

BRAVE
IN A NEW WORLD



THURS. SEPTEMBER 15, 7:30 PM

JUDY DWORIN
PERFORMANCE PROJECT

JDPP

Moving for Change Since 1989

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FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:

When developing and presenting *In My Shoes* in 2014, I could not imagine the kind of interest and audiences that it would attract. How important it was to bring the conversation about incarceration to the theatrical forum and allow the voices of those inside and those now released to bring their stories forward to over 2,500 audience members throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts.

There is so much more to say on this topic, so many aspects to this nagging question of how to approach criminal justice and those directly affected by it, that urgently need to be brought forward.

Brave in a New World does just that.

Through spoken word, dance, song and visual elements, *Brave* moves from a world of childhood and innocence, to the turning points when lives go awry, to the actuality of the prison experience, and then, to what it is like to come home to a world greatly changed and often unwelcoming.

The voices of the young guide us through this process—the actual words of the brave and resilient children and youth that we work with in our Bridging Boundaries programs in-schools and afterschool counterpoint the stories of those journeying to prison and back home.

The women, men and children in this piece, through dance, spoken word and song, have all found a special courage that they bring to their lives and that they share with you tonight.

Thank you for being here to be a part of that process.

~Judy Dworin~

CREDITS:

Brave in a New World was conceived and scripted by Judy Dworin and co-directed with Kathy Borteck Gersten.

The dances were developed collaboratively with the Ensemble.

Ensemble Performers: Robert Byrd, Mellissa Craig, Lisa Matias, Meghan McDermott, and Haley Zdebski

Original text by performers Robin Cullen, Kelly Donnelly, Leesa Srams, and Kathy Wyatt

With additional contributions by Robert Byrd, Michelle Saveriano, Tracy Shumaker, Victoria Steele, Yalines Torres, and Brenda Williams

Children and youth's contributions by Angiebel, Luis H., Luis T., Adrian, Sheldon, Tianna and others from Judy Dworin Performance Project's Bridging Boundaries outreach to youth with incarcerated parents; spoken on the soundscore by Angiebel, Maygen, and Luis T.

Adult voices on soundscore: Robert Byrd, Mellissa Craig, Kathy Borteck Gersten and Brenda Williams

Lighting by Blu

Set Design by Marcela Otéiza

Set Construction by Charles Carroll

Sound Design by Ritz

Songs by Leslie Bird with Rowana Grady and Angela Grano, performed in the soundscore by Leslie Bird and Rowana Grady

Graphic Design by Taylor Goodell Benedum

Photography by John Atashian

Publicist – Susan Hood

Marketing and Community Outreach - Vera Smith Winfree and Suzi Jensen

Project Coordination - Tracey Mozdierz, Suzi Jensen, Susan Crossley

SECTIONS OF BRAVE IN A NEW WORLD

When Your Hero Falls
How to Play Stuck in the Muck
Reminiscences
Death is a Turning Point
Personal Prisons
Caged Free
One Moment, One Bullet
I Braid
The News
Out from Under
Saying Bye-Bye
My Grandchild
Rest Easy, Sleep Easy
Will there be Room for Me?
Almost Touching
Arrival
Gratitude
Stand Off
Can Anybody Hear Me?
My I.D.
The Job Search
A List of Recommended Start Overs
Starting Over
In Remembrance
My Sister
Brave in a New World
Every Morning
I See the Light

Original Songs: (in order of appearance)

“Stuck in the Muck” composed and performed by Leslie Bird with Rowana Grady; music “Perpetual” by Peter Jones; “Caged Free” composed by Leslie Bird with Elaine Hairston and Leslie Manselle; “Rest Easy, Sleep Easy” composed and performed by Leslie Bird; “Can Anybody Hear Me?” composed and performed by Leslie Bird with Rowana Grady; “Starting Over” Song 1 and 2 composed by Leslie Bird and Angela Grano and performed by Leslie Bird and Rowana Grady; “I See the Light” composed by Leslie Bird with Rowana Grady with contributions to the lyrics by Victoria Steele, and performed by Leslie Bird

Recorded Music and Found Text:

“Soujourner” by Christopher of the Wolves used with permission of Christopher of the Wolves; “Gone” by Digital used with permission of Andy Dobson-www.digital.com; “Three Hours” and “Priceless” by Dr. Toast used with permission of Dr. Toast; “Electric Tears” by Buckethead; “Nothing” and “Beauty” by Beth Quist used with permission of www.ilicensemusic.com; “Passagio” and “Primavera” by Ludovico Einaudi used with permission of Contracts & Licensing Coordinator for G. Schirmer, Inc./Associated Music Publishers, Inc.; “With Rainy Eyes” by Emancipator used with permission of BMI; “When Ure Hero Falls” by Tupac Shakur

Special thanks to Jim Keller, Alexa Fleury, Robyn Joyce and Greg Boucher at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Performing Arts Theater, the JDPP Board of Directors, Ensemble member Christine Perry for her contributions to the dances, Commissioner Scott Semple, Warden Stephen Faucher, Deputy Warden Pam Senerth, Counselor Supervisor Damian Doran, Retired York CI Principal Laura Greene, Jill Sandora, Christine Castronova, Karen Jones, Joseph Lea, Linda Darcy, Deborah Rogala and Opal Ellison of Community Partners in Action, Bonnie Foreshaw, and at Trinity College: Sheila Fisher, Amy Brough, Beth Fitzgerald, the Theater and Dance Department for the use of the studios for rehearsal, Joe Barber, Laura Lockwood, Donna Dale Marcano, Teresita Romero, the Fred, and New Beginnings.

BIOS:

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Judy Dworin, Founder (Artistic Director) is a dance/theater artist and educator who is committed to giving voice and inspiring social action through her work with the Judy Dworin Performance Project (JDPP), which she founded in 1989. JDPP has provided cutting-edge performance through its collaborative **Ensemble**; a noted in-school educational residency program, **Moving Matters!**; and **Bridging Boundaries**, an arts intervention program for those affected by incarceration. Her award-winning performance work has been seen in New York City, throughout New England, at colleges and universities as well as prisons and urban schools. JDPP was awarded the prestigious Tapestry Award for bridging diverse sectors of the community in 2010 and Judy was recognized in 2012 as an honoree for the Connecticut Women's Hall of Fame, celebrating "Voice and Vision". Judy is a Professor Emerita at Trinity College, where she established the Dance Program, co-founded the Trinity/La MaMa Performing Arts Program in NYC, and chaired the department for many years. For the past eleven years, Judy's performance residency work with women at York Correctional Institution, the only state prison for women in CT, has inspired her to develop a comprehensive residency outreach to populations affected by incarceration. This program, partnering with social service and community organizations, York Correctional Institution and most recently the Cybulski CI Reintegration Center, provides arts engagements to children and youth with parents in prison; York mothers and their children; Cybulski CI Dads and their children; and women returning home from prison. An article that she wrote about her work at York CI is featured as part of Jonathan Shailor's book *Performing New Lives: Prison Theater*.

Kathy Borteck Gersten (Associate Artistic Director), in addition to being the Associate Artistic Director of JDPP, is the coordinator for the residency program *Moving Matters!* which has had programs at the Parkville Community School, Burr Elementary School, Kinsella Magnet School for the Performing Arts, Naylor Elementary School and Moylan Elementary School in Hartford, CT, where she also teaches along with the team of JDPP teaching artists. For many years she taught as a guest lecturer in the Department of Theater and Dance at Trinity College. Kathy is part of the teaching team at York Correctional Institution in Niantic, CT for the performance-based project with the women in addition to the program for Moms and Kids. She has been involved in the program for Youth With Incarcerated Parents since it began in collaboration with Families

in Crisis at the Church of the Good Shepherd and has expanded to include A.I. Prince Technical High School, M.D. Fox Elementary School, Moylan Elementary School, and Parkville Community School, Hartford, CT. Kathy received a B.S. with a specialty in Dance from the George Washington University in Washington, DC. Her continued dance studies took her to New York City, Wisconsin and Florida performing with Maida Withers Dance Construction Company, Dance Alliance, Michael Kasper Solos, Merce Cunningham Summer Repertory, Fusion Dance Company, KBG and Dancers and Orion Dance Theater and JDPP. She was a founding member of Dance Services Network, on the Board of the Connecticut Dance Alliance from where she received the Distinguished Achievement Award in 2009 and a Master Teaching Artists with The Office of the Arts for the CT Dept. of Economic and Community Development.

Blu (Lighting Design) lived in NYC for 20 years where he was resident designer at the Cubiculo and La MaMa E.T.C., was a Bessie Award winner, and lighting designer for such renowned dance theater artists as Eiko and Koma, Ping Chong, Donald Byrd, Sally Gross, Nancy Meehan and Paula Josa Jones to name a few. He now lives in Bloomfield with his wife, Judy and their family of dogs, turtles, fish, birds, frogs, toads, and bats.

Leslie Bird (Musical Director, Singer and Songwriter) began her singing career as a voice student at the Hartt School of Music and at the Artists Collective in Hartford. In 1988, she became a singer and later musical director for a cappella gospel singing group Women of the Cross, founded at the Artists Collective. In 2013 Leslie helped establish Women On Our Own, with Artistic Director Judy Dworin and was musical director of the group until 2015. Leslie became a Teaching Artist for the CT Commission on Culture and Tourism and has since completed several residencies in Connecticut schools. She has also been a lead teaching artist on JDPP's collaborative teaching team at York Correctional Institution, as well as at Synergy Alternative High School, Kinsella Magnet School of Performing Arts, Parkville Community School and with Hartford Performs. Leslie composed the songscore for three JDPP performance pieces and received a Meet the Composer Grant from NEFA for her work on the JDPP production of *Dreamings* in 2009. She composed and performed solo the entire vocal score for the award-winning JDPP production of *In This House* in 2012.

Robert Byrd (Ensemble) is a New Haven native whose love for dance and drama has been instilled and evolving since childhood. Although not ever formally trained in dance, Robert served as

member and co-captain of New Haven's Mob Squad Drill and Drum team for over 7 years, where he performed competitively in front of large and small crowds, leading his team to numerous victories. He made his dance debut in JDPP's 2012 production of *In This House*, playing the role of Adam Jackson.

Mellissa Craig (Ensemble) is a first generation American; born into Jamaican parents. She is an accomplished dancer in Modern, African, and Caribbean folk forms, as well as a trained stilt walker. She got her start as a dancer as a Company member with the Cultural Dance Troupe of the West Indies, and pursued dance as an avid hobby and passion starting at age 10. In 2009, Ms. Craig traveled to Cape Town, South Africa as part of an artist exchange project, which was centered on creating cultural and generational bridges between artists. This project gave Ms. Craig the opportunity to direct a cast of 30 South African youth in song, dance, and storytelling. The experience left Ms. Craig with lasting memories and deep motivation thereby, compelling her to continue this important work of arts activism. Ms. Craig holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Trinity College. For the past 5 years, she has been building a career as a dancer, performer and instructor in the Hartford area. As a founding Company member of Island Reflections Dance Theatre Company, Mellissa has had the pleasure of working alongside Artistic Director, Stephen Hankey and the other Company members to build a strong foundation in dance, education, and empowerment for the community of students and families. Ms. Craig is currently employed by the Capital Region Education Council (CREC) as a Core Faculty member at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts Elementary and Middle Schools. She teaches dance, theater and stilt walking and acts as a consultant, and curriculum development specialist. Mellissa is also a current company member and teaching artist for the Judy Dworin Performance Project, and has enjoyed great success in performing and touring throughout CT and New England. She is the proud mother of one son, DeAndre, and would like to one day open her own stilt walking company in the Hartford area in the future. Mellissa's personal philosophy: "I am dedicated to using the arts to make the world a brighter and more enlightened place to live."

Robin Cullen (Performer) is a Consultant, Group Facilitator, and Artist. She was a member of the therapeutic writing group formed by Wally Lamb at York Correctional Institution. Robin's essay was published in *Couldn't Keep It To Myself* (2003). She continues with

related work as a guest performer and board member for the Judy Dworin Performance Project (JDPP). Ms. Cullen is a trained group facilitator in curricula written by Dr. Stephanie Covington: *Beyond Trauma*, *Beyond Violence and Anger*, *A Women's Way Through the Twelve Steps*, and *Healing Trauma* and is certified through Amherst Writers and Artists to teach therapeutic writing. She worked with Mothers Against Drunk Driving, (MADD) for more than ten years. Now, owner of *Color Outside The Lines*, Robin facilitates groups in prisons and halfway houses. Robin is also a remodeling contractor. Uplifting, renovating, and repurposing - people, places, and things!

Kelly Donnelly (Performer) is a native of Boston and its South Shore. Her poetry was published in the second volume written by the women at York, *I'll Fly Away* edited by Wally Lamb. For eight years, Ms. Donnelly has been writing and performing her original works with JDPP in their York residency. She has had visual art, poetry, and prose published in Community Partners in Action's Prison Arts Journal as well as being featured at the Brooklyn Museum of Art with her art collaboration with women at York. Kelly continues to explore the arts with Guido Garaycochea of Expressiones Cultural Center. She is currently a yoga dance instructor at Toivo by Advocacy Unlimited in Hartford. Kelly is most at home in nature. Tending to the earth in York's community gardens fostered healing on a soul level. She plans to bring the magic of gardening to her new community.

Rowana Grady (Singer and Songwriter) spent most of her childhood living in the South End of Hartford. She is very passionate about helping people overcome obstacles and secure healthy living. Rowana has a strong faith in God and knows first-hand the difficulty of rising above circumstance. She obtained her Master's Degree from the University of Connecticut's School of Social Work and is currently employed as a Department of Children and Families social worker. Rowana was previously employed by Community Partners in Action's Alternative to Incarceration Program (HAIC) working with men affected by the criminal justice system and the Resettlement Program working with women who were leaving prison. She is currently in her 2nd year of Doctoral Education studying Professional Leadership, Inquiry, and Transformation. While finishing her Master's degree she became an active part of JDPP and was featured in JDPP's *In My Shoes*. She says JDPP is life changing because it brings a different message to the world concerning individuals negatively affected by the justice system, gives hope to them affected, and the program sheds much light on social issues this population faces that, more often than not, leads individuals back to the streets. Rowana's

goal is to become a professor that teaches students about social and systems issues. She desires to have her own practice as a child therapist in hopes that she can combat and prevent situations and behaviors that lead to incarceration and poor mental health. Rowana says she refuses to allow her valuable experiences to go in vain and is therefore reaching back, giving back, and not turning back.

Lisa Matias (Ensemble) received her BA from Trinity College, Hartford, CT., where she was awarded the President's Fellowship in Theater and Dance. She has taught and performed with several companies throughout the Northeast. Lisa currently teaches at Trinity College and at her own studio, Lisa Matias Dance Centre. Lisa has been with the Ensemble of JDPP since its inception and continues to be inspired by Judy's work. Her greatest joy is being mother to Alyssa Ciera and Nicholas Victor.

Meghan McDermott (Ensemble) is a graduate of the Hartford Conservatory with a double major in dance performance and dance pedagogy. She has danced for the Sonia Plumb Dance Company and SOMA Dance Company. She is currently a company dancer for dancEnlight; and teaches dance for Westminster, dancEnlight's Chinese language school program and her own dance school Moxie Dance Center as well as creating her own dance company Moxie Dance Company. As well as dancing professionally, she has choreographed for The Ivoryton Playhouse, University of Saint Joseph and West Hartford Community Theater. Meghan is also a barre fitness instructor at LIFER Fitness studio, Designed training & Personal Euphoria. She would like to thank Judy for this wonderful opportunity to dance and be a part of this show!

Marcela I. Oteiza (Set Designer) is a Scenic and Media Designer for Performance. Some of her design credits include Scenic Design for *Trojan Women: Love Story* by Charles L. Mee and directed by L.A. director Matthew Wilder; and Scenic and Media Design for *Pornographic Angel* by Nelson Rodrigues, directed by Claudia Tate Nascimento, NYC. She continues to collaborate with Judy Dworin Performance Project, for which she has done scenic and media design for *LightHouse* (2015), *Meditation from a Garden Seat* (2013), and for *In this House* (2012). With Choreographer Pedro Alejandro, she has designed for *Chance Encounter(s) Project*, (2015), *Windswept Project* (2013), and *Tesla Place: Thunderous Lights*, (2009). Some of her design credits have been exhibited at the most prestigious International peer-reviewed learned societies in scenography; such as, scenic design for *The Last Days of the*

Old Wild Boy by Rinde Eckert, in which her design elements were selected for The Object Exhibit at The Prague Quadrennial of Performance Design and Space (PQ), 2015. Her design for *Richard the III* was exhibited at World Stage Design (WSD - 2013) at Cardiff, Wales, which is supported by the International Organization for Scenographers, Theatre Architects (OISTAT). She is currently working on a video documentary, *City as Site*, about street performances that occur during the Santiago a Mil Festival (2012-15). Marcela is Assistant Professor of Dance and Theater at Wesleyan University. She holds a BFA In Fine Arts, from Universidad de Chile and a MFA in Design and Productions from the California Institute of the Arts.

Leesa Srams (Performer) has been singing, dancing, and performing poetry with JDPP in their York residency for ten years. Her visual and written art was published in Community Partners in Actions' Prison Arts Journal. Leesa also created art with Guido Garaycochea and was involved with the puppy program at York; she plans to continue working with rescue animals. She is currently working at the Hampton Inn in Waterbury and she is a grandmother and loving it!

Kathy Wyatt (Performer) is employed as a Recovery Specialist in the Behavioral Health Home department of United Services in Willimantic. Previously, she was Volunteer Coordinator for the Willimantic center of the Connecticut Community for Addiction Recovery (CCAR). She is an active member of the Connecticut Coalition for Judicial Reform. While a resident of York Correctional Institution, she participated in Wally Lamb's writing group and two of her pieces are part of his anthology of writings by York women entitled "I'll Fly Away: Further Testimonies from the Women of York Prison," which received the Connecticut Book Award. Kathy participated in all of the York residencies of the Judy Dworin Performance Project during her time there, and was a writer for and narrator in the performance pieces that culminated each residency. She has performed her work "Love Letters" at the Warner Theater in Torrington, in 40 Forward! at Trinity College, as well as at Wesleyan University, Eastern Connecticut State University, and the University of Connecticut. She was a featured performer in JDPP's *Meditations from a Garden Seat*, which had its premiere in Hartford in 2012 and was presented at the KO Festival in Amherst, Mass., in 2013; and also in JDPP's *In My Shoes*, presented at Hartford Stage in 2014 and the Infinity Music Hall, Hartford, in 2015.

Haley Zdebski (Ensemble) is a Connecticut native who graduated Magna Cum Laude with her BFA in dance, from SUNY The College at Brockport in 2014. During this time Haley had the privilege

of working with Bill Evans Dance Company, former Trisha Brown Company dancer, Mariah Maloney and former Merce Cunningham dancer, Andrea Weber. Haley is currently a teaching artist for "Moving Matters" and "Bridging Boundaries" programs through Judy Dworin Performance Project. She also teaches dance at EdanSe Company and Ballroom, The Ethel Walker School, Stafford Academy of Dance, and is the Assistant Director of Figments Youth Dance Ensemble. Haley also performs with DanEnlight and The Legible Bodies, along with showcasing her own work around the Northeast. Haley has so much admiration for JDPP and is grateful to be working with this amazing organization!

FUNDERS:

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Brave in a New World is made possible through the generous support by:



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ABOUT JUDY DWORIN PERFORMANCE PROJECT

Judy Dworin Performance Project (JDPP) is an arts 501(c)(3) non-profit based in Hartford, CT, founded by Judy Dworin in 1989, originally as an umbrella organization for individual artists. JDPP is an organization of professional artists who—on stage, in schools, in prisons and in the community—innovate, inspire, educate and collaborate. JDPP harnesses the arts as a powerful catalyst for creative expression through performance, community building and positive change. JDPP is the home for three distinct programmatic offerings. **The Ensemble** inspires change through innovative, movement-based, multi-arts performances on stage that examines social and personal issues of our time; the **Moving Matters! Residency Program** brings dance/theater into schools through collaborative projects and arts education programs that explore movement and the creative arts as tools for learning and personal growth; and the **Bridging Boundaries Arts Intervention Program** couples arts intervention with social work to bridge the forced separations of populations affected by incarceration.

The Ensemble, under the artistic direction of Judy Dworin with Associate Artistic Director Kathy Bortek Gersten, has premiered 18 distinctive performances as well as numerous shorter pieces. Its award-winning performance work has been seen in New York City at La MaMa E.T.C. and Dia Center for the Arts (Joyce Soho), the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., Baltimore Theatre Project, the National Theater in Sofia, Bulgaria, Broward Performing Arts Center in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center and Mobius in Boston, MA, Cleveland Arts Center in Ohio, the KO Festival in Amherst, MA, and throughout New England at colleges and universities, prisons and inner city schools.

If you are interested in receiving more information about bringing *Brave in a New World* to your performance venue or school please contact Tracey Mozdierz by email: tracey@judydworin.org or by phone **860-527-9800 ext. 9802**

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Congratulations to the cast of
Brave In A New World!

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Brave in a New World

The transition from in to out is scary.

Doors opening to freedom don't necessarily stay open as the stigma of felon refuses to fade. And how does one keep pace in this technologically altered reality?

Through arresting visual and sound design, "Brave in a New World" conjures images of confinement and separation, hurdles and bridges, shadows of the past looming over the present, and the strength and courage of children affected by incarceration as well as their loved ones who have served their time.

The evening-length work features women and men who have re-entered society from state prison with the professional Ensemble of the Judy Dworin Performance Project and the voices of children who have parents in prison.

The Judy Dworin Performance Project is committed to exploring issues of social inequity and social justice. "In My Shoes" and its sequel "Brave in a New World" are ambitious outgrowths of the residency work they began in 2005 and still continue at York Correctional Institution, the only Connecticut State prison for female offenders and more recently at Cybulski Reintegration Center for men.

[Hartford Courant article by Sharma Piersall Howard](#)

[Where We Live WNPR](#)

[Brave In A New World Sell Sheet](#)

I have always valued art for the ability to help you think outside the box and this one certainly did. —
audience member

The ... stories, beginning in childhood and running through the issues of re-entry, track the course of works ranging from The Odyssey and The Aeneid to medieval romances and even a great American epic like Moby Dick. What does it mean to come home, all of these works ask, when that is all you want to do, but you've experienced what no one at home can ever really know and that has profoundly changed you? It was a remarkable and beautiful show, and I hope it will get offered many times to come. —

audience member

For more information on booking *Brave in a New World* please contact tracey@judydworin.org