

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU HAD NOTHING LEFT TO LOSE?

written by Sarah Shourd
directed by Michael John Garcés



WORLD
PREMIERE

THE

BOX

A play about solitary confinement.

JULY 8-30

THE BOX

Written & Produced by Sarah Shourd

Co-Produced by The California Endowment, Toni Rembe & Arthur Rock, Neda Nobari Foundation, The Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation

Directed by Michael John Garcés*

Running time: approximately 2 hours, plus intermission.

FEATURING: PRODUCTION TEAM:

Carlos Aguirre.....	Victor Santiago
Michael J. Asberry...	Officer Jones***
Gabby Battista.....	Olivia Santiago
Manuel Fernandez....	Carlos
Chris H. Holland....	Rocky Ashburry
J Jha.....	Looneytunes aka Albert Roderick
Steven A. Jones.....	Ray De Vault***
Valerie Weak.....	Officer Miller***
Clive Worsley.....	Jake Juchau
Jack Beuttler.....	Production Manager
Stacey Printz.....	Choreographer
Sean Riley.....	Scenic Designer
Allen Willner.....	Lighting Designer
Jon Bernson.....	Sound Designer & Composer
Tom Ontiveros.....	Video Designer**
Anna Oliver.....	Costume Designer**
Devon Labelle.....	Prop Designer
Dave Gardner.....	Technical Director
Kyle McReddie.....	Fight Director
Bert van Aalsburg....	Stage Manager***
Katherine Pruyn,	
Leandra Watson....	Assistant Stage Managers
Kevin Sweetser.....	Master Electrician
Ericka Sokolower-Shain,	Allie Khorl, Andrew Packard,
Leigh Hooks.....	Electricians
Conrad Hubner.....	Light Board Operator
Joe Moore.....	Video Operator
Andrea Schwartz.....	Sound Operator



* Member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society

** The costume and projection designers of *The Box* are represented by United Scenic Artists, Local USA 829 of the IATSE.

*** Member of Actors' Equity Association, the Union of Professional Actors and Stage Managers in the United States.



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liam@shaveandahaircut.biz.

Z SPACE

Under Artistic Director Lisa Steindler, Z Space empowers artistic risk, collaboration, and camaraderie amongst artists, audience and staff in the service of creating, developing and presenting new work. Operating two venues in San Francisco's historic Mission District, a mainstage and a black box theater, Z Space hosts new works from a variety of performance disciplines year-round. Keystone initiatives include New Work, a development program that supports artists and ensembles from conception to realization of unique works, Word for Word, a resident theatre company that transforms works of literature verbatim to the stage, and Youth Arts, an arts education program promoting literacy and engaging students' creativity. *San Francisco Magazine* recognized Z Space as the "Best Performance Art Space" in its 2015 "Best of SF" issue.

**"SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO WRAP UP
THE TRUTH IN A PRETTY LITTLE BOX
AND SHOCK THEM WITH THE UGLINESS
WITHIN."**

— RAFAEL CACIQUE, PRISONER

Welcome Guests,

Years of research went into this play. I traveled to visit prisoners in solitary confinement in 13 facilities across the country, conducted dozens of interviews with formerly incarcerated people and their families, and engaged in in-depth letter correspondences over a period of two years.

I'm a journalist, but I created these characters and this storyline myself. I chose this route for several reasons: First, in order to respect the privacy of those who contributed. Second, to protect them from retaliation from guards and other prisoners. All were given the option of remaining anonymous, but those who are named cannot be traced to any one character or storyline. This play is fiction.

That said, like so many people around the world, I was deeply inspired by the historic California Prisoner Hunger Strike in 2011, which brought the issue of long-term solitary confinement to the world's attention, as well as by the hunger strikers at Guantanamo Bay Detention Center and elsewhere around the world.

Most of the dialogue is invented, but some of the writing is borrowed (with permission) from accomplished writers inside, like Billy Blake (author of "A Sentence Worse than Death") and C.F. Villa (author of "Life in the SHU"). I also want to thank (with their permission) those who shared their stories through letters and interviews: Rafael Cacique, Dolores Canales, Jacqueline Craig, Steven Czifra, Jerry Eisler, Rudolph Howell, Five Mualimm-ak, Brian Nelson, Raul Rocha, Alfred Sandoval, Ricky De Silva, Leon Singletary, Maher Suarez, Judith Vasquez and Caesar Villa. Additionally, I drew from writing and recordings by the late Dannie Martin and Herman Wallace of the Angola 3.

There were many obstacles along the way. Letters to and from prisoners often get "lost." Visits were sometimes denied. When I finally did visit, it was through a metal cage or thick glass, and I was not allowed a pen or paper. Prisoners in isolation devise creative and ingenious ways to get around the restrictions imposed on them. They pass notes by flushing them through toilets and fly "kites" under their cell doors. As a writer, the way I chose to get around restrictions imposed by an opaque and draconian system was simple—I used my imagination.

Fiction is a type of lie—a lie that can touch on a greater truth. For me, fiction was a more honest way to tell this story. If I said I didn't have an agenda or a personal stake in this issue I would be lying. After all, I was tortured myself.

I spent 410 days in solitary confinement in Iran while imprisoned as a political hostage by the Iranian Government from 2009 to 2010. The play draws from my own experience as a political hostage, an experience that threatened my sanity and my future.

I do have an agenda, but my agenda is not to put prisoners on pedestals. I grew up in a household marked by the legacy of violence. I've been the victim of violence perpetrated by both individuals and governments. Though many people who are put in the hole in our prisons are mentally ill, innocent, or targeted for their political beliefs, many have done terrible things.

The characters in *The Box* won't allow us to sit comfortably in our skins; they force us to ask questions: Why are we torturing people in lieu of rehabilitation? What are we going to do about the violence plaguing our society? How does change happen? How do we connect our own suffering to something larger?

What would you do if you had nothing left to lose?

Yours,
Sarah Shourd, Playwright

WHO'S WHO

SARAH SHOURD Writer/Lead Producer



is a journalist, playwright and UC Berkeley Visiting Scholar based in Oakland, CA. She spent 410 days in solitary confinement from 2009 to 2010 while being held as a political hostage by the Iranian government. For the last five years, her work has been centered on storytelling about and advocacy for the 100,000 people in the United States being subjected to the cruelty and overuse of solitary confinement every day. To this end, Shourd has traveled the country as a public speaker as well as written and reported extensively on criminal justice issues, including an anthology, *Hell Is a Very Small Place: Voices from Solitary Confinement* (New Press, 2016); a memoir *A Sliver of Light: Three Americans Imprisoned in Iran* (Houghton-Mifflin Harcourt, 2011) and numerous articles in outlets such as *The New York Times*, *Mother Jones*, *CNN*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Daily Beast*, *Huffington Post*, *Reuters* and more. SARASHSHOURD.COM.

MICHAEL JOHN GARCÉS Director

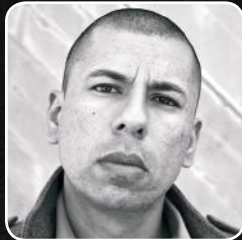


is the artistic director of Cornerstone Theater Company in Los Angeles. Previous directing credits in San Francisco include *Wrestling Jerusalem* by Aaron Davidman (Intersection for the Arts), *red, black & GREEN: a blues* and *the break/s* by Marc Bamuthi Joseph (Yerba Buena Center for the Arts), Cornerstone's touring production of *California: The Tempest* by Alison Carey (Z Space) and *Placas* by Paul Flores. Other recent directing credits include *Urban Rez* by Larissa FastHorse and *Plumas Negras* by Juliette Carrillo (Cornerstone), *Seven Spots on the Sun* by Martín Zimmerman (The Theatre @ Boston Court) and *Lights Rise on Grace* by Chad Bekim (Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company). Garcés is a recipient of the Rockwood Arts and Culture Fellowship, the Princess Grace Statue, and the Alan Schneider Director Award. He is a company member at Woolly Mammoth and a proud alumnus of New Dramatists.

"MAYBE THE STORY I'VE BEEN TELLING MYSELF ALL THESE YEARS – THAT NO ONE CARES AND WE'RE ALL JUST SELFISH BEASTS – MAYBE THAT'S THEIR STORY, THE PEOPLE THAT BELIEVE IN PLACES LIKE THIS – THAT BUILD THEM, RUN THEM AND JUST WANT TO SEE MORE AND MORE OF THEM."

-VICTOR SANTIAGO, *THE BOX*

ACTOR BIOS



CARLOS AGUIRRE (as Victor Santiago)

has been performing as an actor and hiphop artist in the Bay Area for over 18 years. He most recently appeared in The Magic Theatre's 2012 world premiere of Luis Alfarro's *Bruja*, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre's *Day of Absence* and Strange Angels Theatre Company's *Hunter's Point*. Carlos has also appeared in The Magic Theatre's 2011 production of *Lily's Revenge* and the 2010 world premiere of *Oedipus El Rey*. He appears regularly with world-renowned theater company Campo Santo, including the 2009 world premiere of *Fuku Americanus* based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Brief and Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz, and the March 2007 production of *A Place to Stand* from the writings of Jimmy Santiago Baca and Ntozake Shange. Aguirre shares his experience by teaching at various schools and at-risk environments throughout the Bay Area.



MICHAEL J. ASBERRY (as Officer Jones)

most recently performed with the Sacramento Theatre Company *Driving Miss Daisy*, where he was also in *The Whipping Man* and "*Master Harold*"... and the boys. Other productions include *Romeo and Juliet* (San Francisco Shakespeare Festival), *Landless* (AlterTheater), *Fences* (Marin Theatre Company), *Seven Guitars* (Artists Repertory Theatre – Portland, OR). Film/Television appearances include *San Andreas*, *Chasing Rodriguez*, and *Trauma* (NBC) and *Nash Bridges* (CBS). Voiceover credits include Clorox, Pixar Animation and Electronic Arts. Asberry is a proud member of Actors' Equity Association.



GABBY BATTISTA (as Olivia Santiago)

is thrilled to be making her debut performance at Z Space. She was a recent company member of the San Francisco Neofuturists and mounted an original piece: *Those Days Are Impossible to Remember*. Out of SF she has worked with Davis Shakespeare Ensemble, North Coast Repertory Theatre, and Det andet Scenarie in Copenhagen. Gabby is a graduate of the Theatre and Dance Department at San Francisco State University.



CHRIS HERBIE HOLLAND (as Rocky Ashburry)

is a NYC-based activist, actor, organizer and co-leader of the activist collective Artists 4 Change NYC. He has worked regionally at theaters such as Northern Stage and Nantucket Theatre Workshop as well as locally with NYTW, The National Black Theatre and The Lark. Over the past two years Holland has protested in Ferguson, MO, organized guerrilla dialogues for *This Is Our Youth* (Broadway) and *Hands Up!* (NBT) along with a teach-in and night of curated art at NBT. He is also a core facilitator with Freedom in the Time of Ferguson. BA, Dartmouth College. 2019 MFA, NYU Acting Candidate. Black Lives Matter.



MANUEL FERNANDEZ (as Carlos Aviles)

is formerly incarcerated and spent time in solitary confinement as a youth. He has acted in short films, various theater plays and commercials. He is an author and an avid dancer and is currently working on a one-man play about his life.



J JHA (as Looneytunes)

Immigrant seeking asylum. Actor. The confines of gender binary compel me to continue the struggle. This is my effort to fight the BOX - both within and outside our minds. www.pankajkjha.com
WWW.PANKAJKJHA.COM #Translivesmatter



STEVEN ANTHONY JONES (as Ray De Vault)

is the artistic director of the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, the premiere African American theater company in the San Francisco Bay Area. Most recently, he directed Philip Kan Gotanda's *After the War Blues* for the UC Berkeley Dept. of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies. He has worked professionally on stage, on television and in film for 37 years. He has performed in the works of Wilson (Charles) Fuller, Fugard, Stoppard, Gotonda, Becket, Pinter, Moliere, Shakespeare, Chekhov and others.



VALERIE WEAK (as Officer Miller/Monica)

Her recent work includes Lady Capulet in San Francisco Shakespeare Festival's *Romeo and Juliet* and Maya in *Disclosure* for Those Women Productions. Valerie has acted with many Bay Area theaters, including CenterREP, Shotgun Players and Word for Word. A few favorite roles: Toby Belch in *Twelfth Night* for Impact, the title role in *Macbeth* for Women's Will, and Lisa in indie film *The Snake* at SXSW. She trained at Skidmore College with Anne Bogart and the SITi Company, holds a BA in Theater Arts from UCLA and is a member of Actors' Equity and Theatre Bay Area. WWW.VALERIEWEAK.COM




CLIVE WORSLEY (as Jake Juchau)

is the Director of Artistic Learning at the California Shakespeare Theater. As an award-winning actor, he has appeared on such Bay Area stages as Berkeley Repertory Theatre, California Shakespeare Theater, Central Works, Magic Theater, Marin Theatre Company, SF Playhouse, Shotgun Players, TheatreFirst, TheatreWorks, Town Hall Theater and many more. He sits on the Advisory Council of the UC Theater and on the board of directors of Notes4Hope, a non-profit that produces live music events to benefit Breast Cancer treatment and prevention.


DESIGN & PRODUCTION TEAM

JACK BEUTTLER (**Production Manager**) is a Bay Area native who studied philosophy at UC Berkeley. Some companies he's designed for include Dance Theatre of San Francisco, ODC/School, Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, Post:Ballet, LEVYdance, Lamplighters Music Theater, LINES BFA and Training Programs, and he is a recipient with GERALDCASELDANCE of the 2015 Lighting Artists in Dance Grant. He has also worked for ODC/Dance and Theater, Oakland Ballet, Margaret Jenkins Dance Company, Hope Mohr Dance, Composers Inc., Fluid Hug-Hug, REDCAT and others as a Production Manager, Stage Manager and Technical Director. He is the Production Manager for the Sun Valley Summer Symphony in Idaho and a freelance designer in San Francisco, where he continues to be a Giants fan from before they were good.


JON BERNSON (**Sound Designer**) is a San Francisco musician, interdisciplinary playwright and multimedia artist who has released more than twenty albums and scored / sound designed several dozen plays and films. Recent work includes original soundtracks for Rajiv Joseph's *Gruesome Playground Injuries* (Tides Theatre), *Alicia's Miracle* by Octavio Solis (Story Works) and his own plays, *North by Inferno* (Flight Deck) and *Distant Future Symposium* (de Young Museum). Music from his band Exray's was featured in David Fincher's Academy Award-winning film, *The Social Network*. Bernson was a 2015 Artist-in-Residence at the de Young museum in San Francisco and is a four-year resident playwright at Playwrights Foundation. *Beautification Machine*, a sound sculpture collaboration with Andy Diaz Hope, opened at the Catharine Clark Gallery in 2014, was presented by Miami Project and then acquired by the Nevada Museum of Art, where it is currently on exhibition through the end of 2016. *Sound Affects*, another recent sound installation at the Sonos Studio in Los Angeles, is the result of a multimedia collaboration between Bernson and the Oakland band tUnE-yArDs, Berlin-based video artist, Jem the Misfit, and a group of architects and designers from P-a-t-t-e-r-n-s.



DEVON LABELLE (**Properties Designer**) is a multidisciplinary artist with emphasis on vivid visual and special effects components. In eight short seasons she has fueled over 70 Bay Area productions with the physical artifacts that make them work. Devon is a Resident Artist with Crowded Fire Theater and is thankful for her continued work with Shotgun Players. Check out her blog to see what she makes. Love to Sam, Jo, and Roscoe.




ANNA R. OLIVER (**Costume Designer**) *Empty Nesters* (Z Bellow), *Red*, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*, *Pillow Man*, *Fraulein Else* and *Magic Fire* (Berkeley Repertory Theatre); *Pygmalion*, *Candida*, *Man and Superman*, *Restoration Comedy* and *Nicholas Nickleby* (California Shakespeare Theater); *Water by the Spoonful* and *Time Stands Still* (Theatre Works); *The Strindberg Cycle* (Cutting Ball Theatre); *The Constant Wife*, *The House of Mirth* and *The Guardsman* (A.C.T.); World Premiere of Jeffrey Hatcher's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*; *Iphigenia in Aulis* and *Major Barbara* (San Jose Repertory); *Dear Master*, *Saint Joan*, *John Gabriel Borkman* and others (Aurora). Her work has also been seen at The Welsh National Opera, The Seattle Repertory Theatre, The Old Globe, The McCarter, B.A.M., San Francisco Opera, The New York City Opera, The Canadian Opera Company, and the Boston Lyric Opera. Awards: 2006 Helen Hayes award nomination, Garland award, Craig Noel awards, Bay Area Theatre Critic Circle and Dean Goodman awards. MFA from Yale School of Drama, 1992.




TOM ONTIVEROS (**Projection Design**) Lighting and Projection nominations/awards: Ovation!, LA Ticket Holders, Dean Goodman, Stage Scene LA, Stage Raw and others. Credits include designs for Cornerstone Theatre Co., La Jolla Playhouse, South Coast Repertory, Native Voices, Boston Court (2016 LA Drama Critics Circle; Best Lighting), Hungarian National Theatre, Hong Kong Cultural Centre, LA Opera, Culture Project, Park Avenue Armory, Danspace Project, MOCA (Chicago), San Diego Museum of Art, Ojai Music Festival, the Cabrillo Festival of Contemporary Music. Upcoming works include *Schick Machine* (Z Space) and *pe-LO-tah* (YBCA). Tom is an Assistant Professor of Lighting Design at USC. CARGOCOLLECTIVE.COM/TOMONTIVEROS


STACEY PRINTZ (**Choreographer**) Artistic Director of Printz Dance Project graduated Cum Laude from UC Irvine with degrees in sociology and dance. She has taught at Alonzo King's LINES Dance Center in SF for 14 years and is on staff at A.C.T. (American Conservatory Theater - MFA program). Printz has taught classes across the US. Internationally, she has taught in Curacao, Switzerland, Austria, the Netherlands, Belgium, Russia, Lithuania, Ireland and Italy. Her company has performed in San Francisco for 14 years, and has toured across the nation and internationally in Russia, Lithuania, Ireland, the Virgin Islands and Mexico. Printz also collaborates on multi-genre performing-arts pieces, as choreographer of Aaron Davidman's *Wrestling Jerusalem* and as YBCA's Director of Performing Arts for Marc Bamuthi Joseph's internationally recognized works, *Scourge*, *the break/s* and *red, black & GREEN: a blues*, and is currently working on her newest project *Peb-lo-tah* which will premiere in 2016 at YBCA. PRINTZDANCE.ORG



SEAN RILEY (**Scenic Designer**) has a 20-year career combining suspension, kinetic movement and design with performance. Through scenic design, rigging design and mechanical design, often in concert with each other, he creates unique environments for time-based art. Concentrating his design for performance on site-specific and nontraditional work. He has created installations in collaboration with a wide spectrum of artists in different genres around the world. Known for his bold and often surprising use of space and for large-scale movement, Riley's installations commonly reflect his lifelong obsessions with gravity, architecture and Newtonian physics.



ALLEN WILLNER (**Lighting Designer**) is an award-winning lighting designer for theater, dance and music. Awards and nominations include three Isadora Duncan Dance Awards for the lighting design of inkBoat's *Line Between* and *Heaven's Radio* and Deborah Slater's *Private Life*. Nominations for Isadora Duncan Dance Awards for the Visual Designs of Erika Chong Shuch's *51802* and inkBoat's *Cockroach*. 2013 TBA Award Lighting Design Nomination for Theater of Yugen's *This Lingering Life*. Bay Area Critics Circle Lighting Design Nomination for The Shotgun Players' *Eurydice* and *God's Ear*. 2012 Broadway World Lighting and Set Design Nomination for Symmetry Theater's *Patience Worth*. Lighting Artists in Dance Awards for inkBoat's *Line Between*, Erika Chong Shuch's *Sitting in a Circle*, Laura Arrington and Jesse Hewitt's *Adult* and Scott Wells, Amy Seiwert and Shinichi Iova-Koga's *Take This Dance and Shove It!*



BERT VAN AALSBURG (**Stage Manager**) began his career in the mid-70s. He later became theater director with the Red Barn Theater in Saugatuck, Michigan. In 1987 he moved to California to work with the Great American Melodrama, in San Luis Obispo, and for the following ten years he worked for the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre in San Francisco. Notable productions include the premieres of *Stones in His Pockets* at Magic Theatre and *Mission Magic Mystery Show* with Culture Clash. The list also includes *Sarome Kyu Kyu No Dan* with Theatre of Yugen and *The Thomashefskys* at SF Symphony. Interspersed amid these projects, van Aalsburg keeps busy with other sides of theater as a technical director, a lighting designer and an award-winning scenic designer. Not least is his work as an active member of Actors' Equity.

"THE DISCUSSION *THE BOX* WILL SPARK COULD NOT BE MORE TIMELY AND RELEVANT."

**– SCOTT BUDNICK, MOVIE DIRECTOR AND
FOUNDER OF THE ANTI-RECIDIVISM COALITION**



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION NIGHTS

Every Wednesday night performance of *The Box* will be followed by a panel discussion focusing on one aspect of mass incarceration. Join Bay Area activists, politicians, artists, journalists, organizers and survivors who have focused their attention on the abuse and overuse of solitary confinement for years or decades.

JULY 6TH

**LESSONS OF RESISTANCE: The 5th Anniversary of
the Historic California Prison Hunger Strike**

Featuring Manuel La Fontaine, *The Box* Director Michael John Garcés, and Anne Weills.
Moderated by Laura Magnani of American Friends Service Committee.

JULY 13TH

**GETTING THE REAL STORY: The Role of Journalism
and Storytelling in Shaping the Prison Narrative**

Featuring Shane Bauer and Sarah Shourd.
Moderated by Clara Jeffery of *Mother Jones*.

JULY 20TH

**VOICES FROM THE MARGINS: Juveniles, Women, Mentally
Ill and LGBTQI People in Solitary Confinement**

Featuring Harry Atkins, Dolores Canales, and Windy Click.
Moderated by Sparky Czifra of Underground Scholars.

JULY 27TH

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE GET OUT?:
The Ripple Effects of Solitary Confinement
on Health, Community and Society**

Featuring Jerry Elster, Marie Levin, James Anderson, and Terry Kuppers.
Moderated by Sarah Shourd, playwright.

For more info please visit: Aplaycalledthebox.com

MOTHERJONES.COM

Mother Jones

**WE GO WHERE
OTHERS IN
THE MEDIA DO
NOT AND TELL
THE STORIES
THAT NEED
TO BE TOLD.**

Here's to 40 more years
of reader-supported
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**"THE BOX IS A POWERFUL WORK OF
DOCUMENTARY THEATER, PROVIDING
A GLIMPSE INTO A WORLD FEW
AMERICANS REALIZE EXISTS."**

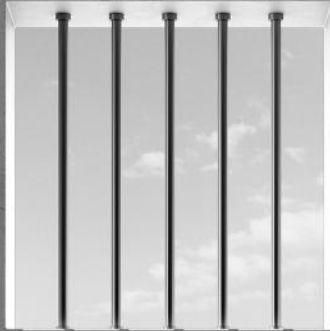
-MONIKA BAUERLEIN, MOTHER JONES CEO

"A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF THE PRISONERS FELL, AFTER EVEN A SHORT CONFINEMENT, INTO A SEMI-FATUOUS CONDITION, FROM WHICH IT WAS NEXT TO IMPOSSIBLE TO AROUSE THEM, AND OTHERS BECAME VIOLENTLY INSANE; OTHERS, STILL, COMMITTED SUICIDE."

**-THE U.S. SUPREME COURT,
DURING A HEARING ON SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, 1890**

SOLITARY CONFINEMENT BY THE NUMBERS

Estimated number of individuals held in isolation in U.S. prisons: 100,000	Approximate number held in long-term solitary in the UK: 55	States that practice solitary confinement: 50	Percentage with mental illness who spent time in solitary in a one-year period: 29%
Percentage of prison suicides that take place in isolation: 50%	Number of times youth are more likely to commit suicide in isolation: 19x	Average size of a solitary confinement cell, in feet: 7 x 10	Average size of a parking space, in feet: 8 x 16
Hours a day people in isolation spend inside their cells: 22-24 HRS	Hours they are allowed to exercise in a fenced "dog run": 1-2 HRS	Percentage of people sentenced to solitary confinement by a judge and jury: 0	Percentage placed in solitary by corrections officials: 100%
Average cost of keeping a person in prison for a year: \$25,000	Average cost of keeping a person in solitary for a year, in dollars: \$75,000	Percentage decrease in prison violence through the use of solitary: 0	Percentage increase in criminal violence by those held in solitary: 10-25%
Year UN torture expert Juan Méndez called for a ban on long-term solitary: 2011	Maximum days a person should be in isolation, according to Méndez : 15	Days before isolation begins to cause lasting psychological damage: 15	Number of people who were held in solitary in California for more than 20 years: 78



NEDA NOBARI FOUNDATION IS HONORED to support the courageous perseverance of **SARAH SHOURD, EXEMPLIFIED IN ‘THE BOX’**

as well as the many prisoners facing solitary confinement who each continue to stand as a testament to the power of human potential, hope and resiliency.

In California we have a chance to make history and set meaningful standards for the use of solitary confinement at state and county juvenile correctional facilities.

Support Senate Bill 124.

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each one reach One

Transforming Kids Behind Bars

This project would never have been possible without our Fiscal Sponsor, **Each One Reach One**. Thank you for your big vision and beautiful service to our communities. Each One Reach One (EORO) believes in the value of all young people. Lack of education is the primary factor that puts youth at greater risk of incarceration. During their formative years, incarcerated youth should have opportunities to explore new directions by developing hope and skills for a better future. We open the doors for this transformation through one-on one mentoring in academic engagement, artistic self-expression, and transitional support upon release. We convert time in juvenile detention facilities into a transformative experience for 500 kids annually in San Mateo, San Francisco and Santa Clara Counties through mentor-based playwriting and dance; health and life skills education; academic and GED tutoring & testing; STEM computer coding; and a supported bridge to community college. EORO has continued to develop and implement a variety of programs to serve the needs of this very specific population.

**"IT'S JUST ONE STORY, BUT IT IS
THE STORY OF ALL OF US."**

**- MICHAEL MARCUM, FORMER
SF ASSISTANT SHERIFF AND PRISONER**

SPECIAL THANKS

California Senators **Mark Leno** and **Loni Hancock**

Amy Goodman, Journalist and Founder of Democracy NOW

Juan E. Méndez, United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture

Scott Budnick, Film Producer and Founder & President of the Anti-Recidivism Coalition

Sean Penn, Actor and Humanitarian

Van Jones, Founder and Director of Cut50.org

Tim Robbins & **Sabra Williams**, Actors and Co-Directors of Los Angeles Actor's Gang

Lisa Steindler, Artistic Director of Z Space, San Francisco

Amy Fetting, Senior Staff Counsel for the ACLU's National Prison Project (NPP)
and Director of Stop Solitary Campaign

Jerry Eisler, American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) organizer and
formerly incarcerated solitary confinement survivor.

Jean Casella & **James Ridgeway**, Co-Founders of Solitary Watch

Michael Marcum, Former San Francisco Assistant Sheriff and formerly incarcerated.

Terry Kupperts, M.D., M.S.P., Institute Professor, The Wright Institute and nationally
renowned expert on the effects of solitary confinement on mental health.

**"POWERFUL, EVOCATIVE AND INTIMATE.
THE BOX PAINTS BOTH THE DESPAIR AND
THE VALOR OF THE MEN IN PRISON."**

-ANDREW SOLOMON, AUTHOR

ADDITIONAL THANKS

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1) How to write a prisoner in solitary confinement.

A letter from the outside world can be a lifeline when you're completely cut-off. Corresponding with prisoners can also be a political tool that shines light, brings transparency and allows prison walls to breathe a little. After all, human contact is a human right.

If you'd like to connect with someone who is currently in solitary confinement, there are postcards available in the lobby. You can also get in touch with Human Rights Pen Pals (HRPP), a grassroots, racial justice organization in solidarity with people in California's solitary confinement cells. Through letter writing and community organizing, they promote principled, mutually educational relationships between people in solitary confinement and human rights supporters outside the prison walls. Pen pals are asked to commit to writing at least every other week for 6 months. www.humanrightspenpals.org

2) Volunteer

There are many organizations in the Bay Area and beyond working to support and connect with people in solitary confinement. Here are just a few:

American Friends Service Committee afsc.org

Architects/Designers/Planners for Social Responsibility www.adpsr.org

California Coalition for Women's Prisoners womenprisoners.org

California Prison Focus newest.prisons.org

Citizens United for A Responsible Budget curbprisonspending.org

CIVIC www.endisolation.org

#Cut50 www.cut50.org

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children www.prisonerswithchildren.org

National Religious Campaign Against Torture www.nrcat.org

Prison Legal News www.prisonlegalnews.org

Transgender, Gender Variant, Intersex Justice Project www.tgijp.org

Solitary Watch solitarywatch.com

Stop Solitary Campaign www.aclu.org/feature/we-can-stop-solitary

Underground Scholars www.undergroundscholars.org

**"NOTHING IS MORE
DEHUMANIZING
THAN THE ABSENCE
OF HUMAN
COMPANIONSHIP."**

-NELSON MANDELA



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**"WHEN SOMETHING SO LOW,
SO SAD, SO DESPERATE CAN
TRANSCEND DESPERATION
AND HELPLESSNESS – THE
CHARACTERS' AND OURS –
IT'S MAGIC."**

-SUMMER BRENNER, AUTHOR



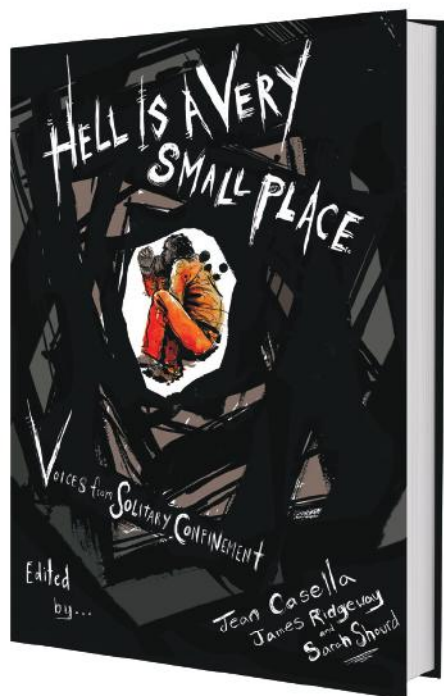
In memory of Kalief Browder, Evan Ebel, Dannie Martin, Herman Wallace and all the others we've lost to the horror of solitary confinement.

With gratitude toward the people who shared their stories with me from solitary confinement, hugely contributing to this project: Billy Blake, Rafael Cacique, Raul Rocha, Alfred Sandoval, Ricky De Silva, Leon Singletery, Maher Suarez, Judith Vasquez and Caesar Villa.

And the survivors on the outside, who will never forget those they had to leave behind: Dolores Canales, Jacqueline Craig, Steven Czifra, Jerry Eisler, Rudolph Howell, Five Mualimm-ak and Brian Nelson.

And family members Francisco Cacique and Marie Levin.

Lastly, to the two most important people in my life, my husband Shane Bauer and my mom Nora Shourd, without whom I doubt I would have ever found my courage.



HELL IS A VERY SMALL PLACE

Voices from Solitary Confinement

EDITED BY

Jean Casella, James Ridgeway,
and Sarah Shourd

"We will never achieve justice in this country until we have the **COURAGE** to look unblinkingly into the hidden corners of our system of mass incarceration, where men and women are locked away and forgotten—stored like meat in a freezer. This book does just that." —**VAN JONES**

"The personal accounts by prisoners contained in this book are some of the most disturbing that I have ever read. There were many points throughout the book when my emotions became very **OVERWHELMING**, and I had to pause and catch my breath."

—**CHELSEA MANNING**

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—**PUBLISHERS WEEKLY**

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—**SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE**

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