# Prison Theatre and the Global Crisis of Incarceration: Critical Companions



Prison Theatre and the Global Crisis of Incarceration (Critical Companions) by Ashley E. Lucas

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The global crisis of incarceration is a human rights crisis. Millions of people around the world are locked up in prisons and jails, often for nonviolent offenses. This mass incarceration is a result of systemic racism, poverty, and inequality. It is a stain on our societies and a violation of human rights.

Prison theatre is a powerful tool that can be used to address the global crisis of incarceration. Through drama, prisoners can explore their own experiences, learn new skills, and build relationships with others. These experiences can help them to heal from the trauma of incarceration, develop positive coping mechanisms, and reintegrate into society upon their release. Prison theatre can also raise awareness of the injustices of the criminal justice system and advocate for change.

#### The Power of Prison Theatre

Prison theatre is a unique and powerful form of theatre. It is created by and for people who are incarcerated. Prison theatre companies often work with professional theatre artists to create original works that explore the experiences of prisoners. These plays can be funny, heartbreaking, and thought-provoking. They offer a unique glimpse into the lives of people who are often invisible to society.

Prison theatre has a number of benefits for prisoners. It can help them to:

- Heal from the trauma of incarceration
- Develop positive coping mechanisms
- Learn new skills
- Build relationships with others
- Reintegrate into society upon their release

Prison theatre can also have a positive impact on the prison environment. It can help to reduce violence and recidivism. It can also create a more positive and supportive atmosphere for prisoners.

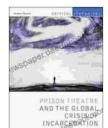
#### **Critical Companions**

Critical companions are a group of scholars, artists, and activists who work to support prison theatre programs around the world. Critical companions believe that prison theatre is a powerful tool for social justice. They work to ensure that prison theatre programs are accessible to all prisoners, regardless of their race, gender, or socioeconomic status. Critical companions also work to advocate for policies that reduce incarceration and support the reintegration of prisoners into society. The work of critical companions is essential to the global movement for prison reform. They are helping to make prison theatre a more powerful and effective force for change.

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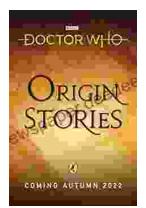
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