

## **Titirangi Theatre Inc.**

Incorporating Waitemata Theatre

Our Next Production is

### **First Things First**

A comedy by Derek Benfield

Directed by Bob Lack

On Stage 22 August to 2 September.

A group **audition** will be held at:

Titirangi War Memorial Hall. (Next to Titirangi Library)

Sunday 4 June 2023, at 12pm

Please visit [titirangitheatre.co.nz](http://titirangitheatre.co.nz) for details.

### **Become a member**

Membership includes free tickets to all our performances.

Pick up a brochure and membership form in the foyer.

Email: [membership@titirangitheatre.co.nz](mailto:membership@titirangitheatre.co.nz) for information

Or apply online at [titirangitheatre.co.nz](http://titirangitheatre.co.nz)

### **Costume Hire Service**

The theatre has an extensive, exciting wardrobe for hire at very reasonable rates.

Wardrobe hours: Fridays 5-7 p.m. Saturdays 10-12 p.m.

Situated at The Treasure House (Lopdell Hall), just behind Lopdell House

For further information contact Lynn, Ph 818 6645

Or email [beverlylynn@icloud.com](mailto:beverlylynn@icloud.com)

### **Theatre Hire**

The Theatre Auditorium is available for hire.

For further information email [theatrehire@titirangitheatre.co.nz](mailto:theatrehire@titirangitheatre.co.nz)

Please note that this link goes to Lopdell House Development Trust, who manage the Theatre Hire.

**TITIRANGI THEATRE** LOPDELL HOUSE THEATRE COOPERS & LYONS Waitakere Range's Local Board

Presents a play by Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project

# The LARAMIE Project

directed by **Kerynn Walsh**

## 6-17 June

7.30pm at Lopdell House Theatre.  
Sun 11 June - 4pm show.  
Tickets \$30/\$20. Gala opening night \$35.

**RY** RainbowYOUTH fundraiser Wednesday 7 June.  
All tickets \$30, all ticket sales to **RY**

[www.titirangitheatre.co.nz](http://www.titirangitheatre.co.nz)

By arrangement with Music Theatre International Australasia Pty Ltd, on behalf of Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

LOPEL



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### Director's Notes

I have been wanting to direct and deliver a production of *The Laramie Project* to Titirangi Theatre ever since I read it four years ago. I am so grateful to finally have that opportunity. *The Laramie Project* is a powerful and provocative theatre event and perhaps one of the most important pieces of theatre to have emerged in the last 30 years. It requires us to look closely at our prejudices, our belief systems, community and humanity. It is an extremely challenging production to mount presenting some very unique challenges for both cast and crew. The verbatim style in which it was devised and "written", the unique structure and sheer amount of characters in the play provide huge challenges for the actors. All of those in this very large cast have thrown themselves into their tasks with enormous commitment and dedication. Without their hard work and the tireless work of the production team we would never have achieved the result that you will witness tonight. I



thank all involved for their hard work and for helping me to realise my vision for *The Laramie Project*. I would also like to thank the Titirangi Theatre Committee for their unwavering support and for giving me the opportunity to bring this production to the stage. I hope this play is as impactful for you as it is for the team who have brought it to you. Ngā mihi.

Kerynn Walsh

### Please switch off cell phones during the performance

The use of cameras, video equipment or tape recorders is not permitted in the auditorium.

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### FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

BOOKINGS: bookings can be made online through our Website.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: Please help us offer the best possible service by informing us of your requirements when making bookings. Provision can be made for a limited number of wheelchair users in the auditorium.

THEATRE INFO LINE. For details of wardrobe opening hours, current and upcoming productions: Phone 817 5951

### FOR ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.

Write to Titirangi Theatre Inc. P O Box 60 092, Titirangi.  
email: [contact@titirangitheatre.co.nz](mailto:contact@titirangitheatre.co.nz),  
or visit our website: [www.titirangitheatre.co.nz](http://www.titirangitheatre.co.nz)

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Titirangi Theatre Inc is a charitable not for profit society, dependant on community support.

**Sponsorship** can take many forms... money, goods and services: please think about how you could sponsor our popular and historic organisation!

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### FIRE REGULATIONS

Fire Exits are situated at the sides of the auditorium.  
Please keep all stairways, gangways and corridors that afford entry and exit entirely free from obstruction.  
We ask patrons to observe the **NO PARKING** signs at the entrance

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## Creative Team

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Director	Kerynn Walsh
Producer	Sonia McLean
Stage-Manager	David Rhodes
Sound & Lighting Design	Duncan Milne
Sound & Lighting Operators	Sabrina Ou, Duncan Milne
Props	John and Sally McGowan
Wardrobe	Lynn Cottingham
Set Design	Ross Brannigan
Projection Design and Editing	Ross Brannigan, Kerynn Walsh, Duncan Milne
Pack in Crew	Duncan Milne, Dave Rhodes, Ross Brannigan, Kerynn Walsh, Sonia McLean
Publicity	Jade Bull & Rachel Bock
Poster Design	Raz Art & Design
Billboards	Ross Brannigan
Booking	Rachel Watkinson
Front of House	Jade Bull
Programme & Photography	Mac McIver

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### Special thanks to:

Steve Pearce, John Lethaby, KickArts @ Planet FM, Edward Newborn, French Bay Yacht Club, Toby's Restaurant & Bar.

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### Committee:

Duncan Milne, Rachel Watkinson, Jade Bull, Alan J Thomson, Graeme Heap, Kerynn Walsh, Karen Soulje, Sonia Mclean, Rachel Bock.

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### Our next play

will be in production soon- we are always looking for both experienced and novice volunteers to help with backstage, production, marketing and technical tasks.

If you are interested visit the volunteer section on our website [www.titirangitheatre.co.nz](http://www.titirangitheatre.co.nz)

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# The Laramie Project

By Moisés Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project

Directed by Kerynn Walsh

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The play is set in Laramie, Wyoming, 1998

## Programme

Act One

## Interval

Act Two

Act Three

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### Kerynn Walsh - Director

Kerynn has worked in the industry for over 40 years as an actor, teacher, writer and director. She first appeared at Titirangi Theatre in 2019 as *Shirley Valentine* and since then has also appeared in *Short Shorts* and most recently as Mrs. Doyle in *Father Ted*. This is Kerynn's third production as director for Titirangi Theatre, her first being *The Farm* and last year's production of Roger Hall's *Winding Up*.

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**Sofie Boyes** - *Romaine Patterson, Jen, Juror 5*

Sofie is thrilled to be a part of the Laramie Project, and honoured to be able to play Romaine Patterson amongst other roles. Sofie is in her third year at Unitec studying as an actor for stage and screen, and she is very excited to be in an environment outside of class where she can absorb and learn as much as she can from the talented people around her. Kerynn's passion for the show is so contagious! Sofie has been acting for 8 years, doing multiple productions. Her favourite show to date has been the gritty feminist theatre show *BOYS* (2021) where she played a range of characters including Paul Henry and John Campbell. She has also done extra work in *Rings of Power* and *Shortland Street*.



**Harini Meiyappan** - *Zubaida Ula, April Silva, Kerry Drake, Foreperson*

Harini spends her days as a lawyer and her nights frolicking with the thespians. Her last play was *M\*A\*S\*H*, and she's super stoked to be in this one...all round SLAY



**Ross Branningan** - *Moisés Kaufman, Dennis Shepard, Rulon Stacey, Dr. Cantway, Father Roger Schmit*

I am very excited to be part of the company performing *The Laramie Project*. It is a play that has an important and universal message for all people and as an actor and an educator - it resonates in my heart. As one of my characters says: "What did we as a society do to teach you that?...I think it would be wonderful if the judge said: 'In addition to your sentence, you must tell your story'. This play marks my second community theatre role after years in professional

acting and I love the camaraderie of the company and the generosity of spirit that everyone brings. I hope to direct here in the future.

**Merrin Cavel** - *Amanda Gronich, Catherine Connolly, Tiffany Edwards*

Originally from Christchurch, Merrin has been involved in theatre for almost 30 years, and has received qualifications in Directing, Production, Performance and Musical Theatre. Merrin has a passion for one person shows and has written, and performed internationally a biographical one-woman show, *Bent Not Broken*. Her most recent stage appearances have been in *Big Fish* at Papakura Theatre, *Things I Know To Be True* at Ellerslie Theatre, *Flint Street Nativity* at Dolphin Theatre and singing for *Indian Inks Dirty Work*.



## Titirangi Theatre Wardrobe Hire

We have a huge range of costumes and accessories for hire for all occasions (When floods, cyclones and slips allow...)

Available for theatrical productions, fancy dress events, photo-shoots and special occasions. Check our website and the back of this programme for opening times.



**Karen Soulje** - Barbara Pitts, Reggie Fluty, Rebecca Hillier, Trish Steger

This production is totally different from any other one that I have been involved in. From the start we all knew it would be challenging, but this is what is so wonderful about it. I have loved getting to know my different characters and bringing them to life on stage. It's a thrill to know that they are real people, and I'm using their words as they did during this moment in time. I hope you enjoy this thought provoking experience.



**Nicola Chapman** - Leigh Fondakowski, Marge Murray, Ms Lucy Thompson, Eileen Engen, Baptists Ministers's Wife, Newsperson 4

My favourite small theatre in the west. It's nice to be back. With my characters I have got to be doing different things. This is such an important play and with children who identify as gender diverse it has felt great to support our rainbow youth just a little. Oh and Kerry has been pretty awesome. And maybe I should be mentioning my husband.



**Shivaun Statham** - Zackie Salmon, Sherry Aanenson, Alison Mears, Sherry Johnson, Juror 4

I have done many productions in Community Theatre over the years, including *Twelfth Night* at Dolphin Theatre, *Peninsula* at Howick Little Theatre, *39 Steps* at The Playhouse, and *Enchanted April* at Ellerslie Theatre. My most recent performance was as Sugar in Howick Little Theatre's Studio Production of *Tiny Beautiful Things* in 2021.

I'm so happy to be back on the stage at Titirangi Theatre, being last seen in *The Women* back in 2011. It has been wonderful being part of such an important play as *The Laramie Project*, with a very talented cast, crew and director.

**Giles Thompson** - Bill McKinney, Conrad Miller, Arraignment Judge, Funeral Priest, Sergeant Hing, Stephen Mead Johnson, Trial Judge

This is Giles' second play at Titirangi, quite a change in tone from *Father Ted*!

He's delighted to be working with such a great cast and crew in telling such a powerful story.



**James Grant** - Aaron Kreifels, Aaron McKinney, Jedediah Schultz

James is hugely excited to be a part of *The Laramie Project*, which marks his first production with Titirangi Theatre. He feels humbled to have the opportunity to be a part of retelling this important story. James would like to thank the cast and crew for making him feel so welcome. He is excited for the show season, and hopes that you enjoy the show.



**Paul Greenfield** - Andy Paris, Philip Dubois, Reverend Fred Phelps, Jonas Slonaker, Matt Mickleson, Cal Rerucha, Governor Jim Geringer, Rob Debree

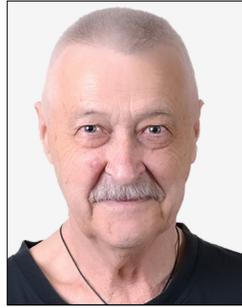
Paul trained at UNITEC as an actor but found his true calling as a primary school teacher. After a lengthy hiatus, he returned to theatre in 2016 playing Preacher Hodges in Titirangi Theatre's *Messiah on the Frigidaire*. Since, he has aimed for a play a year, playing brothers Gordon and Dwight in Titirangi's *Dead Man's Cell Phone*; a transgender woman in Ellerslie's *Things I Know to be True*; an insurance salesman in Dolphin's *Death and Taxes* (2021), Antipholus of Ephesus in *Comedy of Errors* (2022), and Ben Corona in *Kiwifruits* (2023).



**Richard McFadgen** - Narrator

This play is very different to others I have been in. It is based on actual events and told in a very different way than usual.

I am thoroughly enjoying being part of it, trying to bring my character to life within the confines of the script. I also think this play is important in the messages it is giving and I admire the members of the Tectonic Theatre for their courage and skill in writing and presenting this play.



**Joel Ramsay** - Anonymous, Email Writer, Newsperson 2, Phil Labrie, Russell Henderson, Shannon, Biker

This is my second Titirangi Theatre production, the first being *Short Shorts* in September last year. I have loved working with the Titirangi Theatre and the cast of *The Laramie Project* over the past 2 months and I hope to work with many of them again in the future. Before my time here a Titirangi Theatre I have spent a fair amount of time on stage throughout my school career, in four Avondale high school musicals (*Hairspray*, *Rock of Ages*, *Catch Me If You can*, and *In the Heights*), one Glen Eden Playhouse Theatre production (*The Alley Cats of Ponsonby*), and levels 1-3 of NCEA drama.



**Jessamy Nielson** - Kristin Price, Debbie Reynolds, News Reporter, Juror 3, Reporter

In 2022, aware that I was approaching 40 and with a sudden urge to do something I've always wanted, I took on private singing and acting classes with Cutting Edge Drama. When I came across auditions for *The Laramie Project* I felt that I had enough confidence to at least audition. I'm thrilled to be part of this profoundly relevant play, at this intimate and iconic theatre. With such a talented cast to learn from, it's been an amazing first ride.

**Daniel Rundle** - Matt Galloway, Doug Laws, Juror 1, Newsperson 3

Daniel Rundle has been in a few plays over the last year, the most recent being Shakespeare's *Merry Wives of Windsor* performed at the Pumphouse Theatre. Daniel is super keen to be in *The Laramie Project* as he has only ever performed in comedies, so he is looking forward to being a part of a verbatim genre.



**David Pergomet** - Stephen Belber, Doc O'Connor, Harry Woods, Gil Engen, Baptist Minister, Mormon Home Teacher, Murdock Cooper, Juror 6

By chance David saw an email from Kerynn one day before the auditions and literally walked in off the street. David started performing on stage at a creative process course through Massey University in 2011. After gaining confidence from there in 2012 he attended Cutting edge drama courses with Sioux Smith in Ponsonby community house. David has played the alter ego to Hitch in *Hitchcock*. He played multiple characters in *Bouncers* including Suzy, a bouncer, a punk and a sleezy DJ.



**Luiz Silvah** - Greg Pierotti, Jon Peacock, Andrew Gomez, Shadow, Bailiff

Luiz Silvah is a Brazilian actor but has made New Zealand his home since 2017 when he travelled to Auckland to start a year of backpacking and never left. *The Laramie Project* will be his debut on stage and Luiz is hugely enthusiastic to be part of a project that brings so much relevance to the LGBTQIA+ rights dialogue in society. He has coached at Kacie Stetson Acting Studio, with Jon Hunter and more recently with Elena Stejko. Luiz enjoys learning and experimenting different acting techniques as he develops his craft from a holistic perspective and sees art as a healing and powerful tool for the actor and audience.