Deneal Trueblood-Lynch

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**Personal/Professional Goal Statement**

My goal as a playwright is to facilitate conversations about societal secrets through my work. I wanted to write about what I know. I wrote a play called *SECRETS* as a student at Metropolitan State University (MN). It won a playwriting contest with a workshop and reading at Park Square Boss Theater (MN). *SECRETS* is my lived experience that tells the story of spiraling events that culminated in an assault, incarceration and a redemption. I use universal trauma to create a platform where conversation and healing can begin.

I navigated through a system that somehow silenced artistic creativity. I merged theater with social injustice and created a path that can be used to change society norms. We can redirect system narratives and provide a space where stories can flourish.

As a Co-facilitator of a Re-entry Mentorship program at Goodwill Easter Seals of Minnesota, I wanted to be an advisor to those who are currently transitioning out of incarceration. I believe that it’s the success stories that will aid in positive coping skills, dealing with trauma, and achieving goals necessary for transitioning system impacted persons.

I joined a few community programs; Second Chance Coalition and Transforming Justice Community Advisory Team. I am a part of programs where creativity can grow with inclusion and diversity and where I can introduce theater to those who normally would choose a different entertainment medium.

**Academic Experience**

 I completed a course called Parents as Teachers/Meld Parent Group Facilitator Training in which I received a Certificate of Achievement. I graduated and received my Associate of Arts (Theater) degree from Minneapolis Community and Technical College and Bachelor of Arts from Metropolitan State University. I continue to emerge as an Actress, Dramaturg, Director, and Playwright. I want to create a space where every voice can be heard.

**Achievements**

* Star and Tribune

*Once in prison, now a playwright*. By John Reinan

* Minnesota Women’s Press

*Being Whole*- November 2020 (Issue 36-11)

*Transforming Justice*- March 2021 (Issue 37-3)

* Ten Thousand Things

Secrets (Teaching website)