Erratum to: The History of Prison Shakespeare

Rob Pensalfini

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Chapter 2 in: R. Pensalfini, *Prison Shakespeare*, Palgrave Shakespeare Studies,
https://dx.doi.org/10.1057/9781137450210_2

The original version of Chapter 2 was corrected. The section “London Shakespeare Workout, 1998 to approximately 2009” was replaced by the updated section “London Shakespeare Workout, 1997 to present” below.

London Shakespeare Workout, 1997 to present

The London Shakespeare Workout (LSW), a charity co-founded in 1997 by Dame Dorothy Tutin and Bruce Wall (who remains its Director), works in prisons all over the UK, and in the past decade extended their work to mainland Europe and beyond, in locations ranging from Bulgaria to Chile; from California to Afghanistan. Their mission is to ‘promote confidence through the will to dream’ (LSW Prison Project, 2002). The Workout has some innovative programs, partnering with some of England’s most prestigious drama schools, such as the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art and E15, bringing graduating students into prisons to facilitate theatre activities. LSW is currently working on a program to get all UK drama schools to similarly include a Prison Shakespeare course in their core curriculum.

Wall says that as LSW was founded primarily as a ‘gym for the Bard’ for professional actors, it remains vital that their work in prisons speaks as potently to and for those on the outside, acknowledging this as the source of potential change. “Shakespeare’s language serves as LSW’s common denominator; coinage to its currency. Shakespearean words are LSW’s core wall/ball breakers. If prison IS a mindset then the past two decades have shown us that this can aid as an effective interactive tool towards release; as a trick wherein you can better know yourself” (Bruce Wall, personal communication 2017).

The updated online version of this chapter can be found at
http://dx.doi.org/10.1057/9781137450210_2