

ONE WORLD THEATRE PRESENTS

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# THE LARAMIE PROJECT: TEN YEARS LATER

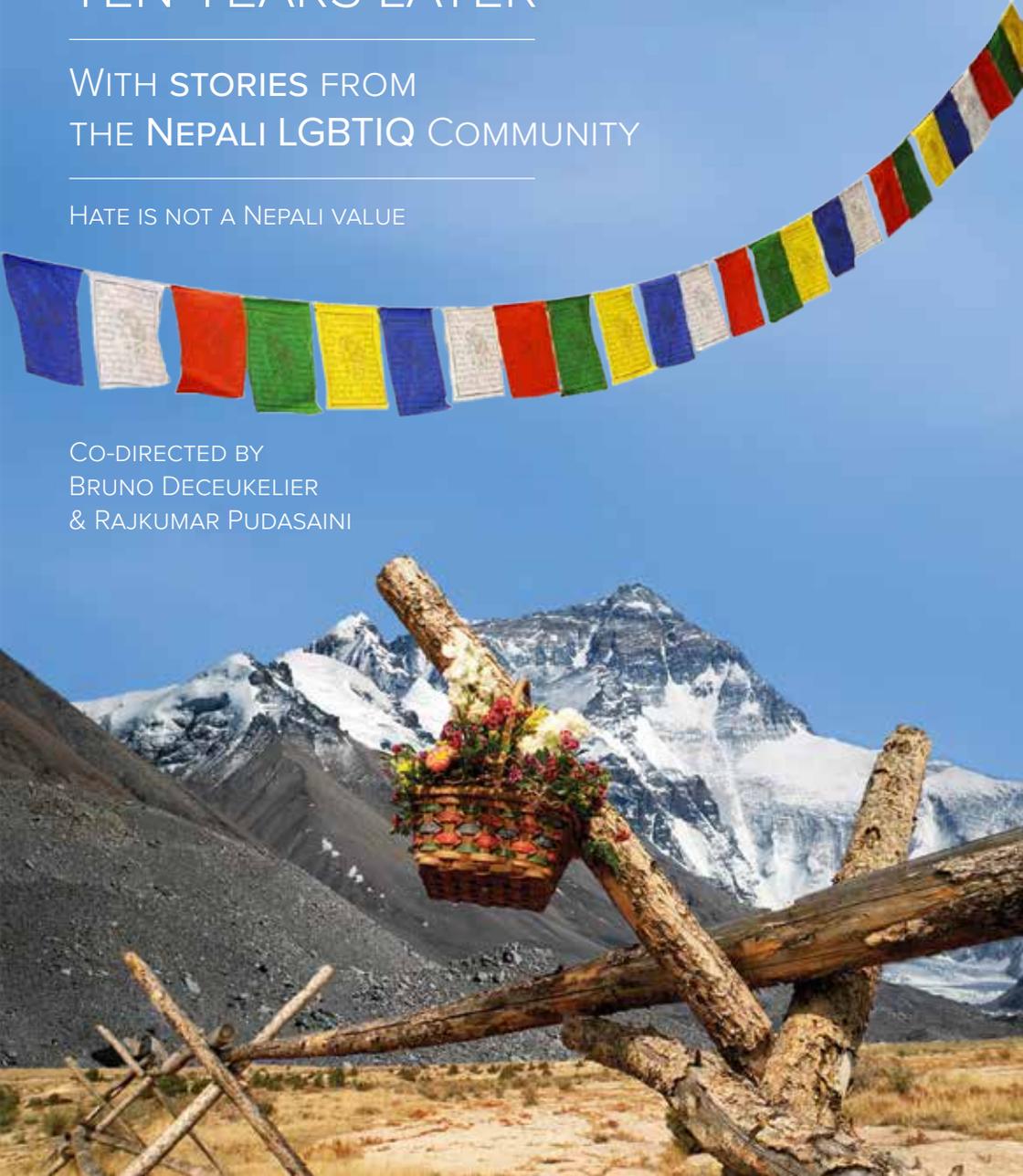
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WITH STORIES FROM  
THE NEPALI LGBTIQ COMMUNITY

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HATE IS NOT A NEPALI VALUE

CO-DIRECTED BY  
BRUNO DECEUKELIER  
& RAJKUMAR PUDASAINI



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*There is no space for us. No one lets us in. No one knocks on our doors. No one asks about our homes; no one contacts our families. They think we don't need company, that we don't need help. But we continue to exist. We continue to imagine possibilities, to dream up phrases and assemble them into sentences, to reach for an instrument and create our own music. - Charlie Chaulagain*

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Fri 19 May 5.30  
Sat 20 May 5.30  
Sun 21 May 5.30  
Wed 24 May 5.30  
Thu 25 May 5.30  
Fri 26 May 5.30  
Sat 27 May 12.30 & 5.30  
Sun 28 May 5.30

**VENUE** | Nepal Tourism Board

**GALA FUNDRAISER** | Rs. 2,500

**TICKETS** | Rs. 750 - Rs. 500 - Rs. 200

**TICKET OUTLETS** | Siddhartha Art Gallery, Nina's (Maharajgunj), Dhokaima Cafe

**RESERVATIONS** | 980 1192690

**INFO** | [www.facebook.com/OneWorldTheatre](http://www.facebook.com/OneWorldTheatre)

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# ABOUT THE LARAMIE PROJECT: TEN YEARS LATER

After the very successful and well-received production of *The Laramie Project* in March 2015, One World Theatre is now producing *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* and combining it with LGBTIQ voices and experiences from Nepal. These new stories of and by Nepalese are mostly based on strong, personal narratives from LGBTIQ authors in *Pride Climbing Higher*, an initial writing project from Creative Nepal in collaboration with Blue Diamond Society (BDS). The play will run from 19th till 28th of May at the Nepal Tourism Board.

What difference does a hideous homophobic hate crime make ten years later and how do Nepali lesbians, gay and transgender relate to it? In 1998, the USA was shocked by the murder of a gay, HIV positive young man, Matthew Shephard. Immediately following the murder, Moises Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project went to Laramie, Wyoming, and gathered interviews of family, friends, police officers, and the murderers to learn more about the victim and the crime itself. These interviews resulted in *The Laramie Project*, a docudrama that tells the story of the brutal murder. The Tectonic company members returned ten years later to again interview the residents of Laramie to see what had changed—or not—in terms of attitudes toward the LGBTIQ community. The follow-up play, *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* comes back to some of the same people and asks about changes in attitudes, policies, and legislation.

One World Theatre's production of *The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later* also includes a selection of stories from the Nepali LGBTIQ community. These stories come primarily from *Pride Climbing Higher*, a collection of short stories that shares the experiences of queer Nepalis both here and abroad. In weaving these stories into the original script of *Laramie Ten Years Later*, the play becomes exponentially more relevant to our audience here. It demonstrates that, while Matthew Shepard's murder took place almost two decades ago and halfway across the world, his story and the voices of those included in this play open doors to acceptance and understanding in present-day Nepal too.

These performances provides an opportunity for audiences, students, journalists, and policymakers to reflect on and debate important social issues: HIV issues, LGBTIQ rights, anti-hate crimes legislation, the role of media, and how communities attempt to define themselves and rewrite their past. This production is dedicated to Martin Benitez Torres, one of the 49 victims of the June 12, 2016 Orlando shooting, as part of the *Laramie Project Project*, which links 49 *Laramie* performances in the USA as well as in the world to one victim each. It is also dedicated to the Chechen victims of gay persecution, which highlight there is still much work to be done, and that we will do it. We **MUST** do it. ■

# ABOUT THE SCRIPT

Initially, the Laramie Project: Ten Years later was meant to be a simple 15 minute addition to the original Laramie Project, but so much interesting material was gathered, Tectonic Theater Company turned it into a separate play.

Stage directions were for two rows of actors sitting down and reading from the script, with little enacting. As this might be less appealing for Nepali audiences, we have drafted the script by combining both segments from the original Laramie Project with the epilogue, leaving out certain segments which are less relevant or complicated to understand in the Nepali context.

While making these selections, certain situations or issues were very recognizable, hence we incorporated

Nepali stories and narratives, weaving it in as if audience members are sharing what the ongoing play triggers within them, what it reminds them of.

Though we offered and even encouraged actors to perform segments in Nepali, all preferred to stick to English, though sometimes, certain segments include Nepali in the Pride Climbing Higher sections.

And lastly, we added Charlie Chaulagain, who we see as some sort of angel walking among us, not only concerned with humanity in general, but especially those who are a bit different. Watching from his little corner of the world, Charlie is someone who laments the hate and intolerance and rejoices in speaking and singing out. ■

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*Good is coming out of evil. People have said enough is enough. I would like nothing better than to see you die, Mr. McKinney. However this is the time to begin the healing process. - Dennis Shepard*

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# CAST

**Akanchha Karki** : Marge Murray,  
Catherine Connelly, Bhakti

**Bijay Tamrakar** : Matt Michelson &  
Jedidiah Schultz, Cowboy, Dave  
O'Malley, Stephen Mead Johnson

**Gunjan Dixit** : Stephen Belber, Sita  
Phuyal (enacting), Grandma, Sadhana

**Hemanta Chalise** : Rental Car Agent, Dr.  
Cantway, Rob DeBree

**Iona Liddell** : Beth Loffreda, Leigh  
Fondakowski, Mom

**Justin Lansing** : Aaron McKinney

**Kurchi Dasgupta** : Rebecca Hilliker,  
Reggie Fluty, Sita Phuyal (monologue),  
Boomerang Editor

**Navin Neupane** : Guy 2, Ankit, Friend,  
Yubraj

**Petter Iny** : Matthew Shepard

**Pragyan Thapa Ghimire** : Greg Pierotti

**Milan Neupane** : Charlie Chaulagain

**Rajkumar Pudasaini** : Moises Kaufman,  
Governor Freudenthal, Father Roger

**Sajag Rana** : Dennis Shepard, Jeffrey  
Lockwood

**Sandeep Shrestha** : Guy 1, Aaron  
Kreifels, Russell Hendersom, Jan  
Lundhurst

**Shanti Giri** : Romaine Patterson, Zackie  
Salmon, Nurse, Judy Shepard

**Swastika Lama** : Andy Paris, Jonas  
Slonaker, Jim Osborne, Ram, Roshan  
Mahato, natuwa dancer

**Tenju Tamang** : Simran

# PRODUCTION TEAM

**Diwas Raja** : Lighting Design &  
Operating, Frame building

**Justin Lansing** : Music Design

**XXXXXX**: Sound Ops

**Ruben Del Prado** : Music Advisor

**Akanchha Karki** : Costume Design

**Ragendra Shrestha** : Stage Manager

**Iona Liddell** : Assistant Stage Manager

**Kurchi Dasgupta** : Backdrop Painting

**Fuzz Factory** : Film Crew

**Chandra Thapa** : Box Office

**Amrit Dahal** : Accounts

**Niranjan Kunwar** : Education Outreach

**Rose Schwietz** : Managing Director

**Bruno Deceukelier** : Co-Director

**Rajkumar Pudasaini** : Co-Director

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## DIRECTORS' WORDS



From Bruno  
Deceukelier, Guest  
Director

What can I say but  
express the hope that  
Laramie will touch  
you as it did me?

In 2015, two years ago, I first saw the One World Theatre production of The Laramie Project, directed by wonderful Deborah Merola and Divya Dev. During the play, I had goose bumps and tears rolling down my cheeks. I was invited to assist with that production and met the amazing cast and team behind the scenes, and see how the magic was done. I attended almost every show, and I still got the same heart wrenching reactions every time I watched it, even more so. As I witnessed again and again the scenes where Matthew was found,



मानव विश्व  
इमान्दार भएर भन्नुपर्दा ग्लो  
बल संस्कृतिले बिना कुनै  
छेकबार रोक, घेरा, परि  
धि, हरेक मान्छेलाई स्वतन्त्र  
जीवन बाँच्न उत्प्रेरित  
गरिरहेछ. कुनै एक देश को

कल्पनाले मात्रै यो सम्भव हुँदैन र हुने थिएन  
। भन नेपाल मात्रैले पनि यो चाहेर सम्भव छै  
न । हरेक व्यक्तिको परिचयस् म को हुँ ? ने  
पाली मात्रैको महत्त्व होइन, न अमेरिकाको मात्रै,  
न युरोपको मात्रै, न अफ्रीका, न अरब । यो त  
पृथ्वीभरिकै जीवित प्राणीहरूको जीवन हो, प्राण  
हो । हामीहरू एकअर्काको जीवन भोगाईबाट  
एकअर्काले सिकिरहेका छौं । र यही सिकाईका

or his dad granted life in the court room  
to one of the murderers, or his friend  
Romaine dressed as an angel stopped  
anti-gay protesters, the words resonated  
within me, the images remained vivid  
and the songs played in my head.  
Now, two years, later, I found old and  
new friends again to hopefully relive  
and share that experience with you,  
while you watch and listen to our  
stories. Through our diverse cast, we  
are portraying sentences from people  
surrounding Matthew Shepard in rural  
Laramie, Wyoming, from ten years after  
the murder, but assembled them with  
stories from here, from courageous and  
proud Nepali LGBTIQ authors. I feel  
privileged to have been entrusted with  
this challenge and hope our song will  
touch your heart the way it did mine. ■

घटनाक्रमबाट एकले अर्कोलाई बुझिरहेका छौं ।  
२१औं शताब्दीको अति विकसित राष्ट्र अमेरिका  
अविकसित राष्ट्र नेपालसँगै छ । मानव संस्कृति  
विकासमा भन्ने यो लारमि र गौरव को उत्कर्षका  
कथाले प्रस्थयूछ । म को हुँ? मेरो विकास कहाँ  
छ? यो विकास के मा छ?

यो अमेरिकी नाटकले हामीलाई नाटक को नयाँ  
शैली वृत्तनाटक सिकाएको छ । र कुनै भन्फट,  
बेमेल बिना यो नाटकले दुइ भिन्न परिस्थितिका र  
फ्रैलाई एउटा मञ्चमा देखाउँदैछ । अरू धेरै काम  
गर्न बाँकी छ, र हामीले गर्ने छौं । यहाँ अथवा  
लारामीमा मात्रै हैन, सम्पूर्ण विश्वमा । ■

# CREDITS

**The Laramie Project, The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later** : by Moises Kaufman, Leigh Fondakowski, Greg Pierotti, Andy Paris, and Stephen Belber

**Pride Climbing Higher** : Creative Nepal (Chad Frisbie and Danny Coyle), project in collaboration with Blue Diamond Society

**Charlie Chaulagain** : columnist for The Nepali Man (TNM), monthly men's magazine

**News clips on Matthew Shepard** : “SuchisLifeVideos”, Youtube

**Photo of Laramie fence** : Kevin Moloney/Liaison Agency

# MUSIC CREDITS

Snow - Brokeback Mountain

A Fistful of Dollars - Ennio Morricone

Rather lovely thing - Nick Cave

Moving On - Nick Cave

Just Because I'm A Woman - Dolly Parton

Farewell Cheyenne - Ennio Morricone

I Dream A Highway - Gillian Welch

1 Sal Ko Paat - Kutumba

The Road - Nick Cave

Transition into - Tamang Selo

Nepali Panche Baja Song

On the Roof of the Train - Ennio Morricone

Last Ride Back to KC - Nick Cave

Prairie Spring - Jay Ungar

Falling - Nick Cave

# UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

June 2017 : **PANIKO GUNJAN**

By Rajkumar Pudasaini, Divashree

Niraula, Mila Shakya, Ragendra Shrestha

Directed by Rajkumar Pudasaini

September 2017 : **GOLDEN BOY**

by Clifford Odets

Directed by Deborah Merola

A site-specific production in a boxing ring.

February : 2018 **THE OLDEST BOY**

by Sarah Ruhl

Directed by Deborah Merola

May 2018 : **THE LITTLE SCHOOL**

Adapted by Deborah Merola from the memoir by Alicia Portnoy

# HEARTFELT THANKS TO

## SPECIAL FRIENDS OF ONE WORLD THEATRE

**Dr Ruben del Prado**, for his crucial and principled support

**Dr Arun Gupto**, for providing us with the space to learn and express ourselves

**David Kleiman**, who faithfully stands behind each One World Theatre Production

## PARTNERS FOR THE LARAMIE PROJECT : TEN YEARS LATER

Save the Children US

The Global Fund

UNAIDS

Blue Diamond Society (BDS)

Tectonic Theater Project

Creative Nepal

Charlie Chaulagain

## CONTRIBUTORS AND SUPPORTERS OF ART, CULTURE AND ONE WORLD THEATRE

Qatar Air and Jayaprakash

The Word Warriors

# ABOUT ONE WORLD THEATRE

One World Theatre is an English language theatre company in Kathmandu, Nepal, dedicated to presenting intercultural, social justice productions, especially plays from South Asia, the Western canon and contemporary American plays that are affordable, professional, experimental, and relevant. Among others, it has been supported by UNAIDS and the Norwegian Embassy. One World Theatre has a record of productions that seriously reflect LGBTIQ issues, e.g., *Angels in America: Millennium Approaches*; *The Goat*, or *Who is Sylvia?* and *The Laramie Project*.



Save the Children

The Global Fund

UNAIDS