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"Mariposa and the Saint" unveils life in solitary confinement

by Todd Moe [Weekday Morning Host and Producer], in Canton, NY

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May 17, 2016 – A new play that explores one woman's experience in solitary confinement will be performed for New York lawmakers in Albany today, and on stage in Glens Falls and Upper Jay on Wednesday and Thursday. "Mariposa and the Saint" is based on letters exchanged between Sara "Mariposa" Fonseca, a California inmate, and performance artist Julia Steele Allen.



Ray Huth (left) and Julia Steele Allen in a scene from "Mariposa and the Saint." Photo: Julia Steele Allen

Mariposa and Allen met when Allen volunteered at a women's prison in 2005. Mariposa was sentenced to 15 months in a Security Housing Unit or SHU after she was found in possession of tweezers and then served additional time in solitary, more than two years all together.

The tour is presented in partnership with local grassroots campaigns working to reform New York's use of solitary confinement. Legislation pending in the state legislature would limit the use of solitary confinement to 15 days, prohibit the punishment altogether for particularly vulnerable populations, and create effective rehabilitative alternatives.

The play will be performed Wednesday at 7 pm at the Charles Wood Theatre in Glens Falls, and Thursday at 7:30 pm at the Recovery Lounge in Upper Jay.

Playwright Julia Steele Allen said Mariposa is still incarcerated in California and scheduled for release in 2018.

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