

# PERRYMAN

A PLAY

BY

DAVID PERRYMAN

PART ONE

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PERRYMAN, a unique style play where the audience is part of the play. DAVID PERRYMAN a homeless man gets convicted for a crime he didn't committ. At the end of each day in prison before bed he turns and talks to the audience as if they were part of some illusion he is having. He shares with the society (the audience) his frustration with being a good man and locked up for a crime he didn't committ. What's interesting about this play is its a true story, and is ON GOING UNTIL we find out the OUTCOME OF his life... AS he LIVES it NOW...

DAVID PERRYMAN

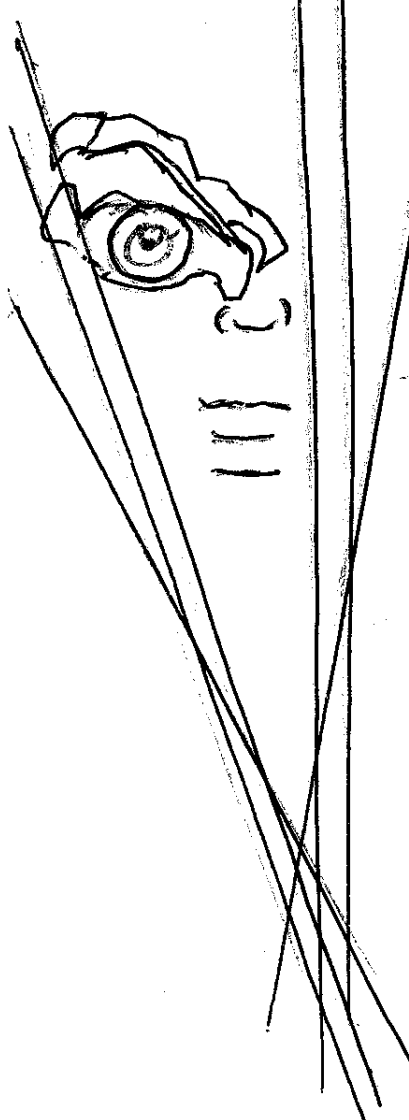
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SCENE ONE: Perryman is standing next to his lawyer in a court room. The prosecution is at another table. The judge shuffles some paper and finds the one he is looking for. He reads it for a moment, then look up at Perryman and says: MR Perryman will you please rise, I will now read your sentences, for the crimes you have committed and found guilty by a jury of your peers, I hereby sentence you to the maximum term of 29 years with 6 years credit. That is the judgment of this court, ~~Good~~ day, The bailiff will remand the prisoner into custody. Good day. With that judge stood up and walked out of the court room.

Perryman breath in slowly remembering his meditation techniques. The

bailliff grab him by the arm and escorted him back to his cell. Perryman went straight to his bunk and ~~kneel~~ knelt down and began to pray. He started to pace the cell as he usually did when he was stressed. He stop and stared at the wall (direction of the audience), All of a sudden the wall seem to melt away, and there was the audience. He was ~~set~~ shock at first. Then he stood there for a moment and said "I must be going crazy, are you guys really there or are you part of some hallucination I am having, or are you guys my society audience and you want to here what I got to say. Either way I got lots to say.

(Perryman stood thier for a second, took a deep breath, took on<sup>e</sup> step back and started to talk; I just came back from being sentenced to a crime I did not committ. You wanna know whats

Really crazy is ~~not~~ that I am not really mad. I am a good person, I believe in God, country, and people, I believe this thing will work it self out. I will stay positive and to my positive beliefs. They say that my DNA was on the steering wheel of one of car jacked cars. You see audience, I was convicted of 3 car jacking. I am to do 20 years; I am 48 now, I will be 68 when I get out. I hope I can make that, I had a major heart attack right before trial. It's ~~not~~ possible that my DNA could have been on the steering wheel of one of the cars <sup>LOOKING FOR FOOD</sup> because I was homeless and did go into a car in the area where one of the cars was <sup>LOOKING FOR FOOD</sup> found, but there was a DNA report done (Perryman holds report up to the audience) that shows the DNA test was done incorrectly. That means its possible that I

didn't go into the car at all and my DNA  
wasn't on the steering wheel, which means they  
got the wrong man. They convicted an  
innocent man. But, like I said I believe they  
will get it right, I still believe in the system.  
Even though they are notorious for sending  
innocent men to prison, I mean the criminal  
justice system is not perfect, sometimes they  
get it wrong; especially with DNA evidence,  
so many labs across the country have been  
accused of convicting men on faulty done  
DNA test, all you have to do is read the  
papers, and I have prove that's what happened  
to me. Audience, one day a judge will give  
me a new test upon appeal and I will  
be a free man, again. (END OF SCENE)

## PAGES

SCENCE TWO. (Year 2008) Perryman  
~~has done his first year~~ is placed in a maximum  
security prison at Coleman State Prison because  
his time and points are high this where he must  
start his time. WE begin this scene with Perryman  
first day in prison. The door slams behind  
him as he comes in from being served dinner.  
He puts his utensils away, cleans himself,  
says his prayers, and starts to pace the cell.  
He stops and turns to the back wall of his  
cell and starts to talk to the audience. "man,  
I can't believe I'm here, my first day in prison  
and let me tell you audience its been an  
experience. ~~I am in what they call the reception~~  
~~center, locked up 23 hours a day, its a~~  
~~place where we are processed before Coleman~~  
State Prison the worst of the worst. There is so  
much tell you, I've notice so much, so I'll tell

the main stuff. first off, I noticed how mean everyone is, The inmate, medical staff, and especially the guards. Everyone has a menacing look and attitude, its a little scary. I guess everyone has to act tough so no one wont think your weak. The week dont last long here. I've also notice this air of despair, its hard to describe. But most inmates here are deeply sad, and unhappy, no joy to their life. There is deep look in there eyes like there is no life inside them. This worries me. Will I become like that, I've <sup>also</sup> ~~also~~ notice how crowded it is here. This many inmates should not be in one prison. Its inhumane, and the food is horrible. The food ~~here~~ here should be against the law. Another old problem I am having has returned. I am having chest



pains again. Last time this happened I had a heart attack right before trial. Audience, this is a big worry. I wonder if I will die of a heart attack before I get a judge to grant me a New D.V.A test to show that I got the wrong man and get tell<sup>to</sup> my story. I wonder, audience, I wonder."

"Well audience, that's all I got to tell to night. I really don't know why you are appearing to me; obviously, you're part of some hallucination I am having, and a good one at that. Well, Goodnight and stay free. (END OF SCENE two - lights go out slowly as Perryman disappears in the darkness).

THREE

SCENE TWO. 12009, PERRYMAN IS STILL AT COLEMAN STATE PRISON. AT THE END OF ANOTHER DAY HE ENTERS HIS CELL, PUTS HIS THINGS AWAY, BOWS DOWN ON HIS BED AND PRAYS, ONCE DONE HE TURNS

to the back off the cell to talk to the audience.

"Audience are you still there? A lot has happened since I talked to you, but before we go into that I need to talk to you about you. First, off, I am ~~tier~~ tired of calling you audience. You there, in the second row, what your name?" (Person in audience give his name) "OK, well then Name, that will be the audiences new name, and sometimes I will refer directly to you. Since you are part of my hallucination I really need to personalize this thing that is happening to me. SO Name, like I said alot has happened. I am still at coleman the worst of the worst, and the biggest thing that has happened is I got denied a New DNA test on the first phase of my appeal and I am really, really, angry. I am so <sup>mad</sup> ~~that~~ I gotta do this" - (Perryman starts to trash his cell throwing things everywhere, using

profane words, once he gets threw throwing things around he sits still in the corner of his cell breathing hard. He mumbles quietly to the audience, "Are you still there NAME," Its frustrating; I was so sure the system would work this out and grant me a New D.V.A. test. I don't understand it, all I need is one simple test to prove my innocence, what if I never get a New test, I could be here for the next 20 years for a crime I didn't committ, That scary NAME. What also is a worry is that my father died while I was going through trial. The jail let me go to the funeral home for 30 minutes to pay my respect<sup>s</sup>, I thought that was good of them, But what of my mother, will I ever see her alive again, will I have to see her at the funeral home as well, This thought haunts me, AND NOW my health is getting worse I keep having these chest pains, I believe I am building up to a new heart attack. I wonder

IF I will live long enough to make my release date, I might get a heart attack and die. Will I make it NAME, will I" (END OF SCENE. The light deem out slowly ON PERRYMAN SCENE FOUR. (WE FIND PERRYMAN AT NEW PRISON, A LOWER LEVEL SECURITY PRISON. PERRYMAN COMES IN FROM THE YARD, PUT HIS THINGS AWAY SAYS HIS PRAYER AND TURNS TOWARDS THE AUDIENCE. "SO I AM NOW AT STILLWATER PRISON, ITS A LITTLE BETTER HERE, BUT NOT BY MUCH, AND LET ME TELL YOU WHY, BECAUSE THIS HAPPENED TO ME" (PERRYMAN POINTS AT THE CELL DOOR, AND TWO MEN RUSH IN AND START TO BEAT HIM UP. DURING THE BEATING ONE OF THE MEN SAYS "THIS FOR TRYING TO HELP SOMEONE THAT AIN'T YO' BUSINESS, NEXT TIME MIND YO' OWN BUSINESS" AFTER THE BEATING, PERRYMAN LAYS ON THE FLOOR FOR A MOMENT, STUGGLES TO GET UP, AND FINDS A CHAIR TO SIT IN AND FACES THE AUDIENCE. NAME YOU SEE THE

Problems I am having, I am a heart patient and younster beat me up for ~~stopping~~ two young people from beating up an old man.

NAME what you don't know 4 months ago I had a tripple-bypass surgery on my heart. I had a major heart attack. This beating could have killed me, but they didn't know that. I can't let this situation get to me.

I got to stay strong because of ~~it~~ all I got going, besides its just a fight; no big deal. What is a big deal is that I got denied in Fed the state court again. I don't get it. I am an innocent man, what the heck is going on.

DON'T the criminal justice system eventually work out good for the those who have been wronged. I am so frustrated with this I don't know what to do.<sup>h)</sup> (Perryman throws his hands up in frustration and starts to pace the cell; he stops and turns to the avoidance, you know the worse of all this prison life is the cellmates

we are forced to live with, so far at this prison I've had two and they have been real bad eggs. I've made a decision, next week I will do something to end-up in solitary confinement, I can't take it anymore; what's proff of this is you \_\_\_\_\_. Why are you here? Am I truly going crazy, I know my cellmate must think I am going nuts, pacing up and down the cell talking to the wall. I don't want to talk anymore, I hate you \_\_\_\_\_, please go away now!" (Perryman, turns his back on the audience and the lights dead him out slowly.)

SCENE FIVE . Perryman has been moved to a minimum security prison, The Year is 2011, the prison Jala colony state prison. we open this scene as usual with Perryman entering the cell from another day in prison; He puts his stuff away, prays, paces the cell and turns to the back wall of the cell and begins to talk to audience. "so here I am at Jala state prison, I put so many request in to get here and here I am. Got to admit for

a prison this place a little better. Its good for my heart condition, I can hear here, not so much tension, even the guards are respectful. they treat you better, the food is decent, and the medical depart is down right care for you. I went for a doctors appointment the other day and the nurse smiled at me as she was taking my blood pressure, I almost choked. she asked me was I O.K., I couldn't speak, she just shrugged her shoulders and continued to take my blood pressure. So, I<sup>am</sup> at JACA, I made it, but there is<sup>a</sup> bad point, and there always is. This place will give anyone as a cellmate. Its three times worse than Stillwater when it comes to celling you up with someone. my first cellmate had a major mental health problem. He hated mor, noon and night and he didn't care if I was in the room. I named him the mad-jacker. my friends laughed so hard at my situation, and did they tell jokes. I

heard every masturbating joke you could imagine, but the best was he should be a movie, and part two should be called Jacker II, this time its personal, just when you thought it was safe to come out side, the Jacker will Jack near you. Feed for nancy. Then there was the guy who wouldn't shower, the endless talker, and the grand finally the inmate who is my cellmate now, and thats foot guy. man, this guys foot order is so bad it could kill livestock, start a war, scare a skunk to death and make you mad at the world. The smell was bad, bad, really bad, slapp yo' mamma bad. But over all Jail a ISN'T that bad. I can do my time here. (Perryman stands there and holds his ~~hand~~ head down as the lights slowly deem him out)

SCENE SIX . YEAR 2012.

Perryman is still a Jala colony stelte Prisoner. He enters the room, puts his stuff away, prays and turns to the back wall"  
 " NAME are you still there. (Perryman



actually waits for NAME to answer, if  
doesn't he calls him til he does answer I well,  
look here NAME, got some good news, I  
got a good cellmate finally. we are from the  
both neighbourhood, no more mad jacker  
and foot guy. sounds like super heroes. NAME,  
man am I thrilled. Also, finally my  
appeal is in the federal courts, they  
accepted my hand written appeal. maybe  
the feds will grant me a new D.V.A test and  
I can go home. That would be cool. Also, my  
poems are doing well in the prison, I can make  
a living getting the things I need. This is  
very important because my health is so bad  
I can't get a prison job. I get winded and  
get chest pains with any kind of excersion,  
then I need a Nitro Glyrn and have to ~~to~~  
lay down. last week my chest pains where  
so bad I had to go the outside hospital.  
I am really worried about my heart, just

last week a good friend of mine died  
 of a heart attack (Perryman, Pauses, put his  
 hand to his face, and tears run down his face,  
 he starts to talk with anger and tears running  
 down his face, he raises his voice as he talks  
 to the audience, he is real emotional) " he  
 was my friend name, don't you see  
name, we were close as close as I  
 let anyone get to me. name we had all  
 the same problems. name he was also  
 doing 20 years, he was also homeless from  
 the same city, and we both had tripple- by-  
 surgeries. some <sup>now</sup> in the universe our  
 paths crossed as spiritual journey of  
 two souls with the same humanity. It  
 super coincidental. AND Now he <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ clone.  
 (Perryman, wipes his face, boxes at the air,  
 looks deep into the audience, and shakes his  
 head and says . . . ) " It aint fair, it just

aren't fair, I hate life. I hate it. At least I got a good cellmate to relate to, that helps. I will miss my friend. AND NOW my family is coming around to being in my life, they were mad at me for being in this mess. So, some things good, some things bad, such is life NAME (Perryman stands there and looks deep into the audience as the lights deem out slowly)

SCENE SEVEN. Year 2013. Perryman is still at JALA COLONY state prison. He enters the cell, puts his stuff away, bows down to pray, gets up and turns to the back wall )  
NAME are you there? (He waits for reply from actual guy named NAME ) look here NAME.  
 I tell'a sometimes life is just down'n plant  
 OK — I got a single man cell, did you hear me NAME, my name came up on the

single cell list, and now I am home alone.

I can <sup>part</sup> fant without anyone caring, I can

slam a bugger on the wall and walk

around naked, wanna see, just kidding

single cell, single cell, single cell, hey

name guess what? single cell!

(Perryman, does a dance, giggles, and dances

some more) Yea name the single cell life

is OK. Well, now some more good news, the

federal courts accepted my continuance to

file my reply brief, I was given more time

to show why I need a D.N.A. test. name

Isn't that cool I am being my own attorney

and so far have been granted everything

I request. AND guess what my mom moved

to this retirement home she really likes.

and we are connecting really, really, well.

HOPE. Yea Name Hope is what I got. It feels good. Hope that I will get D.V.A test, Hope that I see my mom again. Its a really really, really, powerful driving force. You see Name, PRISON is a monster that kills hope, and without hope the spirit dies. Humans are built ON hope. hope for a bright future, hope for a good job, hope for a family, hope for a good mate without hope ONE will NOT dream of what they want, and PRISON kills those hopes. IS this what you want Name as a society to punish so severely that you torture humans to a sub-human of NO hope. IS that what you are" (Perryman holds his head down, as the lights deem out slowly and Perryman Yell out "I got HOPE!"

~~END OF PLAY~~

CAND with that all the lights ON the stage

TURN ON AND there IS a band behind him  
 with a D. J. and dancers. Perryman IS  
 about to read a slam-spoken-word-poem  
 called "I got hope") Yea, Yea, Yea, ~~name~~  
 thats riant I got hope, I got hope, I got  
 hope, I got it to live on a dream with wings  
 past the hate society drives to deny me a  
 D.N.A test because of the millions I  
 could get paid to sleep on if that test  
 show I'm not that carjacker, slacker,  
 slappen you with this rhyme cracker,  
 yea, I got hope to dream of dreams little  
 kids sing of off at nursery schools and  
 the presidant hears my plea for a new test,  
 and then some one yells it in this avoidance  
 —<sup>or</sup> "I can help you get test Perryman"  
 HOPE-HOPE-H.O.P.E, I say, illusion,  
 delusion, miratration, incarceration,  
 determination

all true circumstances that of power freedoms  
 that say I can do it - 20 years, 20 years,  
 20 years, lost years, with stupid ears  
name don't you get it, I got hope,  
 the prison can arrest my soul to<sup>a</sup> chain  
 the sink<sup>s</sup> to the bottom of despair take  
 and beam to dance on a moon beam catching  
 star dust as angels boogie with me (the  
 dancer<sup>s</sup> come over and dance with Perryman as  
 he continues the slam) and my hope becomes  
 this drum beat (the drummer beats this  
 real cool slow african type beat) I hear it  
 in my heart it say to me to have hope  
 so real you can taste the juices slapping  
 yo' eye balls with tears that tell wisdoms of  
 the peti geo-political congressional ideas  
 to struggle to inspire past the judges Norm  
 that you Perryman need a New PVA test...  
 I got hope, I got hope, I got hope (Perryman)

dances with the dancers, the D.J. is jamming  
a real cool beat and the band is in sync  
with the D.J. and this done for about a minute  
and Perry man counts to three, a pause,  
and everyone on stage yell "ho pe!" and does  
a pose. — "That's the end of this cliq!"