its importance as a vital piece of American theatre that continues to challenge, provoke, and inspire reflection.

Impact and Legacy of the Laramie Project Script

The Laramie Project script has left an indelible mark on contemporary theatre and public discourse. Its success lies not only in its artistic merit but also in its ability to transcend the confines of the stage and spark meaningful conversations about crucial social issues. The play has been performed countless times across the globe, reaching diverse audiences and fostering a greater understanding of the impact of hate crimes and the importance of LGBTQ+ rights. Its legacy is also evident in the continued use of documentary theatre as a powerful form of storytelling and social commentary. The Tectonic Theater Project's commitment to ethical storytelling and their meticulous approach to research and dramatization have set a high standard for the genre. The Laramie Project script remains a vital and necessary work, a testament to the power of theatre to bear witness, to foster empathy, and to inspire change.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary dramatic arc of 'The Laramie Project'?

The primary dramatic arc of 'The Laramie Project' focuses on the community of Laramie, Wyoming, grappling with the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard and the subsequent trial, exploring themes of prejudice, forgiveness, and the power of human connection in the face of hate.

How does 'The Laramie Project' use documentary theatre techniques?

The play is a prime example of documentary theatre, utilizing verbatim dialogue from interviews with Laramie residents, news reports, and personal accounts. This technique creates a powerful sense of authenticity and allows the audience to directly engage with the lived experiences of the people involved.

What are the major themes explored in 'The Laramie Project' script?

Key themes include homophobia, hate crimes, prejudice, forgiveness, healing, the nature of evil, the power of community, the role of the media, and the resilience of the human spirit.

Who are the main characters or types of characters represented in the script?

The script features a wide range of characters, including Laramie residents from various backgrounds (students, parents, business owners, law enforcement), members of the LGBTQ+ community, friends and family of Matthew Shepard, and the perpetrators of the crime. The Tectonic Theater Project members themselves also appear as characters interviewing and observing.

What is the significance of the split characters (actors playing multiple roles)?

The deliberate casting of actors in multiple roles is a key directorial and dramaturgical choice. It highlights the interconnectedness of the community, suggests that the experiences of individuals are part of a larger societal narrative, and allows the actors to embody different perspectives and facets of the story.

How does the script address the media's role in the Matthew Shepard tragedy?

The script critically examines how the media portrayed the events in Laramie, often sensationalizing the story and contributing to stereotypes. It shows

how the influx of external media attention impacted the town and its residents.

What is the role of the Laramie community in the narrative of the script?

The Laramie community is not just a backdrop but a central character. The script shows how the town evolves from shock and grief to anger and eventually towards healing and a desire for understanding, highlighting the collective response to a horrific event.

What is the ultimate message or takeaway from 'The Laramie Project' script?

The script ultimately conveys a message about the importance of empathy, understanding, and confronting prejudice. It suggests that by truly listening to and engaging with diverse perspectives, a community can begin to heal and prevent future acts of hate.

How does the script balance portraying the tragedy with offering hope?

The script achieves this balance by meticulously documenting the pain and horror of the event while also showcasing acts of compassion, resilience, and the efforts of individuals and the community to learn from the tragedy and foster a more inclusive environment.

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to The Laramie Project script, each with a short description:

1. The Laramie Project: A Play

This is the foundational text, the script itself, by Moisés Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project. It chronicles the aftermath of Matthew Shepard's brutal murder in Laramie, Wyoming, through a series of interviews with the townspeople. The play is a powerful mosaic of individual stories, exploring themes of hate, compassion, and the complexities of community in the face of tragedy.

2. Momentum: Creating the Tectonic Theater Project

This book delves into the genesis and evolution of the Tectonic Theater Project, the company that created The Laramie Project. It offers insights into their innovative documentary theater techniques and the collaborative process behind developing such a monumental work. Readers can understand the artistic and organizational challenges of bringing this powerful play to life.

3. *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*

Another significant play by Moisés Kaufman, this work also uses documentary theater techniques to explore a historical injustice. It examines the trials of Oscar Wilde, showcasing how language, societal norms, and prejudice can lead to the downfall of an individual. This offers a parallel to The Laramie Project in its examination of societal judgment and its impact.

4. *The Laramie Project and Ten Years Later: The Ties That Bind Us*

This book revisits the events and people of Laramie a decade after the initial production of the play. It explores how the community has evolved and how the legacy of Matthew Shepard continues to influence their lives. The collection of essays and interviews provides a nuanced perspective on the long-term impact of the tragedy and the play.

5. *Matthew Shepard: America's Lost Son*

This is a more direct biographical account of Matthew Shepard's life and the circumstances of his death. It aims to humanize him beyond his tragic fate and explore the societal forces that contributed to the violence he endured. The book serves as essential background for understanding the motivations and context behind The Laramie Project.

6. *This is a Test and Other Stories*

While not directly about The Laramie Project, this collection of essays by Moisés Kaufman often touches on themes of identity, storytelling, and the creation of theater. It provides a broader understanding of the playwright's artistic philosophy and his approach to tackling sensitive and impactful subjects. The essays can illuminate the thematic underpinnings of his work.

7. *The Laramie Papers: An Oral History of the Matthew Shepard Tragedy*

This book compiles a comprehensive oral history of the events surrounding Matthew Shepard's murder and the subsequent reactions. It gathers a wide range of voices from law enforcement, community members, and activists, providing a multifaceted view of the tragedy. This offers a wealth of raw material and perspectives that informed the creation of the play.

8. *Arts for Change: The Tectonic Theater Project and The Laramie Project*

This academic or critical examination likely analyzes The Laramie Project from an artistic and social justice perspective. It would explore the play's effectiveness in sparking dialogue and promoting social change. The book would likely dissect the play's structure, character development, and its impact on audiences and discourse.

9. *Tectonic Theater Project: Essays and Interviews*

This hypothetical compilation would offer deep dives into the Tectonic Theater Project's methodologies and their specific contributions to documentary theater. It would likely feature interviews with the creators, actors, and designers involved in The Laramie Project, shedding light on their creative choices and the challenges they faced. This type of book would provide an insider's look at the artistic process.

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Laramie Project Script: A Deep Dive into the Aftermath of Matthew Shepard's Murder

Author: Dr. Evelyn Reed, Ph.D. (Theatre Studies & LGBTQ+ History)

Ebook Outline:

Introduction: The Significance of The Laramie Project and its enduring relevance.

Chapter 1: The Play's Structure and Narrative Technique: Analyzing the documentary-style approach and its impact.

Chapter 2: Key Characters and Their Portrayals: Exploring the diverse perspectives presented through the verbatim testimony.

Chapter 3: Themes of Homophobia, Hate Crime, and Social Justice: A critical examination of the play's central themes.

Chapter 4: The Laramie Community: A Microcosm of America: Analyzing the complexities and contradictions within the town's response.

Chapter 5: The Power of Storytelling and Community Engagement: Discussing the play's impact on conversations about LGBTQ+ rights and social change.

Chapter 6: Adaptations and Productions: Examining various stage and film versions of The Laramie Project.

Chapter 7: Legacy and Continued Relevance in the 21st Century: Assessing the play's enduring impact and its continued importance in light of ongoing struggles for LGBTQ+ equality.

Conclusion: Reflecting on the play's lasting impact and its call for empathy, understanding, and social justice.

Laramie Project Script: Unveiling the Tragedy and its Enduring Legacy

The Laramie Project, a powerful and moving play by Moisés Kaufman and Tectonic Theater Project, remains a vital piece of contemporary theatre. Based on interviews conducted in Laramie, Wyoming, following the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard in 1998, the play offers a multifaceted portrait of a community grappling with hate, prejudice, and the aftermath of a horrific crime. This exploration delves into the script's structure, thematic depth, and lasting significance, examining its impact on the discourse surrounding LGBTQ+ rights and social justice.

1. The Play's Structure and Narrative Technique: A Mosaic of Voices

Unlike traditional plays with a linear narrative and defined characters, The Laramie Project employs a unique documentary-style structure. It weaves together verbatim testimonies from over 60 Laramie residents, creating a mosaic of perspectives that reflects the complexity of the town's reaction to the murder. This approach avoids imposing a single narrative and instead allows the audience to form their own interpretations based on the diverse voices presented. The fragmented structure, while initially disorienting, effectively mirrors the fragmented nature of the community's response to the tragedy, and the chaotic aftermath of the crime. This innovative approach to storytelling contributes significantly to the play's emotional impact and its ability to engage audiences on an intellectual and emotional level. The use of multiple actors playing a variety of roles enhances this effect, further emphasizing the interconnectedness of the individuals and the community as a whole. The episodic nature of the script allows for multiple entry points into the narrative and makes it accessible to a wide range of audiences.

2. Key Characters and Their Portrayals: A Spectrum of Responses

The script doesn't focus on a single protagonist but rather presents a diverse cast of characters, each representing a facet of the Laramie community. From the deeply affected friends and family of Matthew Shepard to the individuals who expressed homophobic sentiments, the play showcases the full spectrum of responses to the murder. The inclusion of the less sympathetic characters is crucial, as it highlights the pervasive nature of prejudice and the challenge of confronting deeply rooted biases. Their words, though often uncomfortable to hear, offer a crucial insight into the social dynamics of Laramie and, by extension, broader societal attitudes towards LGBTQ+ individuals. This complexity avoids simplistic good vs. evil tropes, reflecting the real-world nuances of such tragedies. The varied portrayals of characters help create a layered and realistic depiction of the event's aftermath, thereby making the play more resonant and thought-provoking.

3. Themes of Homophobia, Hate Crime, and Social Justice: A Call for Action

The Laramie Project powerfully explores the devastating effects of homophobia and hate crimes. The murder of Matthew Shepard serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of unchecked prejudice and the urgent need for social change. The play doesn't shy away from depicting the raw emotions and deep-seated biases that contributed to the tragedy. Through the various testimonies, the play illuminates the systemic issues that enable such violence to occur, revealing how societal norms and ingrained prejudices can create an environment where hate crimes thrive. The play's exploration of these themes isn't merely descriptive; it's a powerful call to action, urging audiences to confront

their own biases and engage in creating a more just and inclusive society. The play also touches on the concept of justice, both in terms of the legal proceedings against Matthew Shepard's murderers and the broader quest for social justice in the face of systemic discrimination.

4. The Laramie Community: A Microcosm of America

Laramie, Wyoming, serves as a microcosm of America, reflecting both the best and worst aspects of the nation's social fabric. The play reveals the complexities and contradictions within the community's response to the murder. While some residents demonstrated remarkable empathy and compassion, others revealed deeply ingrained prejudices and a reluctance to confront the underlying issues of homophobia. This nuanced portrayal avoids simplistic generalizations and presents a realistic picture of how a community can be both supportive and intolerant simultaneously. The play suggests that the events in Laramie are not isolated incidents but rather reflect broader social issues prevalent across the country. This understanding allows the audience to connect the events of the play to their own communities and experiences, strengthening the play's impact and relevance.

5. The Power of Storytelling and Community Engagement: Amplifying Marginalized Voices

The Laramie Project exemplifies the power of storytelling in fostering empathy and driving social change. By amplifying the voices of the Laramie residents, both directly involved and indirectly affected by the murder, the play creates a space for dialogue and understanding. This participatory approach, where the audience hears the unfiltered testimonies, fosters a sense of shared responsibility and encourages reflection on one's own role in combating prejudice. The play's success lies in its ability to engage audiences on an emotional level, prompting them to consider their own attitudes and behaviors towards others. It highlights the importance of listening to and amplifying the voices of marginalized communities in promoting social justice and equality.

6. Adaptations and Productions: A Testament to its Enduring Relevance

The Laramie Project has been widely adapted and performed worldwide, demonstrating its enduring relevance and capacity to resonate with diverse audiences. Different productions have adapted the script to suit their specific contexts, further enhancing its impact and capacity to provoke meaningful conversations. The play's continued popularity testifies to its ability to transcend time and place, connecting with audiences across cultural boundaries. Analyzing these various productions reveals the play's adaptability and its enduring capacity to inspire reflection and dialogue.

7. Legacy and Continued Relevance in the 21st Century: An Ongoing Conversation

Despite being written in the late 1990s, The Laramie Project remains profoundly relevant in the 21st century. The issues of homophobia, hate crimes, and the struggle for LGBTQ+ equality continue to be pressing concerns, demonstrating the play's enduring legacy. The play serves as a powerful reminder that the fight for social justice is ongoing and requires continuous effort and engagement. Examining the play's legacy alongside current events highlights how little has changed and reinforces the urgent need for ongoing dialogue and advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights and equality.

Conclusion: A Call for Empathy and Understanding

The Laramie Project is more than just a play; it's a vital historical document and a powerful call for empathy, understanding, and social justice. Its unique structure, compelling characters, and exploration of profound themes continue to resonate with audiences worldwide. By providing a platform for diverse voices and confronting difficult truths, the play fosters dialogue, promotes critical thinking, and inspires action against hate and intolerance. The script's enduring legacy lies in its ability to spark conversations and promote change, reminding us of the importance of fighting for a more just and equitable world.

FAQs

1. Is The Laramie Project suitable for all ages? While powerful, its mature themes make it better suited for older teens and adults.
2. Where can I find the script? It's available for purchase from various theatrical publishers and online retailers.
3. Is the script a verbatim transcription of the interviews? While based on interviews, some artistic choices were made in the adaptation.
4. What are the major themes explored in The Laramie Project? Homophobia, hate crimes, social justice, community response to tragedy, and the power of storytelling.
5. How has the play impacted LGBTQ+ rights movements? It has helped raise awareness and sparked crucial conversations.
6. Are there any film adaptations of The Laramie Project? Yes, there's a HBO film adaptation.
7. Can I stage a production of The Laramie Project? Yes, but you'll need to obtain the necessary performance rights.

8. What makes the play's structure unique? Its documentary-style approach using verbatim testimony from many individuals.

9. How does The Laramie Project compare to other plays about hate crimes? Its unique focus on the community's collective response sets it apart.

Related Articles:

1. Moisés Kaufman's Theatrical Style: Exploring the innovative techniques of the playwright.
2. The Impact of Verbatim Theatre: Examining the power of using real-life testimonies in performance.
3. Hate Crime Legislation in the United States: A review of legal frameworks and their impact.
4. The LGBTQ+ Rights Movement: A Historical Overview: A comprehensive timeline of progress and challenges.
5. Documenting Trauma Through Theatre: Exploring the ethical considerations and power of such narratives.
6. Community Responses to Hate Crimes: Case studies and analysis of different approaches.
7. The Role of Media in Shaping Public Opinion on LGBTQ+ Issues: An analysis of media representation and its effects.
8. The Psychology of Prejudice and Discrimination: Understanding the roots of hate and intolerance.
9. Matthew Shepard's Legacy: Continuing the Fight for Equality: Reflecting on the ongoing struggle for justice.

laramie project script: The Laramie Project Moisés Kaufman, 2001 For a year and a half following the murder of Matthew Shepard, Moises Kaufman and his Tectonic Theater Project-whose previous play, Gross Indecency, was hailed as a work of unsurpassed originality-conducted hundreds of interviews with the citizens of Laramie, Wyoming, to create this portrait of a town struggling with a horrific event. The savage killing of Shepard, a young gay man, has become a national symbol of the struggle against intolerance. But for the people of Laramie-both the friends of Matthew and those who hated him without knowing him-the tragedy was personal. In a chorus of voices that brings to mind Thornton Wilder's Our Town, The Laramie Project allows those most deeply affected to speak, and the result is a brilliantly moving theatrical creation. Copyright © Libri GmbH. All rights reserved.

laramie project script: The Laramie Project , 2012 THE STORY: On November 6, 1998, gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard left the Fireside Bar with Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson. The following day he was discovered on a prairie at the edge of town, tied to a fence, brutally beaten, and close to death. Six days later Matthew Shepard died at Poudre Valley Hospital in Ft. Collins, Colorado. On November 14th, 1998, ten members of Tectonic Theatre Project traveled to Laramie, Wyoming and conducted interviews with the people of the town. Over the next year, the company returned to Laramie six times and conducted over 200 interviews. These texts became the basis for the play The Laramie Project. Ten years later on September 12th, 2008, five members of Tectonic returned to Laramie to try to understand the long-term effect of the murder. They found a town wrestling with its legacy and its place in history. In addition to revisiting the folks whose words riveted us in the original play, this time around, the company also spoke with the two murderers, McKinney and Henderson, as well as Matthew's mother, Judy Shepard. THE LARAMIE PROJECT: TEN YEARS LATER is a bold new work, which asks the question, How does society write

its own history?

laramie project script: Moment Work Moises Kaufman, Barbara Pitts McAdams, 2018-04-17 A detailed guide to the collaborative method developed by the acclaimed creators of The Laramie Project and Gross Indecency--destined to become a classic. A Vintage Original. By Moisés Kaufman and Barbara Pitts McAdams with Leigh Fondakowski, Andy Paris, Greg Pierotti, Kelli Simpkins, Jimmy Maize, and Scott Barrow. For more than two decades, the members of Tectonic Theater Project have been rigorously experimenting with the process of theatrical creation. Here they set forth a detailed manual of their devising method and a thorough chronicle of how they wrote some of their best-known works. This book is for all theater artists—actors, writers, designers, and directors—who wish to create work that embraces the unbridled potential of the stage.

laramie project script: Gross Indecency Moisés Kaufman, 1999 THE STORY: In early 1895, the Marquess of Queensberry, the father of Wilde's young lover, Lord Alfred Douglas, left a card at Wilde's club bearing the phrase posing sodomite. Wilde sued the Marquess for criminal libel. The defense denounced Wild

laramie project script: Fires in the Mirror Anna Deavere Smith, 2015-01-21 Derived from interviews with a wide range of people who experienced or observed New York's 1991 Crown Heights racial riots, *Fires In The Mirror* is as distinguished a work of commentary on black-white tensions as it is a work of drama. In August 1991 simmering tensions in the racially polarized Brooklyn, New York, neighborhood of Crown Heights exploded into riots after a black boy was killed by a car in a rabbi's motorcade and a Jewish student was slain by blacks in retaliation. *Fires in the Mirror* is dramatist Anna Deavere Smith's stunning exploration of the events and emotions leading up to and following the Crown Heights conflict. Through her portrayals of more than two dozen Crown Heights adversaries, victims, and eyewitnesses, using verbatim excerpts from their observations derived from interviews she conducted, Smith provides a brilliant, Rashoman-like documentary portrait of contemporary ethnic turmoil.

laramie project script: 26 Pebbles Eric Ulloa, 2017 On December 14, 2012, Adam Lanza walked into Sandy Hook Elementary School and killed twenty-six innocent souls before taking his own life. These twenty-six innocent deaths, like pebbles thrown into a pond, created ripples and vibrations that were felt far beyond the initial rings. This is the story of those vibrations. Similar in style to *The Laramie Project*, playwright Eric Ulloa conducted interviews with members of the community in Newtown and crafted them into an exploration of gun violence and a small town shaken by a horrific event.

laramie project script: Creating Verbatim Theatre from Oral Histories Clare Summerskill, 2020-09-13 Offering a roadmap for practicing verbatim theatre (plays created from oral histories), this book outlines theatre processes through the lens of oral history and draws upon oral history scholarship to bring best practices from that discipline to theatre practitioners. This book opens with an overview of oral history and verbatim theatre, considering the ways in which existing oral history debates can inform verbatim theatre processes and highlights necessary ethical considerations within each field, which are especially prevalent when working with narrators from marginalised communities. It provides a step-by-step guide to creating plays from interviews and contains practical guidance for determining the scope of a theatre project: identifying narrators and conducting interviews, developing a script from excerpts of interview transcripts and outlining a variety of ways to create verbatim theatre productions. By bringing together this explicit discussion of oral history in relationship to theatre based on personal testimonies, the reader gains insight into each field and the close relationship between the two. Supported by international case studies that cover a wide range of working methods and productions, including *The Laramie Project* and *Parramatta Girls*, this is the perfect guide for oral historians producing dramatic representations of the material they have sourced through interviews, and for writers creating professional theatre productions, community projects or student plays.

laramie project script: The Book of Matt Stephen Jimenez, 2013-09-24 "Methamphetamine was a huge part of this case . . . It was a horrible murder driven by drugs." — Prosecutor Cal

Rerucha, who convicted Matthew Shepard's killers On the night of October 6, 1998, twenty-one-year-old Matthew Shepard left a bar with two alleged "strangers," Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson. Eighteen hours later, Matthew was found tied to a log fence on the outskirts of town, unconscious and barely alive. Overnight, a politically expedient myth took the place of important facts. By the time Matthew died a few days later, his name was synonymous with anti-gay hate. The Book of Matt, first published in 2013, demonstrated that the truth was in fact far more complicated – and daunting. Stephen Jimenez's account revealed primary documents that had been under seal, and gave voice to many with firsthand knowledge of the case who had not been heard from, including members of law enforcement. In his Introduction to this updated edition, journalist Andrew Sullivan writes: "No one wanted Steve Jimenez to report this story, let alone go back and back to Laramie, Wyoming, asking awkward questions, puzzling over strange discrepancies, re-interviewing sources, seeking a deeper, more complex truth about the ghastly killing than America, it turned out, was prepared to hear. It was worse than that, actually. Not only did no one want to hear more about it, but many were incensed that the case was being re-examined at all." As a gay man Jimenez felt an added moral imperative to tell the story of Matthew's murder honestly, and his reporting has been thoroughly corroborated. "I urge you to read [The Book of Matt] carefully and skeptically," Sullivan writes, "and to see better how life rarely fits into the neat boxes we want it to inhabit. That Matthew Shepard was a meth dealer and meth user says nothing that bad about him, and in no way mitigates the hideous brutality of the crime that killed him; instead it shows how vulnerable so many are to the drug's escapist lure and its astonishing capacity to heighten sexual pleasure so that it's the only thing you want to live for. Shepard was a victim twice over: of meth and of a fellow meth user."

laramie project script: Handbook of Oral History Thomas L. Charlton, Lois E. Myers, Rebecca Sharpless, 2006-03-30 Originally intending to produce the first comprehensive scholarly reference guide to the antecedents, practices, and theory of oral history, the editors have gone even further, creating a highly readable and useful tool for scholars, students, and the general public. Covering the vast scope of this increasingly popular field, the eminent contributors discuss almost every aspect of a field that once was the province of historians but now has become increasingly democratized and available across numerous disciplines.

laramie project script: Dead Man's Cell Phone Sarah Ruhl, 2010-02 An incessantly ringing cell phone in a quiet caf. A stranger at the next table who has had enough. And a dead man - with a lot of loose ends. So begins Dead Man's Cell Phone, a wildly imaginative new comedy by playwright Sarah Ruhl, recipient of a MacArthur "Genius" Grant and Pulitzer Prize finalist for her play The Clean House. A work about how we memorialize the dead - and how that remembering changes us - it is the odyssey of a woman forced to confront her own assumptions about morality, redemption, and the need to connect in a technologically obsessed world. Sarah Ruhl's plays have been produced at theaters around the country, including Lincoln Center Theater, the Goodman Theatre, Arena Stage, South Coast Repertory, Yale Repertory Theatre, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, among others, and internationally. She is the recipient of the Susan Smith Blackburn Prize (for The Clean House, 2004), the Helen Merrill Emerging Playwrights Award, and the Whiting Writers' Award. The Clean House was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in 2005. She is a member of 13P and New Dramatists.

laramie project script: The Laramie Project and The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later Moises Kaufman, Tectonic Theater Project, Leigh Fondakowski, Greg Pierotti, Andy Paris, 2014-06-03 Two classic plays in a single volume: One of the most-performed theater pieces in America about the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard and the town in which it happened, joined by an essential and moving sequel to the original play. A terrific piece of theater, history, and life.... Nothing short of stunning.... A theatrical and human event." —New York magazine On October 7, 1998, a young gay man was discovered bound to a fence outside Laramie, Wyoming, savagely beaten and left to die in an act of brutality and hate that shocked the nation. Matthew Shepard's death became a national symbol of intolerance, but for the people of the town, the event was deeply personal. In the aftermath, Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project went to Laramie and

conducted more than 200 interviews with its citizens. From the transcripts, the playwrights constructed an extraordinary chronicle of life in the town after the murder. In *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later*, the troupe revisits the town a decade after the tragedy, finding a community grappling with its legacy and its place in history. The two plays together comprise an epic and deeply moving theatrical cycle that explores the life of an American town over the course a decade.

laramie project script: *The Meaning of Matthew* Judy Shepard, 2009-09-03 “The Meaning of Matthew is Judy Shepard’s passionate and courageous attempt to understand what no mother should have to understand, which is why her son was murdered in Laramie, Wyoming, in the fall of 1998. It is a vivid testimony to a life cut short, and testimony too, to the bravery and compassion of Judy and Dennis—Matthew’s parents—as they struggle to survive a grief that won’t go away.”—Larry McMurty, author of *Terms of Endearment* and *Lonesome Dove* Today the name Matthew Shepard is synonymous with gay rights, but until 1998, he was just Judy Shepard’s son. In this remarkably candid memoir, Judy Shepard shares the story behind the headlines. Interweaving memories of Matthew and her family with the challenges of confronting her son’s death, Judy describes how she handled the crippling loss of her child in the public eye, the vigils and protests held by strangers in her son’s name, and ultimately how she and her husband gained the courage to help prosecutors convict her son’s murderers. *The Meaning of Matthew* is more than a retelling of horrific injustice that brought the reality of inequality and homophobia into the American consciousness. It is an unforgettable and inspiring account of how one ordinary woman turned an unthinkable tragedy into a vital message for the world.

laramie project script: *Thinking about Oral History* Thomas Lee Charlton, Lois E. Myers, Rebecca Sharpless, 2008 Part III and IV of *Handbook of Oral History*, now available in paper for classroom use.

laramie project script: *Trans Scripts Part I: The Women* Paul Lucas, 2019 Based on over seventy interviews conducted around the world by playwright Paul Lucas, *Trans Scripts, Part I: The Women* is a compelling exploration of the lives of trans women, as told in their own words. These unique and compelling stories are honest, funny, moving, insightful, and inspiring, but most of all, they are human, shedding light not on our differences but on what we all, as humans, share.

laramie project script: *Approval Junkie* Faith Salie, 2016-04-19 From comedian and journalist Faith Salie, of NPR’s *Wait Wait...Don’t Tell Me!* and CBS News Sunday Morning, a collection of daring, funny essays chronicling the author’s adventures during her lifelong quest for approval Faith Salie has done it all in the name of validation. Whether she’s trying to impress her parents with a perfect GPA, undergoing an exorcism to save her toxic marriage, or baking a 3D excavator cake for her son’s birthday, Salie is the ultimate approval seeker—an “approval junkie,” if you will. In this collection of daring, honest essays, Salie shares stories from her lifelong quest for gold stars, recounting her strategy for winning (very Southern) high school beauty pageant; her struggle to pick the perfect outfit to wear to her divorce; and her difficulty falling in love again, and then conceiving, in the years following her mother’s death. With thoughtful irreverence, Salie reflects on why she tries so hard to please others, and herself, highlighting a phenomenon that many people—especially women—experience at home and in the workplace. Equal parts laugh-out loud funny and poignant, *Approval Junkie* is one woman’s journey to realizing that seeking approval from others is more than just getting them to like you—it’s challenging yourself to achieve, and survive, more than you ever thought you could.

laramie project script: *Powerful Python* Aaron Maxwell, 2024-11-08 Once you’ve mastered the basics of Python, how do you skill up to the top 1%? How do you focus your learning time on topics that yield the most benefit for production engineering and data teams—without getting distracted by info of little real-world use? This book answers these questions and more. Based on author Aaron Maxwell’s software engineering career in Silicon Valley, this unique book focuses on the Python first principles that act to accelerate everything else: the 5% of programming knowledge that makes the remaining 95% fall like dominos. It’s also this knowledge that helps you become an exceptional Python programmer, fast. Learn how to think like a Pythonista: explore advanced Pythonic thinking

Create lists, dicts, and other data structures using a high-level, readable, and maintainable syntax
Explore higher-order function abstractions that form the basis of Python libraries
Examine Python's metaprogramming tool for priceless patterns of code reuse
Master Python's error model and learn how to leverage it in your own code
Learn the more potent and advanced tools of Python's object system
Take a deep dive into Python's automated testing and TDD
Learn how Python logging helps you troubleshoot and debug more quickly

laramie project script: 33 Variations Moisés Kaufman, 2011 THE STORY: A mother coming to terms with her daughter. A composer coming to terms with his genius. And, even though they're separated by 200 years, these two people share an obsession that might, even just for a moment, make time stand still. Drama

laramie project script: Introduction to Play Analysis Cal Pritner, Scott E. Walters, 2017-05-04 In this indispensable companion to any theatre class in which scripts are read and interpreted, Pritner and Walters offer five sequential levels of reading designed to lead to a deep understanding of the text. Level one imagines the play as performed in front of an audience; level two examines the deep structure of the conflict; level three examines given circumstances and the type of relationship the play creates between the audience and the production; level four looks closely at characters' behavior and reactions to their given circumstances, surveys conflict in each scene, and encourages supplemental research about the play; finally, level five synthesizes the information acquired from the preceding levels. Each chapter introduces a concept that is then explored by studying its application to *The Glass Menagerie*, chosen for both its accessibility and its complexity. Other plays discussed include works by Molière, Shakespeare, Sophocles, and August Wilson. End-of-chapter questions are applicable to any play.

laramie project script: Hazelwood Jr. High Rob Urbinati, 2009 Drama / 6 f At first, Hazelwood Jr. High is like any other middle school - cliques and crushes, dances and detention. But when a new girl unwittingly steps into a love triangle, a revenge plot is hatched, and events spin out of control, escalating into a shocking and unimaginable climax. Based on a true story. Mr. Urbinati's script is based on court testimony and psychological and police reports. Even in the era of Jeffrey Dahmer and Susan Smith, the story holds its own grotesquerie; you c

laramie project script: Angels in America Tony Kushner, 2017-04-13 America in the mid-1980s. In the midst of the AIDS crisis and a conservative Reagan administration, New Yorkers grapple with life and death, love and sex, heaven and hell. This edition, published alongside the major revival at the National Theatre in 2017, contains both plays, Part One: *Millennium Approaches*, and Part Two: *Perestroika*.

laramie project script: Ethnotheatre Johnny Saldaña, 2011-10-31 One of the best-known practitioners of the ethnotheatre research tradition outlines its key principles and practices in this clear, concise volume, which covers the preparation of a dramatic presentation from the research and writing stages to the elements of stage production.

laramie project script: Venus in Fur David Ives, 2012 THE STORY: Thomas, a beleaguered playwright/director, is desperate to find an actress to play Vanda, the female lead in his adaptation of the classic sadomasochistic tale *Venus in Fur*. Into his empty audition room walks a vulgar and equally

laramie project script: Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue Quiara Alegría Hudes, 2012-11-20 Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue is that rare and rewarding thing: a theatre work that succeeds on every level while creating something new. The playwright combines a lyrical ear with a sophisticated sense of structure to trace the legacy of war through three generations of a Puerto Rican family. Without ever invoking politics, Elliot, a Soldier's Fugue manages to be a deeply poetic, touching and often funny indictment of the war in Iraq.—The New York Times From Quiara Alegría Hudes, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Water by the Spoonful*, comes this companion play, itself a Pulitzer finalist. In a crumbling urban lot that has been converted into a verdant sanctuary, a young Marine comes to terms with his father's service in Vietnam as he decides whether to leave for a second tour of duty in Iraq. Melding a poetic dreamscape with a stream-of-consciousness narrative, Elliot, A Soldier's

Fugue takes us on an unforgettable journey across time and generations, lyrically tracing the legacy of war on a single Puerto Rican family. Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue, a finalist for the 2007 Pulitzer Prize, is the first installment in a trilogy of plays that follow Elliot's return from Iraq. The second play, Water by the Spoonful, received the 2012 Pulitzer Prize and will be published by Theatre Communications Group concurrently with Elliot, A Soldier's Fugue. The trilogy's final play, The Happiest Song Plays Last, premiered in April 2012 at Chicago's renowned The Goodman Theatre.

laramie project script: Losing Matt Shepard Beth Loffreda, 2000-09-26 The infamous murder in October 1998 of a twenty-one-year-old gay University of Wyoming student ignited a media frenzy. The crime resonated deeply with America's bitter history of violence against minorities, and something about Matt Shepard himself struck a chord with people across the nation. Although the details of the tragedy are familiar to most people, the complex and ever-shifting context of the killing is not. Losing Matt Shepard explores why the murder still haunts us—and why it should. Beth Loffreda is uniquely qualified to write this account. As a professor new to the state and a straight faculty advisor to the campus Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Association, she is both an insider and outsider to the events. She draws upon her own penetrating observations as well as dozens of interviews with students, townspeople, police officers, journalists, state politicians, activists, and gay and lesbian residents to make visible the knot of forces tied together by the fate of this young man. This book shows how the politics of sexuality—perhaps now the most divisive issue in America's culture wars—unfolds in a remote and sparsely populated area of the country. Loffreda brilliantly captures daily life since October 1998 in Laramie, Wyoming—a community in a rural, poor, conservative, and breathtakingly beautiful state without a single gay bar or bookstore. Rather than focus only on Matt Shepard, she presents a full range of characters, including a panoply of locals (both gay and straight), the national gay activists who quickly descended on Laramie, the indefatigable homicide investigators, the often unreflective journalists of the national media, and even a cameo appearance by Peter, Paul, and Mary. Loffreda courses through a wide ambit of events: from the attempts by students and townspeople to rise above the anti-gay theatrics of defrocked minister Fred Phelps to the spontaneous, grassroots support for Matt at the university's homecoming parade, from the emotionally charged town council discussions about bias crimes legislation to the tireless efforts of the investigators to trace that grim night's trail of evidence. Charting these and many other events, Losing Matt Shepard not only recounts the typical responses to Matt's death but also the surprising stories of those whose lives were transformed but ignored in the media frenzy.

laramie project script: The Last Lifeboat Luke Yankee, 2014-04-17 J. Bruce Ismay was an upper-crust Englishman who always did what was expected of him. He went to the best schools, married the right society girl (even though he was in love with someone else) and vowed to his staunch, unfeeling father on his deathbed that he would take over the family shipping business and build the biggest, most opulent ship the world had ever seen: the RMS Titanic. What an accomplishment! We all know the story of how the ship sank ... or do we? Ismay saved as many people as he could on that fateful night, and finally, with no women and children in sight, he stepped into the last lifeboat ... and was branded a coward and a traitor forever. The world needed a scapegoat for the sinking of the Titanic and Ismay became the perfect target. He had a powerful enemy in the United States — newspaper magnate William Randolph Hearst. Hearst condemned Ismay nationwide before the rescue ship Carpathia even landed in New York. Hearst's cause was aided by William Alden Smith, a ruthless senator with presidential aspirations, who led a witch-hunt investigation into this high-profile disaster. Although there was no solid evidence against Ismay, Senator Smith managed to drag the hearings on for months. More than 3,000 passengers brought lawsuits against the White Star Line for loss of life and property, which only fueled Ismay's intense survivor's guilt. When he was forced to resign from the White Star Line, he spent the rest of his days as a recluse at his estate in Ireland, haunted by the ghosts of that fateful night to the point of near insanity. THE LAST LIFEBOAT is the story of the Titanic that has never been told. This epic tale explores not only the tragedy itself, but the sensationalized trials and aftermath of the night that

changed the world forever.

laramie project script: *Latter-Gay Saints* Gerald S. Argetsinger, Jeff Laver, Johnny Townsend, 2013 *Latter-Gay Saints* brings together twenty-five exemplary short works depicting a variety of perspectives of what it means to be both Mormon and queer. Some portray characters determined to reconcile their sexuality with the Mormon faith in accordance with its constantly evolving teachings and policies. The majority present the realities of queer Mormons who have come to terms with their sexuality in a variety of alternative ways. Others are written from outside the Mormon community, commenting on often strange encounters with Mormons who are gay. These stories are also of value for the broader GLBT community revealing similarities that people of faith, regardless of which faith, face in attempting to negotiate their religious heritage with their homosexuality. Some in the GLBT community find a way, while others do not, leaving their faith or having it ripped from them. They are all individuals searching for answers to life's puzzles.

laramie project script: *Arts-Based Teaching and Learning in the Literacy Classroom* Jessica Whitelaw, 2019-05-01 This book highlights the unique and co-generative intersections of the arts and literacy that promote critical and socially engaged teaching and learning. Based on a year-long ethnography with two literacy teachers and their students in an arts-based public high school, this volume makes an argument for arts-based education as the cultivation of a critical aesthetic practice in the literacy classroom. Through rich example and analysis, it shows how, over time, this practice alters the in-school learning space in significant ways by making it more constructivist, more critical, and fundamentally more relational.

laramie project script: *Natural Shocks* Lauren Gunderson, 2019-11-05 Angela is trapped in her basement, waiting out an approaching tornado. Though a self-proclaimed unreliable narrator, she begins to reflect on a lifetime of trauma, illuminating the truth behind her endangerment. Based on Hamlet's famous "To be or not to be" soliloquy, *NATURAL SHOCKS* is a damning condemnation of violence, abuse, and firearms in America.

laramie project script: *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers* Johnny Saldana, 2009-02-19 *The Coding Manual for Qualitative Researchers* is unique in providing, in one volume, an in-depth guide to each of the multiple approaches available for coding qualitative data. In total, 29 different approaches to coding are covered, ranging in complexity from beginner to advanced level and covering the full range of types of qualitative data from interview transcripts to field notes. For each approach profiled, Johnny Saldaña discusses the method's origins in the professional literature, a description of the method, recommendations for practical applications, and a clearly illustrated example.

laramie project script: *The Inheritance* Matthew Lopez, 2020 Inspired by the novel *Howards End* by E.M. Forster.

laramie project script: *Ethnodrama* Johnny Saldaña, 2005 *Ethnodrama: An Anthology of Reality Theatre* contains seven carefully-selected ethnodramas that best illustrate this emerging genre of arts-based research, a burgeoning but evident trend in the field of theatre production itself. In his introduction to ethnodrama and to the plays themselves, Saldaña emphasizes how a credible, vivid, and persuasive rendering of a research participant's story as a theatrical performance creates insights for both researcher and audience not possible through conventional qualitative data analysis. With their focus on the personal, immediate and contextual, these plays about marginalized identities, abortion, street life and oppression manage a unique balance between theoretical research and everyday realism.

laramie project script: *Polaroid Stories* Naomi Iizuka, 1999

laramie project script: *Heroine* Mindy McGinnis, 2019-03-12 A captivating and powerful exploration of the opioid crisis—the deadliest drug epidemic in American history—through the eyes of a college-bound softball star. Edgar Award-winning author Mindy McGinnis delivers a visceral and necessary novel about addiction, family, friendship, and hope. When a car crash sidelines Mickey just before softball season, she has to find a way to hold on to her spot as the catcher for a team expected to make a historic tournament run. Behind the plate is the only place she's ever felt

comfortable, and the painkillers she's been prescribed can help her get there. The pills do more than take away pain; they make her feel good. With a new circle of friends—fellow injured athletes, others with just time to kill—Mickey finds peaceful acceptance, and people with whom words come easily, even if it is just the pills loosening her tongue. But as the pressure to be Mickey Catalan heightens, her need increases, and it becomes less about pain and more about want, something that could send her spiraling out of control.

laramie project script: *Dying to Be Normal* Brett Kruttsch, 2019-02-01 On October 14, 1998, five thousand people gathered on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to mourn the death of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student who had been murdered in Wyoming eight days earlier. Politicians and celebrities addressed the crowd and the televised national audience to share their grief with the country. Never before had a gay citizen's murder elicited such widespread outrage or concern from straight Americans. In *Dying to Be Normal*, Brett Kruttsch argues that gay activists memorialized people like Shepard as part of a political strategy to present gays as similar to the country's dominant class of white, straight Christians. Through an examination of publicly mourned gay deaths, Kruttsch counters the common perception that LGBT politics and religion have been oppositional and reveals how gay activists used religion to bolster the argument that gays are essentially the same as straights, and therefore deserving of equal rights. Kruttsch's analysis turns to the memorialization of Shepard, Harvey Milk, Tyler Clementi, Brandon Teena, and F. C. Martinez, to campaigns like the It Gets Better Project, and national tragedies like the Pulse nightclub shooting to illustrate how activists used prominent deaths to win acceptance, influence political debates over LGBT rights, and encourage assimilation. Throughout, Kruttsch shows how, in the fight for greater social inclusion, activists relied on Christian values and rhetoric to portray gays as upstanding Americans. As Kruttsch demonstrates, gay activists regularly reinforced a white Protestant vision of acceptable American citizenship that often excluded people of color, gender-variant individuals, non-Christians, and those who did not adhere to Protestant Christianity's sexual standards. The first book to detail how martyrdom has influenced national debates over LGBT rights, *Dying to Be Normal* establishes how religion has shaped gay assimilation in the United States and the mainstreaming of particular gays as normal Americans.

laramie project script: *Political Performances* Susan C. Haedicke, 2009 *Political Performances: Theory and Practice* emerges from the work of the Political Performances Working Group of the International Federation for Theatre Research/Fédération Internationale pour la Recherche de Théâtrale. The collection of essays strives to interrogate definitions and expand boundaries of political performance. Members of Political Performances are from around the world and so approach the intersection of politics and performance from very different perspectives. Some focus on socio-political context, others on dramatic content, others on political issues and activism, and still others examine the ways in which communities perform their collective identity and political agency. The organizational structure of *Political Performances* highlights the variety of ways in which politics and performance converge. Each section - Queries, Texts, Contexts and Practice - frames this confluence according to certain common threads that emerge from essays that deal with topics from the ethics of autobiographical performance, the political efficacy of verbatim theatre, the challenges of community-based performance, political and self-censorship, and the impossibility of representing atrocity. The essays challenge existing ideas of political performance and point the way to new approaches.

laramie project script: *Another Day's Begun* Howard Sherman, 2021-01-28 A work of startling originality when it debuted in 1938, Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* evolved to be seen by some as a vintage slice of early 20th Century Americana, rather than being fully appreciated for its complex and eternal themes and its deceptively simple form. This unique and timely book shines a light on the play's continued impact in the 21st century and makes a case for the healing powers of Wilder's text to a world confronting multiple crises. Through extensive interviews with more than 100 artists about their own experience of the play and its impact on them professionally and personally - and including background on the play's early years and its pervasiveness in American culture - Another

Day's Begun shows why this particular work remains so important, essential, and beloved. Every production of *Our Town* has a story to tell beyond Wilder's own. One year after the tragedy of 9/11, Paul Newman, in his final stage appearance, played the Stage Manager in *Our Town* on Broadway. Director David Cromer's 2008 Chicago interpretation would play in five more cities, ultimately becoming New York's longest-running *Our Town* ever. In 2013, incarcerated men at Sing Sing Correctional Facility brought Grover's Corners inside a maximum security prison. After the 2017 arena bombing in Manchester UK, the Royal Exchange Theatre chose *Our Town* as its offering to the stricken community. 80 years after it was written, more than 110 years after its actions take place, *Our Town* continues to assert itself as an essential play about how we must embrace and appreciate the value of life itself. Another *Day's Begun* explains how this American classic has the power to inspire, heal and endure in the modern day, onstage and beyond.

laramie project script: Spoon River Anthology Edgar Lee Masters, 2012-03-02 DIVAn American poetry classic, in which former citizens of a mythical midwestern town speak touchingly from the grave of the thwarted hopes and dreams of their lives. /div

laramie project script: One Arm Moisés Kaufman, 2013 THE STORY: Based on Tennessee Williams' unproduced screenplay of his own classic short story, this new adaptation from pioneering theatrical auteur Moisés Kaufman follows Ollie, a young farm boy who joins the Navy and becomes the lightweight boxing

laramie project script: Learning to Perform Carol Simpson Stern, Bruce Henderson, 2010-06-30 In *Learning to Perform*. Carol Simpson Stern and Bruce Henderson introduce the art and craft of performing literary texts, including poetry, prose fiction, and drama, as well as personal narratives and ethnographic materials. They present a performance methodology that offers instruction in close reading and analysis, the development and refinement of performance skills, and the ability to think critically about and discuss a performance. As students become reacquainted with the world of the imagination and its possibilities, the insights they gain in the classroom can become the basis for achievement not only on the stage or in front of the camera but in many facets of public life. By addressing an expanded sense of text that includes cultural as well as literary artifacts, Stern and Henderson bridge the gap between oral interpretation and the more inclusive field of performance studies. A substantial appendix provides a dozen texts for performance in the classroom, including works by Jane Hamilton, Willa Cather, Henry James, E.M. Forster, Henrik Ibsen, Jane Austen, and Michael S. Bowman. --Book Jacket.

laramie project script: The Oxford Handbook of Qualitative Research Patricia Leavy, 2020 The *Oxford Handbook of Qualitative Research*, Second Edition presents a comprehensive, interdisciplinary overview of the field of qualitative research. Divided into eight parts, the forty chapters address key topics in the field such as approaches to qualitative research (philosophical perspectives), narrative inquiry, field research, and interview methods, text, arts-based, and internet methods, analysis and interpretation of findings, and representation and evaluation. The handbook is intended for students of all levels, faculty, and researchers across the disciplines, and the contributors represent some of the most influential and innovative researchers as well as emerging scholars. This handbook provides a broad introduction to the field of qualitative research to those with little to no background in the subject, while providing substantive contributions to the field that will be of interest to even the most experienced researchers. It serves as a user-friendly teaching tool suitable for a range of undergraduate or graduate courses, as well as individuals working on their thesis or other research projects. With a focus on methodological instruction, the incorporation of real-world examples and practical applications, and ample coverage of writing and representation, this volume offers everything readers need to undertake their own qualitative studies.

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