

UPPER SCHOOL FALL PLAY INFORMATION

Dear Upper School Students and Faculty:

I am very excited to announce that our Upper School Fall Play will be ***The Laramie Project*** by Moises Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theatre Project. Scripts will be available during “**pre-season**” (see below) or at the start of the school year.

Twenty years ago, Matthew Shepard, a young, gay, student at the University of Wyoming was murdered. Matthew’s murder brought attention to the lack of hate crime laws and legislation, and the effects such crimes can have on communities. The play draws on the interviews conducted by the theatre company with inhabitants of the town of Laramie, Wyoming, company members' own journal entries, and published news reports. It is divided into three acts, and actors will portray more than sixty characters in a series of short scenes.^[3]

In preparation for the auditions and ensuing production process we will be holding two “**pre-season**” preparatory meetings to read the play, discuss it, and alleviate anxiety about the auditions. **These sessions will be on Thursday, August 30 and Friday, August 31 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. in the PAC.** Attendance at both sessions is highly recommended. If you will attend these sessions please RSVP by email to me at msilence@kingschoolct.org.

I have reached out to the Tectonic Theater Project about workshops and training centered on their unique process of making Theatre, and the creation of The Laramie Project and other Tectonic productions. My hope is to bring the Tectonic Company members to King School, or to make these workshops available to the cast. More details will be made available as these plans evolve.

Auditions will be held on Thursday, September 13, and Friday, September 14, from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center. All auditioners should try to be present for all of the 2-hour periods on both days. If you are interested in being involved in any OTHER area of production, please let me know during the audition period. **The first all-cast rehearsal will be on Monday, September 17 at 3:30 p.m.**

Students who play a Fall Sport may still participate in the Fall Play. Rehearsals will take place Monday through Friday and will usually run from 3:30 - 6:00 p.m. four or five days per week. If possible or necessary, rehearsals may take place on Saturday.

Attendance at all rehearsals is mandatory, but not all cast members will be called for every rehearsal. During the weeks leading up to the performances, cast members will be called more frequently. There will also be a tech rehearsal on Saturday and/or Sunday, November 10 or 11. A regular weekly call list will be provided.

Rehearsals will generally run from 3:30 - 6:30 p.m. during the first week of November. The weeks of November 5 and November 12 are production weeks when the actors work with sound, lights, props, sets, etc. Participants should expect these rehearsals to be longer and more intense.

The performance Schedule is as follows:

- November 15 at 4:00 p.m. - Open Dress Rehearsal for Faculty and Staff
- November 16 at 7:00 p.m. - Performance (6:00 p.m. call)
- November 17 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. - Performance (call 1 hr. before)
- November 18 at 2:00 p.m.

For additional procedures, expectations, and guidelines for participating in a theatre production, please refer to the Theatre Handbook. If your son or daughter is interested in participating in a theatrical production this year, please review this handbook and plan to attend the **Theatre Handbook Meeting on Thursday, September 13 at 7:00 p.m.** (following the first day of auditions) **in the PAC to learn more.**

I hope to see you for the auditions in the fall! Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Sincerely,

Mark Silence
Performing Arts Faculty
msilence@kingschoolct.org