

SPECIAL THANKS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DEAN WILLIAMS DIRECTOR MATT HANSON WARDEN RYAN LONG MAJ LISA GATES-FOUSE CAPT TODD CRIST MAJ BRIAN SCOTT SGT ANGELO CASTRO LT JASON SMITH DW RECREATION STAFF LT GAYLE ROSS PIO ANNIE SKINNER ZOE VOLLMER, ADMIN ASSISTANT III KELLY GREGSON STEVEN MCDONALD THE NEWMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS SAXON RHOAD HALEY GIBLERT ALLIE ELIOT SHANNON SLIVA

UPCOMING DU PAI PROJECTS

Antigone

Limon Correctional Facility in April 2020

Interview-based Theatre Play
Sterling Correctional Facility in May 2020

Full-length Musical (Title TBD)
Fremont Correctional Facility in June 2020

With(in) Podcast Season One Now available at *thisiswithin.com* and on Spotify and iTunes Season Two available in 2020

The Inside Report | State-wide CDOC Newspaper Produced in Fremont Correctional Facility

STAY IN TOUCH WITH DU PAI

prisonarts@du.edu du.edu/ahss/prisonarts Facebook: DU Prison Arts Initiative Instagram: duprisonarts



THE UNIVERSITY OF DENVER PRISON ARTS INITIATIVE

IN COLLABORATION WITH

THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

PRESENTS

CHARLES DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL

FEATURING WOMEN WHO RESIDE IN THE

DENVER WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

- DECEMBER 5-18, 2019 -

DUPAI generates creative and collaborative learning experiences that enrich the lives of incarcerated people and shift the conversation about prison.

The University of Denver Prison Arts Initiative promotes access to high-quality therapeutic arts programs to incarcerated people in Colorado with the goal of empowering individuals to improve the quality of their lives and prepare to make positive changes in their communities upon release. DU PAI sees this work as part of DU's commitment to be 'a great private university dedicated to the public good.'

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

We've worked as an ensemble of theatre-makers since June to create the show you are about to witness. We have pushed through a lot together; few of the folks you are about to see onstage or peeking from behind the tech booth have ever worked on a full-length play before. Even fewer of them have been on a stage in front of so many people. All of them live in the complicated container of incarceration. Every one of them has made a profound commitment to themself and to their collaborators to put in the time and effort it takes to design, rehearse, and perform a show in prison.

We started this project without knowing how visible we would become over its course. We started with the plan to put on a few shows in the gym at Denver Women's Correctional Facility. Then people got excited to witness the work. People became enamored with the possibilities of seeing these performers tell this story. As I've learned throughout the past decade working in the prison system, being seen is one of life's greatest challenges for folks inside and out. Myself included.

It's hard to be seen once you have disappeared. Prison disappears people behind walls and becomes their identities. It is a place that we on the outside often forget even exists. It is through a willful forgetfulness that we are able to vanish whole people with complicated stories. But of course, many of the people who have been disappeared, will be returning to our communities. And all of them are still people.

This show, for me, has never been about creating the an ingenious production of Dickens' classic tale. Instead, it has been about the folks on stage and behind the scenes rendering themselves profoundly visible. It is about inviting you, our audience, to witness their work over these past months as well as their play within our little production. It is about all of us sitting together to joyfully imagine the world as a space that holds possibility for every human being.

For me, that's the experience of aliveness. It's joy. But it's also justice. It's not changing the whole world at once. It's changing the world one person at a time. It's the kind of work that makes me realize what it is like to be alive. It's work that, as Shelly Pfefferman inspired me to think, doesn't hold onto people — it holds people. Right now, friends, I hope that you will hold us and our ghostly little play with a warm embrace and a growing curiosity.

I hope you'll be alive with us all together, sharing the very best of ourselves, despite coming from difficult places with the most complicated histories. Isn't that what we're here to do? Isn't that who we're here to be? Isn't that the tomorrow we're imagining for every one? It's a carol I hope we can all sing together.

-Dr Clare Hammoor, DU PAI Affiliate Faculty

PRODUCTION TEAM

SCENIC & PROPERTIES DESIGNERS & SHOP CREW
CHRIS NYE, JAKE JACOBSON, AMANDA MORRIS & CREW

COSTUME DESIGNERS
ALLEGRIA MORRISON & JAMIYLAH NELSON

HAIR & MAKE-UP DESIGNERS
MELISSA ALEXANDER & TAMMY FRITZ

SOUND DESIGNERS & FOLEY ARTISTS
CASSANDRA RIEB, AMANDA DELEON
& GLORIA YOUNGER

LIGHTING DESIGNER
JAKE JACOBSON

LIGHTING CONSULTANT
SHANNON MCKINNEY*

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
DR ASHLEY HAMILTON*

PRODUCTION MANAGER
TESS NEEL*

ASSISTANT PRODUCTION MANAGERS
JULIE RADA*, JOAN DIETER* & MADALYNE HEIKEN*

ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER
AMANDA DELEON

STAGE MANAGER KAELYNN FAULKNER

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR & COVER ART CHRIS NYE

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
JAMIE LAW*

DIRECTOR
DR CLARE HAMMOOR*

*Denotes a member of the DUPAI staff or affiliate faculty who is not incarcerated.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

It's a question I get all the time: Why bring theatre, or the arts, into a prison and to incarcerated people? And, it's a question I think about daily and will think about for the rest of my life. The answer is complex and layered. For us at the DU Prison Arts Initiative (DU PAI) we believe that the arts are vital to the human experience. We believe that creating art allows us time, space and opportunity to create meaning — meaning about what it means to be alive and thus tell and experience stories about the human experience which transcend time and space.

Beyond that however, and for me, most importantly — I believe that the arts (and, in particular theatre) can actually act as the perfect vehicle for people to not only tell stories about the human experience — but that being a part of something like you are about to witness, calls on those involved to reflect on who they are, where they have been and where they want to go — all while connecting to the complex, full spectrum of human emotions. That is indeed, what it truly means to be an artist — you cannot divorce the creator from the creation. And, because of that, an incredible opportunity for responsibility, accountability, presence and healing can occur when people are ready for it.

I hear it everyday from our incarcerated students in the 10 prison facilities we work in across the state of Colorado — being involved in the arts while inside creates an opportunity to feel like they are part of something larger than themselves again. Suddenly, they are responsible to the community we create, they are needed and necessary, and they have a space that requires them to show up as their highest, best selves. And, from that space, comes the opportunity to create healing for self and community which opens up opportunity for transformation in people, spaces and systems. There are many ways to transform, this is one of them.

It is important to me that we acknowledge that when we started this production, we did not know it would necessarily involve shows for the public or travel to the public for performances at the University of Denver's Newman Center for the Performing Arts — a truly historic opportunity for all of us. While this is an incredibly exciting opportunity, it also comes with the highest responsibility for us all - the cast, crew, DU PAI staff and the CDOC. We are very aware that we are living in a unique moment in time for corrections in the United States and in Colorado — and it is a moment that can allow for a major shift in the conversation about who is in prison — artists and all. And, you my friend, are in that conversation with us today. You, too, are making meaning along side of the artists you see on stage and backstage — we are creating the healing and the transformation, together. Thank you for being with us, thank you for shifting with us.

ENSEMBLE

EBENEZER SCROOGE DEMIKA ROGERS

BOB CRATCHIT DENISE PRESSON

FRED Katie Barton

PORTLY BUSINESSMEN

JAMIYLAH NELSON, LYNN YOUNG

& DENISE ELLIOTT

LEAD CAROLER ESTELLA TOLEAFOA

JACOB MARLEY
TIFFANY MCCOY

CHRISTMAS PAST ANDRES DOPORTO

YOUNG SCROOGES JAMIYLAH NELSON

FAN TERRINA FLORA-ALEXANDER

BELLE SARAH BERRY

MRS CRATCHIT ERIN PETERSON

CRATCHIT DAUGHTERS KELSY CAPPS & SOPHIE DUNLAP

TINY TIM
CORTNEY RAHRICHT

 $\frac{MRS\ FRED}{\text{ALLEGRIA MORRISON}}$

GREAT FAT MEN WITH MONSTROUS CHINS LAKELA BRASFIELD, CORTNEY RAHRICHT & TIFFANY MCCOY

> CHRISTMAS PRESENT PATRICE PULLIE

OLD JOE STEPHANIE VASQUEZ

> CHARWOMAN JANICE DODSON

BOY ESTELLA TOLEAFOA

TURKEY, FIREPLACE & TREE HOLDER
RUTH SMITH

The ensemble was given a roughly cut version of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' as the basis for the show. This production was curated and created in close collaboration with the ensemble.

CAST & CREW REFLECTIONS

I want to thank DU PAI for reminding my inner true self who she really is. She has been lost and alone for many years but now she's able to smile with her soul. Thank you for helping me play again. — *Torrina Flora-Alexander*

DU PAI has given me a community and friends that I would have never known before. I have gained self-confidence through tons of laughter and hard work. Thank you for the opportunity to grow and break down barriers with amazing people. —*Katie Barton*

This has been one of the longest and most important commitments I've ever accomplished without faltering. The feeling of success has brought hope for my future. —*Kelsy Capps*

It's awesome to know I am involved in something that might change the way things are done in prisons. It is an awesome opportunity I am grateful to be a part of. —Gloria Younger

This experience has helped me become a part of a community that expresses themselves through art. I have been able to open up to new experiences — even if it is just a little bit. Slowly I am learning that it is okay to show others who I am. —*Amanda DeLeon*

Creating our version of 'A Christmas Carol' with DU PAI has reminded me of all the creativity and ingenuity I thought I had lost being incarcerated. It has been an empowering and difficult journey but a journey worth taking! —*Cassandra Rieb*

Nobody really comes to prison thinking they will have an opportunity to be a part of something so positive. DU PAI has enriched all of our lives more than most of us will realize. This has forever changed our lives and hopefully many more to come. —*Jake Jacobson*

I feel very privileged to be a part of something that promotes community. DU PAI is so positive for both eat inside and outside. Many of us have stepped outside ourselves — I truly hope to see this continue. — Tammy Fritz

I feel honored and blessed to be a part of something so big and life changing. DU PAI is a great program for those inside and outside. I would love to participate again. —*Amanda Morris*

DU PAI has brought a sense of being normal, human, back into all of our lives. I am proud to be a part in fellowship and community. Being able to participate in something to show we have all grown and are different is not just an honor but a blessing. —*Chris Nye*

It's okay to count on people — that is super scary for me. Everyone has been here for each other. DU PAI and my peers supported me through everything I had going on outside and inside of the play. I've gained a few friends. Whaaaaaaat?! — Jamiylah Nelson

I am proud of being able to 'leave' the prison and be trusted to do the right thing. It is an honor and commitment to myself and everyone involved. We have been trusted to step outside the box to make history. It is a huge responsibility. — Janice Dodson

This has opened up my heart in ways I've never dreamed of. It's taught me how to grow and believe in my fellow sisters. It's shown me that I am human and not a number. —Lynn Young

I've seen my self-esteem and self-confidence grow. It's amazing to see and experience. I've also learned that patience is a virtue and how to count all my blessings. —*Kaelynn Faulkner*

I feel that being in the play has shown me that I can work with people that I don't always get along with. Through rehearsal, we can get through the whole play together. — Sophie Dunlap

CAST & CREW REFLECTIONS

For the last six months of this year, I have been embarrassed, empowered, and enamored. This experience is beyond imagine. 'It is the people people imagine nothing of that do the things no one imagines.' Gorgeous. Freedom. —*Denise Presson*

This commitment has made me feel like I'm part of something really meaningful. It has been a huge puzzle in the making that required my presence mentally and physically. For just a blink, we get to genuinely enjoy ourselves in this fabulous moment. —Suphanie Vasquez

I have gained the ability to be a part of something so incredibly huge that has allowed me to give back to my community. This experience has brought healing and joy in more ways than I could ever express. —Sarah Berry

This has been a rewarding experience both personally and culturally. It's hard not to engage with the enthusiasm and energy of the DU PAI team. This serves as a reminder that those in prison still have a lot to contribute to society. All is not lost. —*Erin Peterson*

I am grateful for the opportunity to have a chance to perform for our families and friends. Thank you for this wonderful memory. — *Estella Toleafoa*

I have grown to work with people I wouldn't normally interact with. This play has really opened up my mind to not being judgmental about other people and where they have been in their lives. I have made new friends and that's just great. —Denise Elliott

I've struggled with stage fright my entire life. I deal with discomfort by making jokes and this has helped me create my character. If I can make people's lives better by making them smile, then I can relax. I've really enjoyed working with all of our personalities. Struggles build strength over time. —Andres DoPorto

I enjoyed being a part of something bigger than myself from start to finish. —*Lakela Brasfield* This beautiful experience has been a dream. To act and be part of something bigger than myself is life changing. Building bridges behind walls and expressing myself to the community in a positive way has forever changed me. Thank you for a chance to live my dreams. —*Demika Rogers*

Being in this play is such a learning experience for me. Getting to see what goes on behind the scenes and for all those involved gives me a greater appreciation. I am learning the importance of teamwork and letting go of differences for the greater good. It's awesome and I feel honored and privileged to be a part of something so amazing. —*Patrice Pullie*

This has been one of the longest and most important commitments I've ever accomplished without faltering. The feeling of success has brought hope for my future. —*Kelsy Capps*This play has helped me to come out of my dark path and shown me how to care about myself. —*Cortney Rahricht*

I have learned that I am not afraid of failing and that I can do anything I want to better my life and the lives of others. —*Allegria Morrison*

I am excited to see family that I haven't seen in 10 years who is coming to support me. —*Tiffany McCoy*

This play has helped me to become more confident in myself and not so nervous around people. It's also helped me learn to talk in front of large groups. —*Ruth Smith*



UNIVERSITY OF DENVER PRISON ARTS INITIATIVE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND NEWMAN CENTER PRESENT

CHARLES DICKENS' A CHRISTMAS CAROL

FEATURING WOMEN WHO RESIDE IN THE DENVER WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 7:30 pm Friday, December 13, 2019 at 2:00 and 7:30 pm Elizabeth Eriksen Byron Theatre, University of Denver

There will not be an intermission.

ABOUT THE DU PRISON ARTS INITIATIVE

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PRODUCER'S NOTE

It's a question I get all the time: Why bring theatre, or the arts, into a prison and to incarcerated people? And, it's a question I think about daily and will think about for the rest of my life. The answer is complex and layered. For us at the DU Prison Arts Initiative (DU PAI) we believe that the arts are vital to the human experience. We believe that creating art allows us time, space and opportunity to create meaning—meaning about what it is to be alive and thus tell and experience stories about the human experience which can then transcend time and space.

Beyond that however, and for me, most importantly—I believe that the arts (and, in particular theatre) can actually act as the perfect vehicle for people to not only tell stories about the human experience—but that being

This production is made possible in part through special funding from the **Bonfils Stanton Foundation in honor of Denise O'Leary**.

The DU Prison Arts Initiative is funded in part through the Madden Center for Innovation in the Liberal & Creative Arts, a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Colorado Department of Corrections.

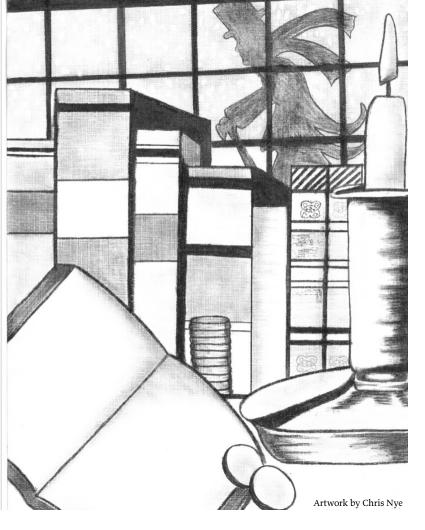




Photo and video recording are strictly prohibited.







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are many ways to transform, this is one of them.

It is important to me that we acknowledge that when we started this production, we did not know it would necessarily involve shows for the public or travel to the public for performances at the Robert and Judi Newman Center for the Performing Arts—a truly historic opportunity for all of us, including DU and the Newman Center. While this is all an incredibly exciting opportunity, it also comes with the highest responsibility for us all: the cast, crew, DU PAI staff and the CDOC. We are very aware that we are living in a unique moment in time for corrections in the United States and in Colorado—and it is a moment that can allow for a major shift in the conversation about who is in prison—artists and all. And, you my friend, are in that conversation with us today. You, too, are making meaning along side of the artists you see on stage and backstage—we are creating the healing and the transformation, together. Thank you for being with us, thank you for shifting with us.

—Dr Ashley Hamilton, Director of DU PAI

ENSEMBLE

Ebenezer Scrooge Demika Rogers
Bob Cratchit Denise Presson
Fred
Portly Businessmen Jamiylah Nelson, Lynn Young, Denise Elliott
Lead Caroler
Jacob Marley Tiffany McCoy
Christmas Past
Young Scrooges Jamiylah Nelson
Fan
Belle
Mrs. Cratchit Erin Peterson
Cratchit Daughters Kelsy Capps, Sophie Dunlap
Tiny Tim
Mrs. Fred
Great Fat Men with Monstrous Chins Lakela Brasfield,
Christmas Present Patrice Pullie
Old Joe Stephanie Vasquez
Charwoman
Boy
Turkey, Fireplace, and Tree Holder Ruth Smith

The ensemble was given a roughly cut version of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol as the basis for the show. This production was curated and created in close collaboration with the ensemble.

PRODUCTION TEAM

Scenic and Properties Designers and Shop Crew Chris Nye, Jake Jacobson, Amanda Morris, and Crew
Costume Designers Allegria Morrison, Jamiylah Nelson
Hair and Makeup Designers Melissa Alexander, Tammy Fritz
Sound Designers and Foley Artists Cassandra Reib, Amanda Deleon, Gloria Younger
Lighting Designer Jake Jacobson
Lighting Consultant Shannon McKinney*
Executive Producer Dr Ashley Hamilton*
Production Manager
Assistant Production Managers Julie Rada*, Joan Dieter*, Madalyne Heiken*
Assistant Stage Manager Amanda DeLeon
Stage Manager
Technical Director and Cover Art Chris Nye
Assistant Director Jamie Law*
Director Dr Clare Hammoor*
Dean of the DU College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences
Interim Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor
*Denotes a member of the DU PAI staff or affiliate faculty who is not incarcerated.

CAST AND CREW REFLECTIONS

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DU PAI has given me a community and friends that I would have never known before. I have gained self-confidence through tons of laughter and hard work. Thank you for the opportunity to grow and break down barriers with amazing people. —*Katie Barton*

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This experience has helped me become a part of a community that expresses themselves through art. I have been able to open up to new experiences—even if it is just a little bit. Slowly I am learning that it is okay to show others who I am. —*Amanda DeLeon*

Creating our version of *A Christmas Carol* with DU PAI has reminded me of all the creativity and ingenuity I thought I had lost being incarcerated. It has been an empowering and difficult journey but a journey worth taking! —*Cassandra Rieb*

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I feel very privileged to be a part of something that promotes community. DU PAI is so positive for both the inside and outside. Many of us have stepped outside ourselves—I truly hope to see this continue. — *Tammy Fritz*

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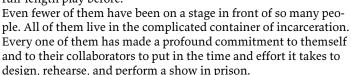
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We've worked as an ensemble of theatre-makers since June to create the show you are about to witness. We have pushed through a lot together; few of the folks you are about to see onstage or peeking from behind the tech booth have ever worked on a full-length play before.



We started this project without knowing how visible we would become over its course. We started with the plan to put on a few shows in the gym at Denver Women's Correctional Facility. Then people got excited to witness the work. People became enamored with the possibilities of seeing these performers tell this story. As I've learned throughout the past decade working in the prison system, being seen is one of life's greatest challenges for folks inside and out. Myself included.

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—Dr Clare Hammoor, DU PAI Affiliate Faculty

SPECIAL THANKS

Executive Director Dean Williams Director Matt Hansen Warden Ryan Long Major Lisa Gates-House Captain Todd Crist Major Brian Scott Sergeant Angelo Castro Lieutenant Jason Smith DW Recreation Staff Lieutenant Gavle Ross Pio Annie Skinner Zoe Vollmer, Administrative Assistant III Kelly Gregson Steven McDonald Robert and Judi Newman Center for the Performing Arts Saxon Rhoad Haley Gilbert Allie Eliot Dr Shannon Sliva

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The Inside Report: State-wide CDOC Newspaper produced in

Fremont Correctional Facility

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prisonarts@du.edu du.edu/ahss/prisonarts

Facebook: DU Prison Arts Initiative, @duprisonartsinitiative

Instagram: @duprisonarts

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