

EXPERIENCE A SECOND CHANCE WITH PPTG

PPTG (Phoenix Players Theater Group) is united with the community-at-large to provide incarcerated and non-incarcerated persons with exposure to the therapeutic transformative power of the dramatic arts. In short, by learning acting skills we learn about ourselves and others. Through drama we support the redemptive journey each of us are on ...

PPTG is dynamic and revolutionary because we are thinking outside the isolated, stale box of incarceration to be on the cutting edge of personal transformation. We know that transformation is a gift anyone has access too--whether incarcerated or not, even within one of the worst ideas for rehabilitation--incarceration.

PPTG'S BEGINNING AND PHILOSOPHY

PPTG is a grassroots-type organization that is designed by incarcerated people on the ground, in the midst of the struggle to define rehabilitation as a reality and not a buzz word or talking point thrown about by politicians or self-serving administrators. PPTG believes we've all made mistakes and are worthy of a second chance. In other words, our mistakes are not who we are, but something we did and have since moved on and learned from. PPTG understands firsthand the need for reconciliation with the community, one's self, and family.

PPTG is the brainchild of Michael Rhynes #85C0181 (author of the chapbook Guerillas In The Mist: And Other Poems, Olive Trees Publishing, 2009). Mr. Rhynes has collaborated with other like-minded individuals to create a program that offers its participants a redemptive experience. Mr. Rhynes, along with other progressive members are currently undergoing the first cycle of PPTG under the guidance of Stephen Cole (a retired professor from Cornell University with over thirty years teaching experience and over eight years of healing school exposure). During this cycle PPTG members will be on a journey of learning and transformation that will culminate with a full, theater production. This cycle is trail blazing for the next cycle, which the current members will teach. PPTG meets regularly on Thursday evenings at Auburn Correctional Facility's Osborne School from 7:00-9:00 PM. An additional time may be added at a later date.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

PPTG is looking for community involvement. By supporting PPTG in one (or more) of the following ways, supports the efforts of all of us who have fallen short, and risen from the dust of our failures to embrace compassion and a transformative realization. This is a revolutionary concept that unites incarcerated persons with community members while they are reclaiming their humanity.

1. Support PPTG by becoming a community member. As a part of the PPTG crew you will be introduced to acting technique, defense mechanisms, and work with fellow actors towards a full production. More importantly though, in order for PPTG to realize its highest potential we need community members. Become a member to transform the idea of what rehabilitation and redemption can mean. By bearing witness to our redemptive attempts, society-at-large can attest that rehabilitation is possible and transformations real for people who have made mistakes by making themselves accountable by becoming better people ready to serve a community they were once at odds with. In order to develop solidarity and an environment of mutual trust and respect, PPTG is non-sectarian, and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, disabilities, etc. PPTG simply asks for your openness and cooperation.

2. SUPPORT PPTG by committing to attend the end-of-cycle full production. At the end of each cycle PPTG actors/actresses will perform. Your attendance will ensure that PPTG stays around to help future incarcerated and non-incarcerated persons get a second chance. The auditorium can seat 900+ individuals.

3. Support PPTG with a donation. Currently PPTG needs funds to purchase books and other support material. Donations could also include stage equipment. Auburn has an auditorium, recently remediated for asbestos, and is bereft of any stage equipment. The following stage equipment is needed: Curtains, Lights, Sound Equipment, Storage Containers that can be secured. Donations are held by the Durland Alternatives Library (Cornell University).

4. Support PPTIG with your ideas and suggestions and alliances. PPTIG is always looking for innovative and fresh ideas to grow as a therapeutic dramatic arts program and to gain exposure to give incarcerated persons a rehabilitative advantage. PPTIG members are interested in having their journey of redemptive transformation documented as they work towards a full theater production. Any suggestions for how this documentation can take place are greatly appreciated.

Finally, PPTIG members want to return to their families and communities as assets -- whole people who are ready to contribute to build up ourselves and each other. PPTIG understands this cannot happen alone and in isolation. This vision can only happen by working together to reconnect with each other to restore a voice to the voiceless. PPTIG makes a personal impact because it requires personal involvement. If you have any advice, suggestions, words of encouragement, or support, please respond immediately to the contact information below. PPTIG may have to respond via snail mail so please include a physical address with your support. We will be in touch, your support means everything to us.

PPTIG would like to extend its heart-felt gratitude to Mr. Bruce George who came to Auburn Correctional Facility to share and inspire with his personal philosophy, history and success.

Mr. George, when you stated that you haven't "made it" until this place (prison) is empty, we stand in solidarity with you to realize the impossible dream. Mr. George, thank you for giving us a hand-up. You always have an open invitation! See you at the end-of-cycle production and next cycle of PPTIG!

CONTACT: