

Delve Deeper into "Omar & Pete"

A film by Tod Lending

This multi-media resource list, compiled by Paul Bareno of the San Diego Public Library in partnership with the American Library Association, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the upcoming P.O.V. documentary "Omar & Pete" that premieres on September 13th, 2005 at 10 p.m. on PBS (check local listings at www.pbs.org/pov/).

Omar and Pete are determined to change their lives. Both have been in and out of prison for more than 30 years — never out longer than six months. This intimate and penetrating film follows these two longtime African-American friends after what they hope will be their final release. Their lives take divergent paths in their native Baltimore as one wrestles with addiction and fear while the other finds success and freedom through helping others. With extraordinary cooperation from Maryland's innovative reentry programs — many run by former drug addicts and convicts themselves — "Omar & Pete" also provides a rare glimpse into an intense and very personal web of support.

ADULT NONFICTION

Alexander, Robert B. *Arresting Addictions: Drug Education and Relapse Prevention in Corrections.* Lanham, MD: American Correctional Association, 2002. Discusses how to deal with drug addiction in correctional facilities and how to prevent relapses.

Cook, John Raymond. *Asphalt Justice: A Critique of the Criminal Justice System in America.* Westport, CT: Praeger, 2001. Cook advocates for a transformation of America's prisons to focus on changing prisoner behavior through treatment and rehabilitation. He believes the current "get tough" approach postpones dealing with their problems and thus is detrimental to society in the long-term.

Davis, Mike. *9 to 5 Beats 10 to Life: How to (Re)enter Society.* Lanham, MD: American Correctional Association, 1996.

A guide for adult offenders on re-entering society. Includes tips on employment, careers, education, housing, healthcare and community resources.

Farabee, David. *Rethinking Rehabilitation: Why Can't We Reform Our Criminals.* Washington D.C.: American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, 2005. Research shows that most rehabilitation programs have little or no effect on recidivism. Farabee examines the most popular of these programs and argues that traditional methods of deterrence (for example, closer monitoring of parolees and swift application of sanctions) are more effective and humane than progressive strategies that are increasingly popular today.

Fleisher, Mark and Jessie L. Krienert. (Ed.). *Crime and Employment: Critical Issues in Crime Reduction for Corrections.* Lanham, MD: Altamira Press, 2003. The professionals contributing to this volume look at the effects of a variety of factors on reducing recidivism and crime. Factors include employment, community correctional services and vocational programs, substance abuse and poverty.

Gadsden, Vivian. (Ed.). *Heading Home: Offender Reintegration into the Family.* Lanham, MD: American Correctional Association, 2003. Examines issues such as parent education for incarcerated parents, treatment of family violence in correctional populations, mentoring as a correctional strategy and faith-based programs.

Gonnerman, Jennifer. *Life on the Outside: the Prison Odyssey of Elaine Bartlett.* New York: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2004. Tells the true story of a woman who spent 16 years in jail for selling drugs. Upon her release, she had no money, no job, no home and four children living in a housing project in New York City. Through Bartlett's story, Gonnerman looks at the challenges facing offenders as they re-enter society, calling attention to the lack of preparation they receive while still in prison.

Harris, Othello and Robin Miller. (Ed.). *Impacts of Incarceration on the African American Family.* New Brunswick, NJ: Transaction Publishers, 2003. In the U.S., there is an alarmingly high percentage of African-American men who are incarcerated, on probation or on parole. This volume looks at the effect this has had on these offenders' families.

Jackson, Michael B. and Ron Kenner. (Ed.). *How to Do Good After Prison: A Handbook for the Committed Man.* Willingboro, NJ: Joint FX Press, 2001. A guide for ex-prisoners re-entering society. Includes advice on doing well on parole, answers to frequently asked questions about parole, and a federal and state parole directory.

Jones, Louis. *I Need a J-O-B!: The Ex-Offender's Job Search Manual.* Washington D.C.: Conquest Books, 2003. Offers practical advice, such as, how to beat frustration, organizing for a job search, and even where to look for available positions, in order to help ex-offenders overcome the obstacles to steady employment.

Kunjufu, Jawanza. *State of Emergency: We Must Save African-American Males.* Chicago, IL: African American Images, 2001. Looks at the daily challenges faced by African-American men and condemns the drug industry and the education and penal systems for their part in this. Hope is offered by examples of institutions that have successfully developed African American men.

May, John P. (Ed.). *Building Violence: How America's Rush to Incarcerate Creates More Violence.* Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2000. Examines the rapidly rising incarceration rates of the 80's and 90's and contends that incarceration alone doesn't prevent crime. In fact, it is argued that mass incarceration reproduces the violent prison subculture on the streets outside.

McCloud, Aminah and Frederick Thaufeer Al Deen. *A Question of Faith for Muslim Inmates.* Chicago, IL: Kazi Publications, 1999. A resource for Muslim

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inmates on dealing with the particular challenges they face, such as, dietary rules, required prayer time, observance of Ramadan, and other issues.

Nowinski, Joseph. *Family Recovery and Substance Abuse: a 12-Step Guide for Treatment*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 1998. Provides clinicians with strategies for working with the significant others/family members of substance abusers. Includes advice on how to restructure your relationship so that it motivates the substance abuser to change their behavior.

O'Brien, Patricia. *Making it in the "Free World": Women in Transition from Prison*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2001. Based on interviews with 18 formerly incarcerated women, this study explores the process of re-entry into society for female offenders.

Pallone, Nathaniel. *Treating Substance Abusers in Correctional Contexts: New Understandings, New Modalities*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press, 2004. Examines the U.S.'s change in its approach to the war on drugs: moving away from a focus on punishment and towards a focus on treatment.

Pecchio, John J. *Hell Behind Prison Walls*. Binghamton, NY: Brundage Publishing, 2003. The true story of Pecchio's experience working as a shoemaker and vocational instructor in a maximum-security men's prison.

Petersilia, Joan. *When Prisoners Come Home: Parole and Prisoner Reentry*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003. Based on interviews with current and former prisoners and prison officials, Petersilia calls attention to the challenges of re-entry into society and makes suggestions on how to prepare inmates for the transition and how to reduce recidivism.

Herivel, Tara and Paul Wright. (Ed.). *Prison Nation: The Warehousing of America's Poor*. New York: Routledge, 2003. Discusses the living conditions and

political concerns of prisoners, for example, health care, HIV/AIDS and prison privatization.

Robinson, Randall. *The Reckoning: What Blacks Owe to Each Other*. New York: Dutton, 2002. Robinson, a prominent advocate for slavery reparations, calls for all blacks to work together to help the inner city poor.

Travis, Jeremy. *But They All Come Back: Rethinking Prisoner Reentry*. Washington D.C.: Urban Institute Press, 2005. Travis explores the issues facing inmates as they are released from prison and proposes re-designing the criminal justice system around 5 guiding principles of re-entry.

Travis, Jeremy et al. (Ed.). *Prisoner Reentry and Crime in America*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University Press, 2005. Explores the link between prisoner re-entry and public safety. Includes suggestions for reducing recidivism.

Travis, Jeremy and Michelle Waul. (Ed.). *Prisoners Once Removed: The Impact of Incarceration and Reentry on Children, Families, and Communities*. Washington D.C.: Urban Institute Press, 2003. Explores the effects of imprisonment and release on both the prisoner and his or her family and/or community.

What Works and Why: Effective Approaches to Reentry. Lanham, MD: American Correctional Association, 2004. Seven essays by experienced professionals on how best to prepare prisoners for their re-entry into society.

Wills, Maralys and Mike Carona. *Save My Son: A Mother and a Sheriff Unite to Reclaim the Lives of Addicted Offenders*. Center City, MN: Hazelden Information & Educational Services, 2000. Calls for a transformation of the prison system to emphasize treatment programs, rather than long prison sentences, for non-violent drug offenders.

ADULT FICTION

Braly, Malcolm. *On the Yard*. New York: New York Review of Books, 2002, c.1967. Braly wrote this novel while serving a 15-year sentence in San Quentin. His terrifying portrait of prison life focuses on the experiences of a few characters—career criminals as well as those guilty of "crimes of passion."

Cray, David. *Keeplock: A Novel of Crime*. New York: Otto Penzler Books, 1995. Peter Frangello has been in and out of prison since he was 16. Now in his 30's, he is being released once more and this time he is determined to stay out of prison for good. However, when an old friend from prison asks him to join in a heist he's planning, Frangello struggles to do the right thing.

Johnson, Mat. *Hunting in Harlem: A Novel*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2003. Three ex-cons join a Harlem real estate company's "Second Chance" program. The company is supposedly trying to revitalize Harlem but the ex-cons soon uncover a more sinister plot that they themselves appear to be embroiled in.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Bernards, Neal and Bonnie Szumski. *Prisons: Detecting Bias*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 1990. Grades 3-7. Looks at whether or not criminals are treated fairly in prisons and whether prisons can rehabilitate them.

Espejo, Roman. (Ed.). *America's Prisons: Opposing Viewpoints*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 2001. Grades 6-12. A collection of essays on whether prisons are effective, how inmates should be treated, whether inmate labor should be used and what alternatives to prison are available.

Oliver, Marilyn. *Prisons: Today's Debate*. Springfield, NJ: Enslow Publishers, 1997. Grades 7 and up. Explores a wide variety of prison issues, including prisoner

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treatment, juvenile detention, the death penalty, whether prisons should rehabilitate or punish offenders and alternatives to prison.

Rabiger, Joanna and Charlie Fuller. *Daily Prison Life (Crime & Detection Series)*. Broomall, PA: Mason Crest Publishers, 2003. Looks at what life is like in various prisons, including, a typical schedule, prison culture and educational/employment opportunities.

Roleff, Tamara L. (Ed.). *Inner-City Poverty*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press, 2002. Grades 8 and up. Discusses the causes and possible solutions to this problem. The authors represent two schools of thought: one assigns blame to the behavior and morals of the poor, the other cites racism and a lack of economic opportunities in the inner city.

Williams, Stanley "Tookie" and Barbara Becnel. *Life in Prison*. New York: Seastar Books, 2001. Grades 6 and up. Williams, co-founder of a notorious L.A. gang, describes his life on death row. Graphic and at times disturbing, Williams' goal is to warn kids against making his mistakes and ending up where he has.

FICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS

Cain, Sandra et al. *Dad's in Prison*. London, U.K.: A&C Black, 1999. Grades 4-6. Relates the experiences of two brothers whose father is in prison. Follows them from his arrest through their first visit to the prison.

Hickman, Martha and Larry Raymond. *When Andy's Father Went to Prison*. Niles, IL: Albert Whitman & Company, 1990. Grades K-5. A picture book about a young boy whose father is sent to prison for robbery.

Woodson, Jacqueline and James Ransome. *Visiting Day*. New York: Scholastic Press, 2002. Pre-school – Grade 2. A picture book about a young girl who eagerly anticipates her monthly visit to her father in prison.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

These articles are all available online from ProQuest.

Bushnell, Davis. "Out of Jail, in the Job Market, and Behind the Eight Ball; Despite New Efforts, Ex-convicts Face Cool Welcome in Workforce." *Boston Globe*, 7 November 2004, sec. G, p. 6.

Butterfield, Fox. "Repaving the Long Road Out of Prison." *New York Times*, 4 May 2004, sec. A, p. 25.

"Creating the Next Crime Wave." *New York Times*, 13 March 2004, sec. A, p. 16.

Fields, Gary. "Congress Prepares to Tackle Prisoner Recidivism; Lawmakers Plan for Bipartisan Measures After Report Offers Advice for Overhaul." *Wall Street Journal*, 14 January 2005, sec. A, p. 4.

"Keeping Ex-cons Out of Prison." *Chicago Tribune*, 15 August 2004, p. 8.

Mangino, Matthew T. "Doing Time...And Doing It Time and Time Again." *Washington Post*, 19 December 2004, sec. B, p. 2.

"New Strategies for Curbing Recidivism." *New York Times*, 21 January 2005, sec. A, p. 22.

"Not Leaving Ex-Cons in the Lurch." *Christian Science Monitor*, 27 April 2005, sec. A, p. 8.

Price, Gilbert. "A Big Issue for 2005." *Call & Post*, 6-12 January 2005, sec. A, p. 4.

Reiterman, Tim. "State Residents Favor Inmate Rehab; Most Californians Also Believe a Lack of Life Skills is a Big Factor in Recidivism, Survey Finds." *Los Angeles Times*, 28 June 2004, sec. B, p. 4.

Warren, Jenifer. "Shift in Inmate Rehab Signaled; A Bill to Boost Education and Job Training to Cut Recidivism is Approved. Critics Decry the

Cost." *Los Angeles Times*, 25 August 2004, sec. B, p. 1.

Willing, Richard. "U.S. Prisons to End Boot-Camp; Ordinary Incarceration Just As Effective, Bureau Reports." *USA Today*, 4 February 2005, sec. A, p. 1.

VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES

"Borderline." A film by Slawomir Grunberg. Log In Productions. 2004. (83 min.) The story of a borderline mentally retarded woman who was sentenced to 15 years to life in prison for murdering a child. www.logtv.com/films/borderline/

"Getting Out." A film by Robe Imbriano. Crystal Stair Productions. 2003. Follows three former inmates as they are released from prison and face the challenges of re-entering into society. www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/go_pn.htm

"God and the Inner City." A film by Michael Pack. Manifold Productions. 2003. (60 min.) Three leaders of inner city, faith-based groups are working with law enforcement officials and social workers to save youth from unemployment, drugs and prison.

"Manhood & Violence: Fatal Peril." A film by Mike and Sonja Gilligan. Hudson River Film & Video. 2004. A look at nine men enrolled in San Francisco County jail's violence prevention program, where the re-arrest rate for violent crimes dropped by 80% after only four months of intense immersion in the program, and then follows them upon their release from prison. www.filmsmediagroup.com/id/12128

"Prison Lullabies." A film by Lina Matta and Odile Isralson. Brown Hats Productions. 2003. (83 min.) Focuses on four women, all of whom were arrested while pregnant, and sentenced to prison time in the Taconic Correctional Facility in New York State, one of only five prisons in the U.S. that has a nursery program. The film follows them as they are released and faced with the challenges of the outside world—finding a job, looking

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after children and staying off drugs.
www.prisonlullabies.com/

"Red Hook Justice." A film by Meema Spadola. Sugar Pictures. 2004. (55 min.) In 2000, an experimental court opened in Red Hook, Brooklyn—a neighborhood with high unemployment, poverty and crime rates. The Red Hook court is at the center of a legal revolution—the community justice movement. Instead of jail time, offenders are sentenced to job training, drug counseling, and community service. However, if they fail, they face longer jail time.
www.pbs.org/independentlens/redhookjustice/

"Reentry: Life on the Outside." A film by Keith Thomas. Reentry Productions. 2005. (50 min.) First-hand accounts of former prisoners who have made the transition from prison to the community, citing their struggles, successes and failures.
www.reentryproductions.com/

"Road to Return." A film by Leslie Neale and John Densmore. 1998. (56 min.) Follows the men and women enrolled in Project Return, a community/self-esteem building resource program for former prisoners, based in New Orleans. Narrated by Tim Robbins, the film focuses on the particular challenges faced by inmates returning to their communities.
www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/rr.htm

"What I Want My Words to Do to You." A film by Madeleine Gavin, Judith Katz and Gary Sunshine. PBS. 2003. (86 min.) Focuses on a writing group led by playwright and activist Eve Ensler at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. Ensler's classes have given birth to a powerful writing community in which women from strikingly different strata of society, all of whom are serving long sentences, help each other tell their stories.
www.pbs.org/pov/pov2003/whatiwant/index.html

WEB SITES

P.O.V.'s "Omar & Pete" web site
www.pbs.org/pov/pov2005/omarandpete
Includes an interview with the filmmaker, resources, special features and more.

Islam 101
www.islam101.com/
An educational site on Islam, its way of life, civilization and culture.

Islam Question & Answer
www.islamqa.com/
Aims to provide intelligent, authoritative responses to questions about Islam, whether from a Muslim or non-Muslim, and to help solve general and personal social problems.

Islamicity.com
www.islamicity.com/
Web Directory to articles relating to Islam.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
www.samhsa.gov/
Includes information on substance abuse treatment and prevention, criminal and juvenile justice programs and family and child welfare.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
www.health.org/
Includes information on specific drugs and for specific audiences as well as listings of substance abuse treatment centers and self-help resources.

SoberRecovery
www.soberrecovery.com/
Lists hundreds of resources for addiction and alcoholism treatment centers in the U.S., Canada, and overseas.

Bureau of Justice Statistics (U.S. Department of Justice)
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/welcome.html
Includes stats on re-entry trends, crime and drugs and prisons among other issues.

U.S. Department of Justice Programs
www.ojp.usdoj.gov/reentry/
Includes info on their reentry initiative, federal and state resources and training programs.

Reentry National Media Outreach Campaign
www.reentrymediaoutreach.org/what.htm
In partnership with key organizations and media-based resources, they hope to increase public awareness and dialogue on solution-based reentry programs that foster public safety and support healthy communities.

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY
www.jjay.cuny.edu/centersinstitutes/pri.asp
John Jay College recently launched their Prisoner Reentry Institute. Upcoming initiatives include: a summit for practitioners and policymakers, a training institute for reentry administrators, and "development of academic curricula for professional schools to facilitate the incorporation of reentry issues into the professional training."