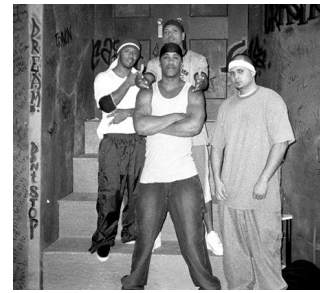


# our mission

The performance project is committed to the enrichment and empowerment of our membership who have been incarcerated, so that we may know our value as individuals and as part of a larger community. Through self-reflection and social analysis we create and perform compelling works of theater, movement, and spoken word that speak the truth about ourselves, and the forces in society that affect our lives.

Project members sustain each other as we confront the many challenges of finding our place in the community-at-large. We assist each other in securing counseling, housing, health care, and employment. We support each other in our recovery from addiction and trauma, and through our creative work scrutinize the effects of bigotry, oppression, and violence on all of us.



# our partnerships

## *Preventive Medicine Association, Joaquin Rodriguez*

We are pleased to announce a new partnership with Preventive Medicine Association (Holyoke Medical Practice, Springfield International Health Center, Springfield Family Practice). Together we are working to strengthen and expand recovery support services and programming for members and clients of both organizations. The Association's practices in Holyoke and Springfield provide home detox, sobriety maintenance, and primary care services. 24-hour hotline: 800.770.1904

## *Dragon's Den School of Martial Arts*

In collaboration with the performance project, Dragon's Den School of Martial Arts offers workshops for all ages, and mentorships for youth through martial arts and movement. For information, call Dragon's Den School of Martial Arts: 413.531.4940

the performance project  
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All donations are tax-deductible.  
Your support is appreciated.



# The Performance Project



## our vision

**To create theater** collaboratively, based on our experiences, ideas, and beliefs

**To create theater** that focuses on truth-telling and breaks down the prison walls of stereotype and stigma about people who are incarcerated

**To create theater** that examines the underlying systems of oppression that impact the lives of our members

**To perform** locally and nationally

**To perform** for diverse audiences and offer them a unique opportunity to examine issues of social inequality and oppression

**To work with youth**, sharing our experience, knowledge, and hope



## the performance project

A unique non-profit organization based in western Massachusetts, **the performance project** combines artistic self-expression and ongoing recovery support to men and women in jail and to those who have been released from jail. In collaboration with other artists in the community, we create compelling and completely original performance pieces – incorporating theater, poetry, music, visual art, and movement – based on our life experiences, ideas, and beliefs.

**the performance project** provides our members a rare venue for self-representation and offers the public insight into the lives of people coming out of jail, struggling to re-integrate into a society that does not always welcome them. These are stories rarely told, stories that address critical social and cultural issues, stories that can initiate dialogue and connection between people who have been incarcerated and their communities.

“During the performance the things that divide people dissolved, and the things that are essential to our humanity rose...we touched the commonality of despair and hope.” – audience member

## we seek to

**Break** the cycle of relapse that leads to re-incarceration

**Provide** the training and support whereby company members can become mentors and community educators, taking a leadership role in our own and others recovery and reintegration

**Pursue** our educational, artistic, and vocational goals

**Expand** the public’s definitions and expectations of people coming out of jail

**Challenge** communities to support people coming out of prisons and jails

“Performing helped me understand choice in my life – that I have the power within me to be creative, to do things that at one time I believed I couldn’t do.” – Javier, age 25



## The Outside Company

In July 2002, project members interested in working together beyond jail joined with other local artists to form a group “on the outside.” The Outside Company’s goal is to bring our plays and our messages about oppression, addiction, incarceration, and re-integration to broader audiences and to function as a recovery and re-integration support network.

**Recovery and re-integration support for our members is a critical element of our work.** The Outside Company functions as a peer-support group and incorporates a weekly relapse-prevention meeting as part of our regular rehearsal schedule. We also participate in trainings to develop our mentoring skills.

## workshops

**We offer creative workshops** for youth and recovery programs and workshops on the issues raised in our plays.

**We offer issue-based workshops** for youth programs, recovery programs, and other community groups.