



**COOL HAND  
SERIES**

# COOL HAND SERIES

This initiative provides access to the arts for those incarcerated and brings awareness to those in the entertainment industry . We use three distinct avenues to create a positive pipeline between the carceral system and the creative arts.

The goal of the program we're introducing here is to continue the conversation that those before us started; to take up the mantle and design a program that engages artists, activists, free and incarcerated people to think more about our place in this struggle and how to proceed with a new approach to our "justice" system. We want to bring joy to a place it is so often discouraged.

**FILM SERIES - THEATER PROJECT - FESTIVAL PANELS**

# COOL HAND FILM SERIES

**This program brings important and entertaining films into prisons, giving access to great works of cinema to those that wouldn't otherwise have it. The series not only recognizes the epidemic of the American Prison System, but the power of the entertainment industry.**

**We are working with New York and California prisons to create a prestigious film series. Each screening is followed by an intimate Q&A between the audience and members of the film team (Directors, Producers, Actors, etc.) about the arts and the power of good storytelling. Our goal, along with bringing art and entertainment to prisons, is to change not only who gets to tell what stories and why, but who stories are told for.**

# PAST LIVES

WITH CELINE SONG



THE COOL HAND SERIES  
NEW YORK PREMIERE SCREENING



# THEY CLONED TYRONE

WITH



JUEL TAYLOR & TONY RETTENMAIER



# JUDAS AND THE BLACK MESSIAH

WITH DANIEL KALUUYA, SHAKA KING, & CHAIRMAN FRED HAMPTON JR.



A COOL HAND SERIES  
SCREENING



# BLINDSPOTTING

WITH RAFAEL CASAL & DAVEED DIGGS



THE COOL HAND SERIES  
PREMIERE FILM



# Sundance Film Festival 2025

# BLUE BAYOU

WITH JUSTIN CHON



A COOL HAND SERIES  
SCREENING







# COOL HAND FILM SERIES

CREED II

—

FREAKY TALES

—

AMERICAN FICTION

—

SHE TAUGHT LOVE

—

BLUE BAYOU

—

MATERIALISTS

SING SING

—

THE LETTER ROOM

—

THE PIANO LESSON

—

STRANGE WAY OF  
LIFE

—

PAST LIVES

I, TONYA

—

BLINDSPOTTING

—

BLUE BAYOU

—

JUDAS AND THE  
BLACK MESSIAH

—

THEY CLONED  
TYRONE

# COOL HAND THEATER PROJECT

**Education:** We will bring industry titans into prisons in New York and California to lead theater fellowships. This will include playwrights Stephen Adly Guirgis and Stephen Belber teaching writing workshops, actors Richard Cabral and Jon Bernthal leading acting classes and round table readings.

**Performances:** This program brings the power of theater to prisons in New York and LA. We will show performances of touring Broadway and off-Broadway plays in our participating prisons. Every performance is followed by an intimate and honest Q&A between the audience and the performers about trauma and the arts.



# COOL HAND THEATER PROJECT

*Time Alone* - Q&A with Writer  
**Alessandro Camon** & Actor **Richard  
Cabral**



*The Last Days of Judas Iscariot* - Q&A  
with Actors **Jon Bernthal** & **Richard  
Cabral**





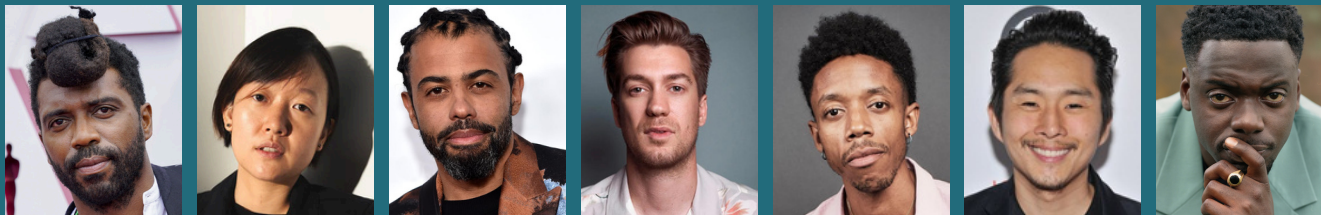
# COOL HAND AT FESTIVALS



While this program allows new, overlooked audiences to see the films and plays we love, we also hope that it allows our colleagues in the industry to recognize the storytellers we never get to see.

The panels are a mix of those formerly and currently incarcerated (where technology and furloughs allow) and the filmmakers, writers, directors and actors whose movies and shows have been a part of this series. This crossover promises social and industry change around how we view our carceral system and those most affected by it.

# OUR TEAM



**Madison O’Leary** - Founder | Director, **Arvand Khosravi** - Industry Advisor, **Darrell Britt-Gibson** - Participant, **Dominique Fishback** - Participant, **Steven Caple Jr.** - Participant, **Dominique Thorne** - Participant, **Chairman Fred Hampton Jr.** - Participant, **Justin Chon** - Participant, **Daniel Kaluuya** - Participant, **Juel Taylor** - Participant, **Celine Song** - Participant, **Tony Rettenmaier** - Participant, **Shaka King** - Participant, **Elvira Lind** - Participant, **Richard Cabral** - Participant, **Stephen Adly Guirgis** - Participant, **Rafael Casal** - Participant, **Daveed Diggs** - Participant, **Anna Boden** - Participant, **Ryan Fleck** - Participant, **Stephen Belber** - Participant, **Clarence Maclin** - Participant, **Sean San Jose** - Participant, **JJ Velazquez** - Participant, **Charlotte Wells** - Participant

# WHO WE ARE

**This program started out of a desire to connect two worlds. Founder, Madison O'Leary, worked as a trauma and abuse counselor in prisons before going into film as a producer for indie docs. Now, as a studio executive, she hopes to use the power and platform of the entertainment industry to highlight the inhumanity of the American carceral system.**

**We have been able to assemble an amazing ensemble of “natural born world-shakers” who want to dismantle the system as we know it and create something truly based in rehabilitation rather than punishment.**

**This initiative aims to provide access to the arts for those incarcerated and bring awareness to those in the entertainment industry.**



**WE HOPE YOU JOIN US!**



[info@coolhandseries.org](mailto:info@coolhandseries.org)