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Critically Acclaimed Play “The Laramie Project” Comes to El Camino College

The El Camino College Theatre Department will perform Moises Kaufman’s award-winning play at 8 p.m. February 27-28, March 6-7, and at 3 p.m. March 8 in the Campus Theatre.

The play focuses on the events of October 1998 in Laramie, Wyoming, where a 21-year-old student named Matthew Shepard was kidnapped, severely beaten and left to die – all because he was gay. Based on more than 200 interviews with Laramie residents in the aftermath of the beating and during the trial of the two young men accused of killing Shepard, “The Laramie Project” is a moving theatrical experience that has been called a “breathtaking collage that explores the depths to which humanity can sink and the heights of compassion of which we are capable.”

The production that Time magazine calls “one of the 10 best plays of 2000,” first opened in Denver March 2000 and moved to New York in May of the same year. The play was created by Tectonic Theatre Project founder Moises Kaufman and his colleagues. Kaufman, who also directed HBO’s film adaption of the production, has been nominated for Emmy Awards for best director and best writer and won a special mention for best first film at the Berlin Film Festival.

Jerry Prell will direct “The Laramie Project” El Camino College production. Prell is an adjunct professor at El Camino College and started his career in the entertainment industry with magic acts from age six through high school. He then entered the Ohio State University BFA acting program, later transferring to the prominent theater department at Carnegie Mellon University, where he graduated with a bachelor’s degree. He also holds a master’s degree in theater from California State University, Long Beach.

Tickets to The Laramie Project are \$15 and may be purchased at www.centerforthearts.org, by phone at 310-329-5345 or toll-free at 800-832-ARTS. The Ticket Office is open Monday-Friday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Students with a valid El Camino College ASB sticker can enjoy half-off ticket prices one-half hour before the show.

Campus Parking is \$3. The El Camino College Campus Theatre is located at 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, Torrance.

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