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Original-Cast Alumni to Return for Anniversary Reading of The Laramie Project

Summary: The University of Minnesota, Morris Theatre Arts Discipline will present a tenth-anniversary staged reading of *The Laramie Project* on Saturday, September 22, at 7 p.m. in Humanities Fine Arts.

(September 21, 2012)-In conjunction with its fall production of *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* and the University of Minnesota, Morris’s 2012 Homecoming celebration, the Theatre Arts Discipline will present a staged reading of *The Laramie Project* by Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project on Saturday, September 22, at 7 p.m. in Humanities Fine Arts. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the play’s original run in Morris.

The discipline originally produced *The Laramie Project* in February 2002, and will stage *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* this November both productions have been directed by Ray Schultz, associate professor of theatre arts. It is hoped that the upcoming reading will provide a context for the November production while serving as a meaningful reminder of the original event. “Hopefully it will contextualize the sequel,” says Schultz, in regards to the timing of the reading. “I also thought it would be an interesting thing to engage with some alums who went through [the] process ten years ago. It’s an interesting…experiment. They’re ten years older now. Some of them have families. Some still are working in theatre. Some are not.”

Eight of the nine actors from the original cast are returning to Morris for the staged reading, along with several community members who made cameo appearances in the 2002 production. Although he can’t be certain, Schultz has an assumption as to what is drawing them to Morris for another performance. “That was a group of students who were very close. Many of them were friends. They were invested in the discipline and this particular production. In fact, the ensemble received an [American College Theatre Festival] meritorious citation for ensemble work.”

While most roles will be played by original cast members, several smaller roles will be filled by current students and other alumni—including George Fosgate, professor emeritus of theatre arts.

The reading promises to be a momentous event, one likely to bring back a flood of memories. According to Schultz, “It was a really special production for a lot of us who were involved in it.”

For more information, please contact the UMM Theatre Publicity and Box Office at 320-598-6249 or by email.

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