

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**University of Saint Mary Fine Arts Theatre  
Department presents " *The Laramie Project* "**

*7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, Fri., Feb. 29, and Sat., March 1*

"*The Laramie Project*" will be presented by the University of Saint Mary Fine Arts Theatre Department at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 28, Friday, Feb. 29, and Saturday, March 1, in Xavier Theatre on the main campus, located at 4100 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street in Leavenworth, Kan.

On Oct. 7, 1998, a young gay man was discovered bound to a fence in the hills 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 Laramie, the event was deeply personal and it is their voices we hear in this stunningly effective theatre piece.

In November 1998, 10 New Yorkers went to Laramie to explore the town and the crime that occurred there. After interviewing more than 200 residents, they created a deeply moving play about bigotry and tolerance, fear and courage, hate and hope.

Tickets are available at the door: \$10 for adults \$5 for students. This play is not suitable for children 12 and under. Call (913) 758-6152 for more information.

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