



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Public Information Office  
105 Pleasant Street  
Concord, NH 03302

**Phone:** (603) 856-4555  
**Email:** [pio@doc.nh.gov](mailto:pio@doc.nh.gov)  
**Date:** May 12, 2023

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**NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS HOSTS  
ROMEO AND JULIET**

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**Concord, NH** – Recently, the New Hampshire Department of Corrections welcomed members from Massachusetts based non-profit, Shakespeare & Company’s 2023 Northeast Regional Tour, to the New Hampshire State Prison for Men and the New Hampshire Correctional facility for Women. The actors performed *Romeo & Juliet* for a group of graduates and current students from the Department’s Granite State High School.

The ensemble of seven actors, brought to life this timeless story, and students were given the opportunity to participate in a “talkback” session with actors following the performance. Students used that opportunity to ask the actors about the process of acting, and how they prepare for their roles.

Both performances were organized by the department’s Language Arts and former New Hampshire Teacher of the Year, Kimberly Piper. “One thing I stress in Shakespeare class, is there is no substitute for live theater,” said Piper. “The energy exchanged between the cast and the audience makes this such a unique and valuable experience.”

Opportunities offered through partnerships with non-profits like Shakespeare & Company and our department’s Granite State High School, highlight the value of incorporating the humanities into our education curriculum to give a full educational experience. With the federal reauthorization of the Second Chance Pell Grants, the department looks forward to more partnerships with non-profits, especially in humanities, throughout the education curriculum offered during incarceration. These experiences bring classroom lessons to life in ways that help adult learners advance their perspectives of all academic disciplines.

Humanities research advances our knowledge of the world. Humanities students investigate differences between cultures and communities around the world and across time. It considers the ways that art, music, poetry, and theater have been crafted and received by others, or how these elements have shaped history. A humanities education encourages students to think creatively and critically, to reason, and ask questions. And, as the humanities offer insight into nearly every aspect of life, they have been considered a core element of a well-rounded education since ancient times.

Granite State High School is part of a special school district within the New Hampshire Department of Corrections, established by law under an interagency agreement with the Department of Education. It employs a full contingent of qualified educators who teach basic high school classes, such as English, math, and science, as well as other specialized programs. Graduates from Granite State High School exit with their high school diploma.

Shakespeare & Company's Northeast Regional Tour travels the region performing touring productions of Shakespeare's plays, along with a variety of related workshops, for middle and high schools, colleges, large-scale performance venues, and community centers. They have a long-standing partnership with the Berkshire County Juvenile Court System and are passionate about bringing live theater to individuals who may not otherwise get the chance to experience it.



*Shakespeare & Company Actors Perform Romeo & Juliet at NH State Prison for Men  
Courtesy Photo*



*Shakespeare & Company Actors Perform Romeo & Juliet at the NH Correctional Facility for Women  
Courtesy Photo*

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