

Sturgis Charter Public School STAGE

Presents

The Laramie Project

March 15th-17th

Guyer Art Barn

250 South Street, Hyannis

Laramie, Wyoming, population 26,687, was the site of the brutal murder of Matthew Shepard, a 21 year-old, gay, University of Wyoming student. On October 6, 1998, he was found tied to a fence, beaten and unconscious. On October 8, 1998, Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney were arrested for the kidnapping, aggravated robbery and attempted first-degree murder of Matthew Shepard. On October 12, 1998, Matthew Shepard died. The charges against Henderson and McKinney were amended to include first-degree murder.

The Laramie Project is a play by Moises Kaufman and the members of the Tectonic Theatre Project. "On November 14, 1998, members of Tectonic Theatre Project traveled to Laramie, Wyoming, and conducted interviews with the people of the town." The play is "edited from those interviews, as well as from journal entries by members of the company." (*The Laramie Project*, "Introduction") The play is about the town of Laramie, its citizens, and their reaction to Matthew Shepard's murder.

The Matthew Shepard Foundation <<http://www.matthewshepard.org>> honored Moises Kaufman by selecting him for their "Making a Difference Award." Judy Shepard, Matthew's mother, describes how *The Laramie Project* has been produced thousands of times all over the world and has become a "source of education and change." She says, "This play is not about being gay. It is about being hurt for being different, whatever that difference may be."

Eleven talented actors from Sturgis Charter Public School East's STAGE play the roles of over 100 characters in *The Laramie Project*. This is a multi-character journey exploring the feelings and attitudes of Laramie's citizens; addressing hate crimes and dealing with issues of tolerance, bigotry and self-awareness.

The STAGE production of *The Laramie Project* will take place at Guyer Art Barn, on March 15th-17th.