



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

Playwrights Project
Where Stories Take the Stage



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**REHABILITATION EXTENDS *BEYOND PRISON WALLS* IN 7TH YEAR 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.

Live Theatre Performances: Thursday, April 18, 2019 at 7:00pm
Friday, April 19, 2019 at 7:00pm
Saturday, April 20, 2019 at 2:00pm
Saturday, April 20, 2019 at 7:00pm

Showcase of Prison Programs: Saturday, April 20, 2019 from 5:00-6:30pm

Where: San Diego State University's Experimental Theatre

Tickets: No Charge

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 seventh 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. Each performance will feature the same short plays, scenes and monologues written by nine playwrights from Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility, Centinela State Prison, The Lighthouse, and Male Community Reentry Program through Playwrights Project's *Out of the Yard* playwriting program. These new plays illuminate the prison pipeline and offer insights into responsibility, hope, love, and transformation. These staged readings will be directed by Professor Peter Cirino and student Madison Stallings presented in SDSU's Experimental Theatre. The performances are free of charge and open to students and the general public. 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 showcase of several of the programs offered at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility on Saturday April 20th from 5:00-6:30pm inside the Experimental Theatre. The showcase will highlight the life-altering work of organizations such as SDSU's Project Rebound, Jail Guitar Doors, Prison Yoga Project, 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, connect resources for greater impact, and recruit more volunteers.

On Saturday April 20 from 4:00-7:00pm, an informal Resource Fair in the courtyard outside the theatre will provide information on additional program services offered at Donovan. Audience members are invited to mingle with service providers to learn how they may join the efforts to provide rehabilitation to those currently incarcerated.

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

Want Him to Do Right, But Wrong So Easy

Alfonza Phillips

Centinela State Prison

Play: A caring father gives all his love and support to keep his son safe from a life on the streets.

BeeLeaf

By Shawn Malone Khalifa

Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility, Yard E

Play: A drone bee dreams of becoming a queen, encouraged by an inspiring leaf.

Remote Love

By Mikael Webb

Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility, Yard C

Play: After her husband is incarcerated, a wife wonders about their vow to remain faithful.

At Mom's Funeral

By Gabriel Alvarez

Community Transition Center \ The Lighthouse

Short scene: Siblings reconnect at their mother's funeral

Paris France & Slim Jims (A Dog's Tour d'farce)

By Edward Davilla Garza

Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility, Yard B

Play: Prison search dogs reveal reflect on incarceration and their own longing for freedom.

A Conversation with God

By Steven Hauser

Community Transition Center \ The Lighthouse

Short scene: God attempts to comfort a man who is in jail awaiting sentencing.

An Ankle Monitor

By Ruben Chavarria

Male Community Reentry Program

Monologue: An ankle monitor shares his distaste for his unfortunate job assignment.

At the Top of the Mountain

by Eric Marroquin

Centinela State Prison

Play: A parolee getting back on his feet offers helpful advice to others who are also struggling.

Kicks! A Shoe'sical

By Melvin D.L. Price Jr.

Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility, Yard E

Musical: Air Jordans, Vans, church shoes and high heels vie for attention and relevance.