



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Playwrights Project
Where Stories Take the Stage



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REHABILITATION EXTENDS *BEYOND PRISON WALLS* IN ZOOM PERFORMANCE OF PLAYS PRODUCED BY PLAYWRIGHTS PROJECT AND SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Who: Playwrights Project and San Diego State University School of Theatre, Television and Film (SDSU).

What: *Beyond Prison Walls* features scripts written by incarcerated playwrights in Playwrights Project's *Out of the Yard* Program at various correctional and reentry facilities in Southern California. Produced by San Diego State University Theatre and Playwrights Project. Performed by SDSU theatre students via Zoom.

Live Online Performances: Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 6:00 pm
Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 6:00 pm

Discussion of Restorative Programs: Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 6:00 pm

Where: Online via Zoom! (Meeting ID shared upon reservation)

Tickets: This is a pay-what-you-can performance. Anyone with the financial means is encouraged to [donate to Playwrights Project](#) to support future programming.

How: Playwrights Project (858) 384-2970 or write@playwrightsproject.org
For reservations and information visit:
<http://www.playwrightsproject.org/productions/community/>

Beyond Prison Walls is the eighth year of this unique partnership, in which SDSU theatre students perform plays written by writers in underrepresented communities who took part in programs with local nonprofit Playwrights Project. *Beyond Prison Walls'* plays, scenes and monologues were written by playwrights from Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility, Centinela State Prison, and The Lighthouse through Playwrights Project's *Out of the Yard* playwriting program. Originally scheduled to be presented in April 2020, the performance was cancelled due to COVID-19. From its history in SDSU's Experimental theatre, to its present offering as an experimental collaborative performance, Event Producer and Playwrights Project's Executive Director Cecelia Kouma shared, "We are honored to give voice to our writers, and celebrate the creativity and flexibility of working with these student artists."

Creativity and insight sparkle in these original short plays to be presented online via Zoom, directed by Professor Peter Cirino, Tori Rice, and students Madison Stallings and Anne

Marie Thornton. Online reservation is required to attend performances, which are presented on a free or “pay-what-you-can” scale.

Each performance is followed by an interactive talkback with the cast, program providers, representatives from corrections, and returned citizens. Audience members are invited to discuss the themes presented in the plays and to explore opportunities for creating community and supporting rehabilitation.

This year’s presentation will include a discussion of restorative practices and arts programs offered at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility on Wednesday July 1st at 6:00pm, also to be held via Zoom. The showcase will highlight the life-altering work of organizations such as Jail Guitar Doors, Project PAINT and Playwrights Project. Attendees will gain in-depth insight to their efforts to further humanize the public perception of the prison population, promote the positive work being done at RJD, and connect resources for greater impact.

Playwrights Project initiated its *Out of the Yard* program at Donovan in 2014. The program supports individuals in creating fictional plays that examine hardships and explore positive peaceful solutions. Participants redefine are empowered to redefine themselves beyond the labels imposed by past choices. Through this exploration, participants further their rehabilitation by developing literacy skills, social skills such as communication, empathy, problem solving, patience and compromise, and gain insights.

Bringing these works to the students at SDSU and the community at large, provides an opportunity for the incarcerated playwrights to reach beyond themselves and have a positive impact on the community.

Dr. Heather Greenwald, Chief of Mental Health at Donovan, called *Out of the Yard* “transformative.”

“What this team brings (to the men at Donovan) is the reflection of their value... And for the moments that they are all together they are not in prison, they are playwrights, they are actors, they are creators not destroyers, and ... they are making something beautiful.”

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

An Anonymous Foundation

 Commission for Arts and Culture

 CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL

 WILLIAM JAMES ASSOCIATION
PRISON ARTS PROJECT



SIDNEY E. FRANK FOUNDATION

Beyond Prison Walls Plays and Writers

Wednesday, June 24th

Erin's History
by Shaka Morgan

The Fog
by Joshua Kimble

The End?
by Arturo Flores

A Tuxedo
By James Phillip

Snow White 2.0
by Christopher James and Steven Gonzales

Thursday, June 25th

Love From An Unlikely Source
by James Daniel Nelson

Dream Catcher
by Billy Ballantyne

Monkey Business
by Anthony Debartolo and Herbert Cruz

Bouncing Ball
by Earl Young