



World Premiere: Santa Barbara International Film Festival

TRT: 86 min.

Social Media

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LOGLINE

Prisoners incarcerated for murder transcend the barriers of the punitive prison system by working with victims of violent crime to unearth the root cause of their violence. Each character undergoes a radical transformation, revealing how every human being, on both sides of the wall, can break free from their own personal prisons to stop the cycle of violence.

SHORT SYNOPSIS

The Prison Within exposes the devastating impact untreated trauma has on individuals and communities through the powerful stories of survivors of violent crimes and prisoners incarcerated for murder in San Quentin prison. The prisoners and survivors come together and participate in the Victim Offender Education Group (VOEG)—an innovative restorative justice program enabling prisoners to discover how the trauma they've experienced contributed to their criminality and to understand the impact their crimes have on their victims. Together, the prisoners and survivors confront and expose the pain, shame, and rage caused by the extreme trauma they've experienced throughout their lives.

We are asking the audience to set aside what they think they know about incarcerated people. Most people in prison are first a victim. Anger and violence stems from untreated trauma. When our justice system excludes the notion of rehabilitation, it necessarily perpetuates the cycle of violence by failing to address trauma. And the fallout from untreated trauma ultimately affects the entire community. This film serves as an example of how all people can change, how we can evolve as a community, and the power of connecting to humanity in others, even those who have committed harm.

Director Katherin Hervey, a former Los Angeles Public Defender and volunteer prison college instructor, is the first filmmaker to gain access to chronicle the intimate and revealing VOEG sessions inside California's notorious San Quentin Prison. The Prison Within leads the viewer on an emotional journey that challenges their perceptions of criminals and victims, exposing a pathway to heal the collective impact of trauma on individuals and communities.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT (Katherin Hervey)

This film sprung from my work as a Los Angeles public defender and volunteer prison college instructor, where I worked weekly with prisoners who had committed serious acts of violence, most of whom had been sentenced to die in prison. Unredeemable in the eyes of the law, I saw the exact opposite. I saw men who were yearning to take deep accountability for their actions and make things right but without a venue or the language to do so.

At the same time, I was becoming involved in restorative justice work and was coming into contact with victims of violent crime. There's a false perception that the justice system provides closure and solace for crime victims; most of the victims I encountered felt let down by the criminal justice system and were searching for alternative ways to heal and make sense of the trauma they'd experienced. I was amazed that most survivors said that despite their own victimization their behavior evolved into cycles of violence - toward themselves and others - just like the prisoners. Both were now seeking the healing, redemption, and closure that the criminal justice system had failed to produce.

I sought to create a film that captured the complexity of this subject matter, in stark contrast to the dominant black and white depictions of victims, prisons, and those we label as "criminals".

And then I met Jaimee Karroll, a soft-spoken woman in her late 60s who was abducted and violently raped when she was nine-years-old. Jaimee was healing her trauma by working with men inside prisons who had committed extreme acts of violence. I immediately saw the need to share the storied relationship between these two seemingly disparate groups - perpetrators and survivors of violence.

I began filming the program that had changed Jaimee's life inside San Quentin Prison, the Victim-Offender Education Group (VOEG), focusing on a diverse group of men who had committed murder. As these men took responsibility for their actions and broke down the lifetimes of trauma they'd experienced, the distinction between *us* and *them* began to dissolve. In its place, the complex role that sociopolitical factors play in our own life experiences became undeniable. How much of a role does the traumatic legacy of systemic oppression and marginalization of certain groups play in the mass incarceration crisis?

The Prison Within is an intimate exploration of the unmet needs of victims, the vulnerable, and the marginalized within our criminal justice system. It is an expression of the silent torment faced by people on both sides of prison walls. I intend the film to inspire a dialogue about trauma's debilitating impact on individuals and communities, to expose the shared responsibility we all have to collectively heal our mass incarceration crisis, and to motivate definitive *community* justice reform.



PRODUCTION TEAM

Katherin Hervey, Director / Producer / Writer



Katherin is a multimedia artist and activist based in Seattle, Washington. She has over a decade of experience in the criminal justice field as both an attorney and prison university educator.

Katherin received her Bachelor's degree in Cross-cultural Communications in America from University of Washington and is a graduate of Vancouver Film School. She also holds a Juris Doctorate degree from Loyola Law School. Prior to law school, she was the Publisher and Editor-In-Chief of *Shades of Contradiction*, a nationally distributed arts and culture magazine dedicated to promoting critical thinking and creative action.

Katherin has produced, directed and art-directed short documentary and narrative films, including 'Bob vs. The Incubus' (Best Documentary, Vancouver Film School Festival), and was the Art Director for 'Her Urge' (Best Short Film, Sydney Mardi Gras Film Festival and Outstanding Women's Short, Dallas Out Takes Festival). Katherin is also Co-founder of Raw Love Productions, a multimedia production ensemble dedicated to visual storytelling with social and artistic value. She is currently co-producing *The Spirit of a Child*, an interactive web documentary based in Ghana, West Africa.

The Prison Within is her first feature film.

'The Streets', Producer/Director, 2016, Raw Love Productions, Q13 TV Seattle

'The People's Tribunal' (Film Installation), Producer/Director, 2015, Raw Love Productions, Seattle University

'Her Urge', Art Director, 2000, Seduced & Exploited Entertainment

'The Cocktail Waitress', Producer/Director/Videographer, 1998, KCTS/PBS

'American Dreamin'', Producer/Director/Videographer, 1998, A Film by Katherin Hervey

Numerous productions for nonprofits and corporations, Producer/Director, 2013-2018, Raw Love Productions

Hill Harper, Narrator



Hill is a humanitarian, award-winning actor, best-selling author, entrepreneur, health and wellness ambassador/ educator, philanthropist and honors graduate of Harvard Law School. Harper currently stars as Dr. Marcus Andrews on TV's #1 drama *The Good Doctor* on ABC. Harper also headlines HLN's *How It Really Happened with Hill Harper* and stars in the podcast *Legal Wars*. Previously, Harper starred on *CSI: NY* and Showtime's award winning series *Homeland*. Theatrically, he can be seen in the newly released Warner Bros. Pictures film *The Sun Is Also A Star*, starring Yara Shahidi.

He has earned seven NAACP Image Awards for his writing and acting and is a 4-time New York Times best-selling author for his books: *Letters to a Young Brother* (named "Best Book for Young Adults" by the American Library Association), *Letters to a Young Sister*, *The Conversation*, and *The Wealth Cure: Putting Money in its Place*. Harper's most recent book is the

groundbreaking *Letters to an Incarcerated Brother* which speaks to the current mass incarceration crisis. Harper founded The Manifest Your Destiny Foundation which is dedicated to empowering, encouraging, and inspiring underserved youth to succeed through education, mentorship, and grant programs.

Hill graduated *magna cum laude* as valedictorian of his department with a Bachelor's Degree from Brown University and *cum laude* with a Juris Doctorate degree from Harvard Law School. He also holds a Master's Degree with honors from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and holds Honorary Doctoral Degrees from seven universities. Harper is also the founder of the social justice law group NorthStar.

Hill also served on the President's Cancer Panel having been appointed by President Obama in 2011. Harper travels worldwide as a motivational speaker, addressing current affairs and life-awakening topics to a wide array of audiences of youth, educators and business leaders. He is also a successful businessman and entrepreneur. Harper owns The Roasting Plant Coffee Roastery in Detroit, an award-winning hotel in New Orleans, and The Architect & Co - a health and wellness company. In 2004 and 2014, People Magazine named him one of their Sexiest Men Alive.

Eric Frith, Editor / Producer / Writer



Eric creates films that have been acquired for domestic and international distribution by Miramax, Netflix, Dream Entertainment, Cinema Management Group, Off the Fence, Independent Lens, and American Masters PBS. These works screened at top festivals including Sundance, Toronto International Film Festival, South by Southwest, Seattle International Film Festival, and others around the world. In sum, he's received 18 Best Film/Documentary awards, 11 Audience Awards, and Social Justice and International Humanitarian Awards. In addition to *The Prison Within*, Eric's current films include *The Wild*, *The Bowmakers*, and *This Being Human*.

'ALT', Editor, 2018 Kairos Films

'Down the Fence', Editor & Story Producer/Co-Writer, 2017, A Film by MJ Isakson

'Atomica', Editor, 2017, A Film by Dagen Merrill, Syfy Films

'Big Sonia', Story Producer & Writer, 2016, Inflatable Films

'Crazywise' Consulting Editor, 2016, Phil Borges Productions

Babies Behind Bars, 2015, Editor, Starfish Media, Soledad O'Brien

'The Breach', Editor & Story Producer/Co-Writer, 2014, August Island Pictures

'Song of the New Earth', Story Producer/Writer, 2014, Woody Creek Pictures

'The Hero Pose', Editor, 2014, Mechanical Dreams

'Hotline', Editor, 2014, Grit + Grind, A Film by Alex Breaux

'Finding Hillywood', 2013, Story Producer & Editor, Inflatable Films

'A Lot Like You', Producer, Editor, Co-Writer 2012, 9elephants productions

'Eden', Editor, 2012, A Film by Megan Griffiths

'Something in the Water', Editor, 2011, KEXP, Woody Creek Pictures

'Success at the Core' Editor, 2010, Vulcan Productions

'March Point' Editor, Editor, 2008, Longhouse Media/Independent Lens

'Cachao: Uno Mas', Editor, 2008, American Masters/PBS

'Hidden Worlds in Underground Rome', Editor, 2007, SubTerra Productions
'The Heart of the Game', Editor, 2005, A Film by Ward SerrillWoody Creek Pictures
'49?', Director, 2003, A Film by Sherman Alexie

Erin Kenway, Producer / Writer / Executive Producer



Erin is a community investor and philanthropist who believes in supporting, encouraging, and enabling quantitative advancement of social justice by cultivating and promoting critical thinking and cross-cultural dialogue amongst all members of society.

Erin graduated with a Bachelor's Degree with honors from University of California, Irvine, majoring in both Criminology, Law & Society, and Psychology & Social Behavior. Under the mentorship of Dr. Richard Leo, and inspired by falsely-convicted prisoner DeWayne McKinney, her collegiate honor's research project examined how juror interpretation of exonerating DNA evidence and false confessions resulted in wrongful convictions.

She holds a Juris Doctorate degree from Seattle University School of Law, and is admitted to the National Order of the Barristers, and is a certified mediator. As an attorney, Erin primarily represented economically disadvantaged victims of domestic violence in civil dissolution and child custody cases, and served on several committees for both the Washington State Bar Association and the King County Bar Association.

Most recently, Erin was a global campaign manager for broadcast, print, digital, and social advertising campaigns for Amazon's award-winning brand and mass advertising team.

When Erin is not chasing her two children around, she spends time as a nonprofit volunteer with CityClub Seattle, JDRC of the Greater Northwest, Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence, Seattle University School of Law, as well as her children's school and neighborhood organizations.

Massimo Bardetti, Cinematographer / Producer



Massimo Bardetti is a videographer, photographer and digital artist with over fifteen years of hands-on experience focusing on media content management and distribution. As a VP of Software Development at AccessIT (now Cinedigm) he was a key contributor to the first successful large-scale deployment of studio certified digital cinema systems in the country. He worked with major Hollywood studios, exhibitors and standard bodies to advance the digital cinema standard now in use. As a Chief Architect at ANN Systems he developed media management software for the news broadcast industry. Massimo resides in Seattle where he has produced work with his partner Katherin Hervey under Raw Love Productions.

Jeremy Sell, Creative Director



Jeremy Sell is a multitasking creative who honed his storytelling skills as an award-winning creative in the advertising world crafting compelling narratives for big and small brand. Most recently, Jeremy worked as a creative on Amazon's award-winning brand and mass advertising team. He is an avid film fan and is drawn to and inspired by quirky and raw independent productions. Jeremy earned a BFA from the College for Creative Studies in Detroit, MI. He currently resides in Seattle.

Leah Warshawski, Consulting Producer



Leah is a Seattle-based filmmaker and "3rd generation" Holocaust survivor. She began her career in the film industry in college, working in the marine department for major motion pictures and TV shows including 'Baywatch', 'Lost', 'Survivor' and 'Hawaii'. She has a Bachelor's degree in Japanese language from the University of Hawaii. Her career has taken her to more than 35 countries but the farther she goes, the more clarity she finds about the meaning of "home".

Leah specializes in producing/directing documentary-style features, television shows, commercials, and branded content in remote parts of the world. Her debut feature film, *Finding Hillywood* (2013), won six awards, and screened at more than 70 film festivals. Her documentary *Big Sonia* (2016) screened at over 65 film festivals and is currently in theaters

across the US. *Big Sonia* has won nearly 30 awards to-date. Leah is currently Co-Executive Producer for *Personhood* (2019 feature doc) and is a Producer for *The Wild* (2019 feature doc).

Mario Furloni, Cinematographer



Mario is an award-winning Brazilian filmmaker and cinematographer based in Oakland, CA. His latest project, the short documentary *Gut Hack* (co-directed with Kate McLean), premiered in competition at SXSW 2017 and on season 6 of the NYT OpDocs series.

He is the cinematographer and co-producer of the critically-acclaimed documentary *The Return* which chronicles the end of California's three strikes law through the eyes of former lifers. *The Return* won the Audience Award at the 2016 Tribeca Film Festival, and the Golden Gate Award at the 2016 San Francisco International Film Festival. It was the series opening film shown on PBS POV this year, and was nominated for a Peabody Award.

Mario was awarded a Kenneth Ranin Foundation screenwriting grant for the feature fiction project *Freeland*, currently in development, and a residency with the San Francisco Film Society. He has a master's degree from the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism.

'BIT X BIT: In Bitcoin We Trust', Cinematographer, 2018, A Film by David Foon
'Poisoning Paradise, Cinematographer, 2018, A Film by Wim Sedona
'Explained' (TV Series Documentary), 2018, Netflix
'Footprint', Cinematographer, Producer, 2018, New York Times Op-Docs
'Marty', Producer, Writer, 2018, A Film by Mario Furloni & Kate McLean
'The River of Three Crossings', Cinematographer, 2017, A Film by Cyrus Yoshi Tabar
'Gut Hack', Cinematographer, Producer, Director, Writer, 2017, A Film by Mario Furloni & Kate McLean
'The Return', Cinematographer, Producer, 2016, Big Pictures
'First Friday', Cinematographer, Producer, Director, Writer, 2014, A Film by Mario Furloni & N'Jeri Eaton
'After my Garden Grows', Cinematographer, Principe Productions & The Sundance Institute
'Pot Country', Director of Photography, Producer, Director, Writer, 2011, A Film by Mario Furloni & Kate McLean

Troy Williams, Cinematographer & Soros Justice Fellow



Troy is the co-founder of the [San Quentin Prison Report \(SQPR\)](#), the first prison-based audio storytelling program in the United States. Troy served as SQPR's producer, founding Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. He spent the last seven years of his incarceration teaching his peers to produce audio works behind prison walls, working out of the same media lab now used by [Ear Hustle](#). He also helped develop the curriculum for the Victim-Offender Education Group (VOEG) and facilitated other restorative justice programs, both inside and outside of San Quentin.

Upon his release from prison, Troy established [4North22](#), a media production and consulting company dedicated to giving a voice to systems-impacted people. He sits on a number of nonprofit boards, including the Northern California Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and UnCommon Law. Williams has been a columnist for the *Post News Group* and in 2017 served as Editor-in-Chief of the *San Francisco Bay View*. Troy was also a Youth Program Development Specialist and Facilitator Trainer for the Victim-Offender Education Group with the Insight Prison Project. He is a member of the Advisory Council for the Alameda County Chief of Probation.

In 2018, Troy was awarded a [Soros Justice Fellowship](#).

Ruth Mendelson, Composer



A New York Times Critics' Pick, composer/producer/arranger, Ruth has been writing award-winning scores for film, HBO, A&E, Discovery Channel, Disney, Animal Planet, The Learning Channel, PBS, CBS, and NBC (among others), as well as creating innovative multi-media "surround-scapes" for over 20 years. She was the first woman in the history of Berklee College of Music (Boston, MA) to teach in the Film Scoring Department, which she enjoys part-time to this day.

An active studio musician, Ruth has been featured playing a number of instruments in a wide variety of genres with artists in LA, New York, Boston, Europe and India. She is also a guest lecturer, music director and author. She has performed at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, as bassist for the One Human Family Gospel Choir, and is currently collaborating with renowned

primatologist Dr. Jane Goodall on a variety of youth empowerment and environmental projects. Ruth is founder and president of Eagle Vision Initiatives, a non-profit organization dedicated to serving society through communications and the arts. Eagle Vision's premier initiative, the Well Wishes Project, is now successfully establishing unprecedented lines of communication and resources between the world's youth. Her deepest commitment is to be of service and assist in bringing love, compassion and positive change to society via a wide range of creative projects and programs.

ADDITIONAL BIOS

Sonya Shah, Founder / Director, The Ahimsa Collective



Sonya initiated the Ahimsa Collective in January 2016. She has 20 years experience in social justice education and 10 years experience in restorative justice. She is also an Associate Professor at the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS).

She has trained hundreds of facilitators in trauma healing and restorative justice practices across the U.S. She has worked closely with survivors of violent crimes, people who have committed violence, and families impacted by violence and law enforcement. Central to her core values are creating belonging and beloved community in every aspect of her work and life, and balancing her relationship to self, others, the community and nature. She is a survivor of sexual abuse and a first-generation immigrant from the Northwestern part of India.

Sonya earned a BA from Brown University and an MA in Film & Video from the Art Institute of Chicago. She was awarded the prestigious Fulbright fellowship and Jacob Javitz fellowship.

In conjunction with her work in the restorative/criminal justice field, Sonya has spoken on various radio programs including NPR, BBC, KPFA, and KQED, and has a blog on Huffington Post. Her 2004 documentary, Khmer Barbee (formerly Something between Her Hands) is distributed by the National Film Network and has screened in over seventy film festivals, conferences and colleges.

sujatha baliga, Director, The Restorative Justice Project - Impact Justice



sujatha's work is characterized by an equal dedication to crime survivors and people who've caused harm. A former victim advocate and public defender, baliga was awarded a Soros Justice Fellowship in 2008 which she used to launch a pre-charge restorative juvenile diversion program.

Today, through the Restorative Justice Project at Impact Justice, sujatha helps communities across the nation implement restorative justice alternatives to juvenile detention and zero-tolerance school discipline policies. She's also dedicated to using this approach to end child sexual abuse and intimate partner violence. sujatha is also one of recipients awarded the 2019 MacArthur Foundation "genius" grants.

sujatha is a frequent guest lecturer at universities and conferences; she's been a guest on NPR and the Today Show; and The New York Times Magazine and The Atlantic have profiled her work. She earned her A.B. from Harvard College, her J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, and has held two federal clerkships. sujatha has taught a seminar on restorative justice at Berkeley Law School; her personal and research interests include the forgiveness of seemingly unforgivable acts, survivor-led movements, restorative justice's potential impact on racial disparities in our justice system, and Buddhist notions of conflict transformation.

Jaimee Karroll, Director of Training / Evaluation / Curriculum, Insight Prison Project



Jaimee was an award-winning writer and educator who was dedicated to facilitating dynamic learning experiences. She regularly developed and evaluated educational curricula for at-risk and professional audiences. As a survivor of a violent crime who worked in the prisons to interrupt cycles of violence, she was often invited to train professional and prisoner audiences about the damaging effects of child abuse and violent sexual assault. Since 2005, she had facilitated and been engaged in Victim/Offender impact dialogues in various juvenile and adult incarceration institutions throughout California. She was the Director of Training / Evaluation / Curriculum at Insight Prison Project, was a Lead Facilitator / Trainer of the Victim Offender Education Group curriculum in San Quentin State Prison, and was a mediator of severe and violent crime.

Past professional responsibilities included founding and running a national training institute, and working as a technical writer and educator in a college system that specialized in serving an at-risk population. Throughout her career as a writer, educator and administrator, she helped illuminate the problems associated with unchecked violence in families and society. Jaimee held an MA degree in Liberal Studies from Mills College. She was honored as a Hero of Forgiveness (for her work with violent offenders) at the 12th International Forgiveness Day Celebration on Sunday August 3, 2008.

THE PRISON WITHIN

FULL CAST & CREW LIST

Cast

in alphabetical order

sujatha baliga

Nythell "Nate" Collins

Rochelle Edwards

Eddie Herena

James Houston

Sam W. Johnson Sr.

Jaimee Karroll

Nghiep "Ke" Lam

Michael "Yoshi" Nelson

Sonya Shah

Barry Spillman

Troy Williams

Dionne Wilson

Phoeun "Sane" You

Narrated by

Hill Harper

Narration written by

Eric Frith
Katherin Hervey
Erin Kenway
Jeremy Sell

Directed & Produced by

Katherin Hervey

Co-Producers

Massimo Bardetti
Eric Frith

Executive Producer & Co-Producer

Erin Kenway

Cinematographers

Massimo Bardetti
Mario Furloni
Troy Williams

Cinematographers - San Quentin TV

Brian Asey
E. "Phil" Phillips
Troy Williams

Sound Recording

Emile Bokaer

Editor

Eric Frith

Assistant Editor

Leah Andrews

Additional Editing

Todd Soliday

Music by

Ruth Mendelson

Musicians

Angie Shyr: Violin
Ruth Mendelson: All other instruments

Casting

Nancy McBride

Post Production Supervisor

Erin Kenway

Art Direction & Graphic Design

Jeremy Sell

Visual Effects

Chris Wirth

Additional Art Clean-up

Mark Duncan

Color Correction provided by LightPress

Colorist

Jeff Tillotson

Online Finishing & Roto

Shane Dillon

Audio Post Production Provided by Bad Animals

Re-Recording Mixer & Dialogue Editor

Dave Howe, C.A.S.

Sound Designer

Mike McAuliffe

Recordist

David Gallander

Audio Services Manager

Wendi Willis

Legal Services

Heather Morado, Esq.
Morado Law PLLC



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