



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact:** Cecelia Kouma, Playwrights Project, [ckouma@playwrightsproject.org](mailto:ckouma@playwrightsproject.org), (858) 384-2970

**A staged reading of a new play written by imprisoned playwrights**  
***I'M GOOD: Incarcerated Men Getting Over Obstacles Daily***

**Who:** Playwrights Project, Donovan Correctional Facility, and San Diego State University

**What:** ***I'M GOOD ~ Incarcerated Men Getting Over Obstacles Daily***  
Staged reading of a new play, written by inmates at Donovan Correctional Facility during Playwrights Project's *Out of the Yard* Program  
Performed by SDSU Theatre students, with support from SDSU's Guardian Scholars and Criminal Justice Programs

**When:** April 20-22, 2016 at 7:30 PM; April 23 at 1PM

**Where:** Experimental Theatre, San Diego State University

**Tickets:** No Charge ~ Reservations are strongly recommended.

**How:** Playwrights Project (858) 384-2970 or [write@playwrightsproject.org](mailto:write@playwrightsproject.org)  
For more information and reservations

*I'M GOOD ~ Incarcerated Men Getting Over Obstacles Daily* is a new play written by incarcerated men who are involved in Playwrights Project's *Out of the Yard* playwriting program at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility. Playwriting sessions were conducted by teaching artists James Pillar, Mabelle Reynoso, and Cecelia Kouma (Playwrights Project's Executive Director). Co-produced by Playwrights Project and San Diego State University's School of Theatre, Television and Film (SDSU TTF), this premiere staged reading will be performed by SDSU student actors and local professionals in SDSU's Experimental Theatre, and directed by Peter Cirino, Associate Professor SDSU TTF.

As visitors to a men's prison, the audience observes four fictional characters taking part in the *I'M GOOD* rehabilitation program. Through the eyes of the inmates, the audience learns about factors that lead to incarceration, challenges of prison life, human frailty, and the power of compassion.

Artwork used on printed materials was created by inmates involved in visual arts programs at Donovan conducted by Project PAINT.

**\*\*\* MORE \*\*\***

Local nonprofit Playwrights Project developed the *Out of the Yard* program in 2014 to voice the stories of individuals who have been incarcerated. Recognizing that we are all capable of redemption, the program supports individuals in creating fictional plays that examine hardships, explore positive peaceful solutions, and redefine individuals beyond the labels imposed by past choices. Through this exploration, participants gain insights and literacy skills, practice social skills such as communication, problem solving, patience and compromise, and further their rehabilitation.

This is the fourth year of collaboration between Playwrights Project and SDSU. The partnership, which unites departments on campus and engages community partners, was initiated by Randy Reinholz, Theatre Faculty at SDSU and Playwrights Project Executive Director Cecelia Kouma. The past three years have also involved Professors Peter Cirino and D.J. Hopkins from SDSU's School of Theatre, Television, and Film School and Josephine Mojica, Assistant Director of EOP and the Guardian Scholars. This year's partnership expanded to include Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility, Project PAINT, and SDSU's Criminal Justice Department.

Over the past four years of the program, the partnership has deepened understanding of foster care and the justice system for students and the general public. In addition to the inter-departmental connections within the university, partnerships with community organizations have developed – SDSU's theatre and film students have worked as videographers and actors in Playwrights Project's community programs, Guardian Scholars have had their plays remounted by Playwrights Project at education conferences, presented as panelists, and created new work in collaboration with other community partners (including Just in Time for Foster Youth); and Guardian Scholars have become actively engaged in the school of Theatre Television and Film. Similar opportunities and connections are expected to develop from this year's expanded collaboration.

Support for this program is provided by: The James Irvine Foundation, The William James Association Prison Arts Project, California Arts Council, City of San Diego Commission for Arts & Culture, and the State of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

**\* \*\* END \*\* \***

the James Irvine foundation



WILLIAM JAMES ASSOCIATION  
PRISON ARTS PROJECT



## About the Partners

## *I'M GOOD ~ Incarcerated Men Getting Over Obstacles Daily*

Playwrights Project is a nonprofit corporation advancing literacy, creativity and communication by empowering individuals to voice their stories through playwriting programs and theatre productions. *Out of the Yard* helps current and former offenders develop fictional plays that examine hardships, explore positive solutions, and redefine individuals beyond the labels imposed by past choices. <http://www.playwrightsproject.org/>  
Cecelia Kouma, *Executive Director*, (858) 384-2907, [ckouma@playwrightsproject.org](mailto:ckouma@playwrightsproject.org)

Guardian Scholars, part of SDSU's Educational Opportunities Program (EOP), is committed to helping students exiting the foster care system, wards of the court, under legal guardianship or unaccompanied homeless youth by providing a comprehensive, highly supportive program to help them achieve the goal of a college degree. The program offers ongoing services such as academic advising, tutoring, skills assessment, and math and writing labs and other critical services to address the unique needs of students in transition. <http://studentaffairs.sdsu.edu/EOP/Content/Guardian%20Scholars.html>  
Josephine Mojica, *Assistant Director*, (619) 594-0140, [mojica@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:mojica@mail.sdsu.edu)

The SDSU School of Theatre, Television, and Film provides high quality education for undergraduate and graduate students. The school's faculty help students realize their creative potential as artists, scholars, leaders, and global citizens who celebrate cultural diversity and promote social equality through theoretical explorations and practical experience in Theatre, Television, and Film. Courses combine concept and craft to lead students from critical analysis to production. <http://theatre.sdsu.edu/>  
Peter Cirino, *Associate Professor*, (619) 729-5549, [pcirino@mail.sdsu.edu](mailto:pcirino@mail.sdsu.edu)

The Criminal Justice Program, within SDSU's School of Public Affairs, educates students for careers in criminal justice agencies or to go on to graduate research or to law school. The programs critically assess the sources of criminal behavior and society's system of dealing with offenders through law, courts, corrections, and community. This program appeals to students who are interested in working in the fields of: law, law enforcement, probation and parole, corrections or other social service agencies. [http://spa.sdsu.edu/index.php/academic\\_programs/criminal\\_justice/cj-overview](http://spa.sdsu.edu/index.php/academic_programs/criminal_justice/cj-overview)

Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility provides housing and supervision for inmates classified as minimum - high custody, encompassed in a Minimum Support Facility. Designed as a training and work-oriented facility, the RJDCF provides vocational, academic, and industrial programs. [http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Facilities\\_Locator/RJD.html](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Facilities_Locator/RJD.html)  
Robert Brown, *Community Resource Manager*, (619) 661-6500, [robert.p.brown@cdcr.ca.gov](mailto:robert.p.brown@cdcr.ca.gov)

William James Association promotes work service in the arts, environment, education, and community development. They focus on transformative arts experiences in nontraditional settings, working with prisoners, high-risk youth, and parolees. The Prison Arts Project contracts with professional artists to provide in-depth, long-term arts experiences for men and women in California state prison facilities, and establishes Artist-In-Residence programs for the National Endowment for the Arts and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. <http://williamjamesassociation.org/>  
Laurie Brooks, 831-246-0561, [laurie@williamjamesassociation.org](mailto:laurie@williamjamesassociation.org)