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## PRESS RELEASE

JUNE 29, 2012

### **Appalachia and Albuquerque partner for a performance about prison justice**

*Free community performance elevates the conversation about prisoners and their families*

Kentucky-based [Roadside Theater](#) is partnering with Albuquerque-based Media Literacy Project to build a show right here in New Mexico. ***From School House to Jail House*** is a community-driven creative partnership and theatrical production that aims to elevate the dialogue around prison justice and communication rights in Albuquerque. On Saturday, August 4 at 7pm, a collaborative of Albuquerque organizations that work on prison justice issues will share the production that they have originally written, choreographed, and rehearsed since March. The one-night only performance will be a cabaret of acts weaved throughout the written theater piece including film, educational skits, live music, and a parade.

Current collaborators on the event include Native Health Initiative, Encuentro, Sons of the Most High, Rockmore Foundation, ASI Records, and El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos. The event will also include artists that were formerly incarcerated and vendors that specialize in prison art. The community discussion that follows the hour-long production will include participation by Ramon C. Rustin, Chief of Corrections at the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center.

In New Mexico there are over 15,000 people incarcerated and approximately another 24,000 on probation or parole. Additionally, there are an unknown number of people detained in immigration detention centers.

“Art and culture have always been used by our communities to communicate ideas and feelings,” says event coordinator and Media Justice Organizer Rusita Avila. “In addition, almost everyone in New Mexico knows a friend or family member that has been incarcerated or detained. We’re thrilled to use theater and performance as the vehicle to share our community’s stories on the impact incarceration has on our families.”

***From School House to Jail House***  
**August 4, 7pm to 9pm (discussion following show)**  
**Free admission (150 seat capacity)**  
**Air Dance Art Space 3030 Isleta Boulevard SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105**

Reservation requests and sponsorship inquiries can be directed to Rusita Avila at [Rusita@medialiteracyproject.org](mailto:Rusita@medialiteracyproject.org) or 505.828.3129.

*Media Literacy Project’s focus on prison justice is part of its **Strong Families** initiative. The **Strong Families** campaign is founded on the idea that families are the cornerstone to healthy communities. Healthy and strong families in New Mexico come in a variety of configurations including incarcerated families and the families of immigrant detainees. The right for these prisoners to communicate with their families is at the center of Media Literacy Project’s Mobile Justice Campaign.*

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