

Friday, November 21, 2008

By Ademola Bello

The production of “Laramie Project,” a play by award winning director and writer Moisés Kaufman and presented locally by the Theatre Department of University of Alaska-Fairbanks at Salisbury Theatre, was filled with energy and brilliant acting.

This play was written a decade ago by Moisés Kaufman with collaboration from members of his Tectonic Theater Project. Following the brutal murder of 21-year-old Matthew Shepa

way, the bartender with his driver’s hat and a toothpick in his mouth. His cool acting demeanor elevates his characters above others. He spoke with an impeccable accent that transformed Matt Galloway from a mere character to an avuncular or a real guy next door. It was a good example of the creativity used by director Carrie Baker in creating many characters from few actors: Simple props like a toothpick or a hat were used to distinguish from one character to the next.

Those creative choices were necessary because “The Laramie Project” can be difficult to follow because of its documentary style narrative technique, and for its multiple characters appearing in different roles. However, Baker is innovative and has vision. She and her crew deserves credit

of Stephen Belber. He was also fascinating to watch as the character Matt Gallo-