



Shakespeare Behind Bars, Inc.

Curt L. Tofteland, Founder

And

Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility

Shane Jackson, Warden

Present

**William Shakespeare's
Hamlet Act I**

Directed by

Curt L. Tofteland

Costume Designer

Michelle Bombe

Chapel

Yard Performances

August 31 & September 2, 2019

Visitors Room

Public Performances

September 3 & 4, 2019

Sponsored in Part by

David & Carol Myers Family Foundation

Seattle Foundation

Ryan Memorial Foundation

Hope Church

ABOUT

Now in its 25th year, Shakespeare Behind Bars is the oldest program of its kind in North America serving incarcerated, post-incarcerated, and at-risk adults and youth using Art, Theatre, the collected works of William Shakespeare, and Original Writing.

MISSION

The mission of Shakespeare Behind Bars is to offer theatrical encounters with personal and social issues to the incarcerated, post-incarcerated, and at-risk communities allowing them to develop life skills that will ensure their successful integration into society.

VISION

Shakespeare Behind Bars was founded on the beliefs that all human beings are inherently good, and that although convicted criminals have committed heinous crimes against other human beings, this inherent goodness still lives deep within them and must be called forth. Participation in the program can effectively change our world for the better by influencing one person at a time, awakening him or her to the power and the passion of the goodness that lives within all of us. Shakespeare Behind Bars offers participants the ability to hope and the courage to act despite their fear and the odds against them. Shakespeare Behind Bars uses the healing power of the arts, transforming inmate offenders from who they were when they committed their crimes, to who they are in the present moment, to who they wish to become.

VALUES/CREED

The program allows each participant the opportunity to:

1. develop a lifelong passion for learning, especially those participants who are at high risk of not completing or continuing their education;
2. develop literacy skills (reading, writing, and oral communication), including those participants who are classified as learning disabled and/or developmentally challenged;
3. develop decision making, problem solving, and creative thinking skills;
4. develop empathy, compassion, and trust;
5. nurture a desire to help others;
6. increase self esteem and develop a positive self image;
7. take responsibility for the crime/s committed;
8. become a responsible member of a group, community, and family;
9. learn tolerance and peaceful resolution of conflict;
10. relate the universal human themes contained in Shakespeare's works to themselves including their past experiences and choices, their present situation, and their future possibility;
11. relate the universal themes of Shakespeare to the lives of other human beings and to society at-large;
12. return to society as a contributing member.

This Production is dedicated to the memory of our fallen brother

Gary Earl Leiterman

September 11, 1942 - July 4, 2019

Hamlet Act I

Cast of Characters

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark	Gregory G. Winfrey
Claudius, King of Denmark, Hamlet's Uncle	Bruce W. Smith
The Ghost, of the late king, Hamlet's Father	Latorious Willis
Gertrude, The Queen, Hamlet's mother, now wife to Claudius	Lyn Bullington
Polonius, councillor of State	Michael Crenshaw
Laertes, Polonius' son	Shavontae Williams
Ophelia, Polonius' daughter	Kevin Radish
Horatio, friend and confidant of Hamlet	Jonathan Hicks
Voltemand, Ambassador to Norway	James Cooper
Cornelius, Ambassador to Norway	Michael Crenshaw
Marcellus, King's Guard	David Brown
Barnardo, King's Guard	William M. Moseley, Jr.
Francisco, King's Guard	James C. O'Neal-EL
Ghostly Ghouls	Shavontae Williams, Kevin Radish, Gregory G. Winfrey
Hell Dogs	Shavontae Williams, Kevin Radish, Nelson E. Wood
Musician	Nelson E. Wood
Narrators	David Brown, James Cooper

*** Synopsis ***

Hamlet, Prince of Denmark, returns home from Wittenberg College in England upon receiving the news of his father, King Hamlet Senior's death, only to find that his mother, Queen Gertrude, has married his uncle (now the King) Claudius.

The ghost of Hamlet's father, has been haunting the Castle at Elsinore. The guards have seen the ghost twice before at the stroke of midnight. The guards enlist the aid of Horatio, Hamlet's best friend, to bear witness of the ghost's nightly appearances. On the third night the ghost again appears. Horatio and the guards agree to reveal to Hamlet the ghost's nightly walking. On the fourth night Hamlet accompanies Horatio and the guards and the ghost appears and signals Hamlet to follow it. Horatio and the guards try to stop Hamlet fearing the ghost might be an evil spirit and might lead Hamlet to his death. Hamlet breaks free and follows the ghost into the dense fog. When alone the ghost reveals to Hamlet that his brother Claudius poisoned him while he slept in his private garden. The ghost demands that Hamlet exact revenge. Hamlet agrees and in order to carry this revenge out, Hamlet feigns madness.

Shakespeare Behind Bars

Curt L. Tofteland, Founder
Edward Hartline, Facilitator
Lyn Bulington, Facilitator
Michelle Bombe, Facilitator
Kate Thomsen, Facilitator
Elly Purnell, Intern
Savannah White, Intern
Ariel Tocino, Social Scientist
Gillian Nogeire, Scholar

Earnest C. Brooks Correctional Facility

We appreciate the entire security, program, and support staff of E.C. Brooks for their assistance and cooperation in making this production possible.

Shane Jackson, Warden
Bobbi Smith, Deputy Warden
James Plichta, Assistant Deputy Warden
Paul Davis, Assistant Deputy Warden Housing/Programs
Fetina Johnson, Inspector
Thomas A. Page, Inspector
James L. Dawson, Administrative Assistant to Warden
Terry Plews, Corrections Program Coordinator
Pat Benson, Records
Dawn M. Millstead, Secretary to Warden