

Auditions for The Laramie Project are Aug. 25-26 at SWOSU

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Auditions for the theatrical production of *The Laramie Project* written by Moisés Kaufman and Members of Tectonic Theater Project will be held this Tuesday and Wednesday, August 25-26, at Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

All SWOSU students—regardless of major—are invited to the cold-reading auditions that will be held at 7 p.m. in the Hilltop Theatre on the Weatherford campus.

The Laramie Project—centered on the 1998 murder of University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard who was kidnapped, severely beaten and left to die by being tied to a fence—will be performed October 6-8 during Homecoming week at SWOSU.

Shepard was 21 when his bloody, bruised and battered body was not discovered until the next day, and he died several days later in an area hospital. He was the victim of the assault because he was gay.

Kaufman and fellow members of the Tectonic Theater Project made six trips to Laramie (WY) over the course of a year and a half in the aftermath of the beating and during the trial of the two young men accused of killing Shepard. They conducted more than 200 interviews with the people of the town. Some people interviewed were directly connected to the case, and others were citizens of Laramie. Steve Strickler, director of the SWOSU production, said the breadth of their reactions to the crime is fascinating.

“Kaufman and Tectonic Theater members have constructed a deeply moving theatrical experience from these interviews and their own experiences,” Strickler said. “*The Laramie Project* is a breathtaking theatrical collage that explores the depths to which humanity can sink and the heights of compassion of which we are capable.”

For more information about these auditions, contact Strickler, at 580.774.3082 or steve.strickler@swosu.edu.