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#6 Beth Loffreda

THE LARAMIE PROJECT: TEN YEARS LATER

ACT ONE

MOMENT: THE LIGHT THIS FALL

NARRATOR. On September 12, 2008, the members of Tectonic Theater Project returned to Laramie, Wyoming, ten years after the murder of Matthew Shepard, and conducted interviews with the people of the town. This play, an epilogue to *The Laramie Project*, is edited from those interviews as well as journal entries by members of the company and other found text. Company member Greg Pierotti.

GREG PIEROTTI. My first interview was with Beth Loffreda, a University of Wyoming professor. We met Beth on our very first trip ten years ago.

BETH LOFFREDA. I am thinking about the anniversary a lot. Ten years have passed ... that's a long time.

(Pause.) The light this fall is much like the light that fall and we've been having days that remind me of that first fall that I was here ... and so there's something about the elemental reality here that feels intensely like that first September and October when all of this happened. That was 1998. *(Pause. Pointing out her window.)* You can see the prairie and the foothills from some offices here on campus. You can look out the window and you can see a little patch of the foothills, you know, past Walmart, where Matthew died.

So what happened here still feels very present to me.

My gut reaction is that Laramie is a somewhat better place to be than it was ten years ago, but I don't know how to tell the story of the past ten years without having to think about, both what we've done, but also what we haven't done.