

## A Night To Remember

My name is Michael Rhynes I created PPTG and cofounded it with fellow incarcerated people. The purpose of PPTG is to provide sanctuary for weary souled incarcerated persons who want to escape the senseless and useless violence of prison life, through the art of drama and the therapeutical application of Bioenergetics.

Every Monday night for the last 18 months the 5 of us came from our cold and desolate cells to be warmed by the metaphorical camp fire of PPTG.

Shivering from our shameful and painful past, we began our quest for transformation by telling stories through our bodies. Our bodies found out they were not alone.

Taking the torches of this new perspective and looking at our lives from a different vantage point. We walked into the broad day light of a community we founded on love, compassion, empathy, the courage to listen to another's painful sharing and the willingness to walk another mile carrying each others burdens.

On April 28 in the year of 2011 at seven o'clock in the Auburn prison chapel the labor of our love bore fruit. We hosted our world premier entitled, "Inside Out."

What a night to remember! Eighty people from the community along with the local media, a theater critic and a independent journalist came to witness us rise from the ashes of our painful past transforming into the human being we were meant to be.

For the next 2 hours Auburn prison became a beacon of hope. The 5 members of PPTG the community, prison administrators and the rank and file of correctional officers. Laughed, cried, felt compassion, became spellbound by our true to life dramas, experiencing the festival of what it means to be human by sharing the love and triumph of the human spirit.

For those of you who have never been in prison, prison is about constraining the body, mind and soul. On April 28 I had the chance to something I love, dancing. I had the pleasure of sharing my sad yet funny story about growing up a fat kid.

The audience as well as my fellow cast members helped me carry the burden of being ashamed of being a over weigh child in a skinny world. With the weight of shame gone I was able to perform the dance called the "Robot" and sing Michael Jackson's , "Dancing Machine."

At that moment I was no longer performing on a chapel stage in prison. I had been teleported by the love radiating from the audience and my peers onto the stage at Carnegie Hall. I was free for the first time in 27 years. I had been transformed into the human being I was meant to be.