

JEDADIAH SCHULTZ. It's hard to talk about Laramie now, to tell you what Laramie is, for us.

NARRATOR. Jedediah Schultz.

JEDADIAH SCHULTZ. If you would have asked me before, I would have told you, Laramie is a beautiful town, secluded enough that you can have your own identity ... A town with a strong sense of community — everyone knows everyone ... A town with a personality that most larger cities are stripped of. Now, after Matthew, I would say that Laramie is a town defined by an accident, a crime. We've become Waco, we've become Jasper. We're a noun, a definition, a sign. We may be able to get rid of that ... but it will sure take awhile.

MOMENT: JOURNAL ENTRIES

NARRATOR. Journal entries — members of the company. Andy Paris.

ANDY PARIS. Moisés called saying he had an idea for his next theater project. But there was a somberness to his voice, so I asked what it was all about and he told me he wanted to do a piece about what's happening in Wyoming.

NARRATOR. Stephen Belber.

STEPHEN BELBER. Leigh told me the company was thinking of going out to Laramie to conduct interviews and that they wanted me to come. But I'm hesitant. I have no real interest in prying into a town's unraveling.

NARRATOR. Amanda Gronich.

AMANDA GRONICH. I've never done anything like this in my life. How do you get people to talk to you? What do you ask?

NARRATOR. Moisés Kaufman.

MOISÉS KAUFMAN. The company has agreed that we should go to Laramie for a week and interview people.

Am a bit afraid about taking ten people in a trip of this nature. Must make some safety rules. No one works alone. Everyone carries cell phones. Have made some preliminary contacts with

REBECCA HILLIKER

Rebecca Hilliker, head of the theater department at the University of Wyoming. She is hosting a party for us our first night in Laramie and has promised to introduce us to possible interviewees.

MOMENT: REBECCA HILLIKER

START

REBECCA HILLIKER. I must tell you that when I first heard that you were thinking of coming here, when you first called me, I wanted to say you've just kicked me in the stomach. Why are you doing this to me?

But then I thought, that's stupid, you're not doing this to me. And more importantly, I thought about it and decided that we've had so much negative closure on this whole thing. And the students really need to talk. When this happened they started talking about it, and then the media descended and all dialogue stopped.

FINISH You know, I really love my students because they are free thinkers — and you may not like what they have to say, and you may not like their opinions, because they can be very redneck, but they are honest and they're truthful — so there's an excitement here, there's a dynamic here with my students that I never had when I was in the Midwest or in North Dakota, because there, there was so much Puritanism that dictated how people looked at the world that a lot of times they didn't have an opinion, you couldn't get them to express an opinion. And quite honestly, I'd rather have opinions that I don't like — and have that dynamic in education.

There's a student I think you should talk to. His name is Jedediah Schultz.