

PHOTO: EARLONNE WOODS



Ear Hustle: An Evening with Nigel Poor and Earlonne Woods

Thursday, February 27, 2020, at 7 p.m.
Wallis Annenberg Hall
University of Southern California

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- ◉ *Ear Hustle* is a podcast that is produced inside San Quentin State Prison.
- ◉ The podcast is co-created and co-produced by Nigel Poor, an artist who volunteers at the prison, and Earlonne Woods, who was formerly incarcerated there. Co-host and co-producer Rahsaan “New York” Thomas has been incarcerated at San Quentin since 2000. *Ear Hustle* was also co-founded with former San Quentin resident Antwan Williams, who now works on sound design for the podcast.

SAN QUENTIN STATE PRISON

- ◉ Maximum-security prison for men, pop. 4,000+
- ◉ Located north of San Francisco
- ◉ Oldest prison in California (opened in 1852, during the California Gold Rush)
- ◉ Has California’s only Death Row for men, and the largest Death Row in the United States.
- ◉ All executions in California take place at San Quentin. (Women sentenced to the death penalty are incarcerated at Central California Women’s Facility until they are transported to San Quentin to be put to death.)
- ◉ Operated by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
- ◉ Considered a relatively progressive prison, with an array of rehabilitative, educational, and supportive programs such as the San Quentin Drama Workshop, The Last Mile, the California Reentry Program, the Prison University Project, SQUIRES, the No More Tears Program, and the *San Quentin News*, the oldest prisoner-produced newspaper in California and one of the few in the world.



EAR HUSTLING

“Ear hustling” is slang for being nosy or eavesdropping.

NIGEL POOR

Nigel Poor is a professor of photography and a visual artist whose work has been exhibited at institutions including SFMOMA, SF Camerawork, and the San Jose Museum of Art. In 2011, she started teaching classes at San Quentin on the history of photography, as part of the Prison University Project. That led to a shift in Poor’s art practice, which now largely consists of spending time in the prison, collaborating with incarcerated people on photo projects and radio stories about life inside. Poor co-founded and co-produces the San Quentin Prison Report Radio Project, which won an award from the Society of Professional Journalism for “highlighting the stories of a prison community that outsiders rarely hear, including stories not only told from within the prison, but also produced by inmates.” Poor is also a member of the photo collective Library Candy.

EARLONNE WOODS

Earlonne Woods was born and raised in South Central Los Angeles. In 1997, he was sentenced to 31-years-to-life in prison. While incarcerated, he received his GED, attended Coastline Community College, and completed many vocational trade programs. In November 2018, California Governor Jerry Brown commuted his sentence after 21 years of incarceration. Upon release, Woods was hired as a full-time producer for *Ear Hustle*, where he continues to contribute stories about re-entry.



MAKE YOUR OWN PODCAST: TOOLS AND TIPS FROM USC ANNEBERG

RECORDING

Tascam DR-100MKII (about \$130 used/\$300 new) for field recording with RE-50 omni and Rode NTG-2 shotgun mics.

Tips:

- ◉ If you want an audio recorder for field work, buy one that has XLR inputs for external microphones.
- ◉ Cell phones are not good-quality audio lines, but can work in some cases. Try the app Tape A Call. And remember that California is a two-party consent state so you must have the person's permission to record a call.

EDITING

Audacity (Mac and PC) – open source

GarageBand – comes included with all Macs

Reaper (Mac and PC) – low-cost editing software (\$60)

Adobe Audition (Mac and PC) – for more sophisticated production; you can buy a monthly license or subscribe with Adobe Creative Cloud

TRANSCRIPTION

Transcribe – \$20/year

Trint – plans starting at \$15/hour

Temi – \$.10/minute; free trial available

Descript – 30 mins. free, then \$.15/min.

OTranscribe – free

HOME STUDIO

To set up a simple home studio, you'll need

- ◉ An acoustical foam cube to isolate mics and keep out background sound. Pyle makes one called the Sound Recording Booth Box Studio Soundproofing Foam Shield Isolation Filter Cube.
- ◉ A USB audio interface for two mics, such as the Scarlett 2i2.
- ◉ Over-the-ear headphones such as the Sony MDRZX110/BLK ZK (\$15).

PRISON UNIVERSITY PROJECT

The Prison University Project provides an intellectually rigorous, inclusive Associate of Arts degree program and college-prep program, free of charge, to people at San Quentin State Prison. It was founded in 1994, after the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act barred people incarcerated in the United States from receiving Pell Grants, which effectively ended higher education in U.S. prisons—almost all of the 350 programs then in existence shut down due to lack of funds. In response, a UC Davis professor, in collaboration with Patten College and the San Quentin Education Department, started the College Program at San Quentin with two classes, a volunteer coordinator, and no budget. In 2003, the Prison University Project was formed (with fiscal sponsorship from the Tides Foundation) to support the College Program at San Quentin. The Prison University Project became an independent nonprofit in 2006. It has become a national leader in providing high-quality higher education to people in prison. In 2015, the Prison University Project was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Obama.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

- ◉ Did you hear anything that changed your perception of prison or of incarcerated people?
- ◉ Why is it important that incarcerated and formerly incarcerated people co-produce and co-host the show? How do you think that impacts the show's form or content?
- ◉ Is there something you know about from lived experience that you think would make a good subject for a podcast?

IF YOU LIKED THIS EVENT, YOU MIGHT WANT TO CHECK OUT:

PODCASTING

- ◉ Transom
transom.org
- ◉ Escuela Radio Ambulante
escuelaradioambulante.org
- ◉ NPR Training
training.npr.org
- ◉ USC Annenberg Media
Resource Website
resources.uscannenbergmedia.com
- ◉ Association for
Independents in Radio
airmedia.org

PRISONS, PRISON REFORM, AND PRISON ABOLITION

- ◉ San Quentin Radio
kalw.org/term/san-quentin-radio-o#stream/o
- ◉ San Quentin News
sanquentinnews.wordpress.com
- ◉ Prison University Project
prisonuniversityproject.org
- ◉ Reform L.A. Jails
reformlajails.com
- ◉ Critical Resistance
criticalresistance.org
- ◉ Youth Justice Coalition
youthjusticela.org



DISCOVER MORE AT THE USC LIBRARIES

STACY WILLIAMS of the USC Libraries selected the following resources to help you learn more about this evening's event. Those with a call number (e.g., books) are physical items which you can find in our campus libraries. Those without a call number (e.g. e-books, journals, and databases) are electronic resources, which you can access through the search bar on the USC Libraries homepage at libraries.usc.edu.

BOOKS

Armour, Marilyn Peterson, and Mark S. Umbreit. *Violence, Restorative Justice and Forgiveness: Dyadic Forgiveness and Energy Shifts in Restorative Justice Dialogue*. London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2018.

DOHENY MEMORIAL LIBRARY: RC451.4 P68 A76 2018

Burling, Alexis, and Robert Allen Warrior. *Occupying Alcatraz: Native American Activists Demand Change*. Minneapolis: Essential Library, 2017.

E-BOOK

Samudzi, Zoé, William C. Anderson, and Mariame Kaba. *As Black as Resistance: Finding the Conditions for Liberation*. Chico, CA: AK Press, 2018.

E-BOOK

Van Ness, Daniel W., and Karen Heetderks Strong. *Restoring Justice: An Introduction to Restorative Justice*. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2015.

E-BOOK

Wood, Jennifer K., Eleanor Novek, and Stephen J. Hartnett. *Working for Justice: A Handbook of Prison Education and Activism*. Urbana: Univ. of Illinois Press, 2013.

DOHENY MEMORIAL LIBRARY: HV8883.3 U5 W67 2013

ALSO AVAILABLE AS AN E-BOOK

DISSERTATION

Felker-Kantor, Max. "Managing Marginalization from Watts to Rodney King: The Struggle over Policing and Social Control in Los Angeles, 1965–1992." ProQuest Dissertations Publishing, 2014.

SEARCH.PROQUEST.COM/DOCVIEW/1718065619

JOURNALS

Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science

Ethnic and Racial Studies

Law & Society Review

DATABASES

LexisNexis Academic

Database of online news, legal cases, and company information from 1980 to the present.

Official California Legislative Information

Archive of California's legislative information from 1993 to the present.

ProQuest Central

A valuable resource for researchers, this database covers more than 160 subject areas and is one of the largest aggregated sources of content, including scholarly journals, trade publications, magazines, books, newspapers, reports, and videos.

VIDEO

The Return. Oley, PA: Bullfrog Films, 2016.

LEAVEY LIBRARY: LVYDVD 11164

