



JustUs

Stories from the Frontlines of the Criminal Legal System National Tour

"I love these monologues because they shift the narrative that has enabled systems of oppression in the U.S."

- Bryan Stevenson, ED of the Equal Justice Initiative

Motus Theater is bringing [JustUs](#) presentations to communities across the country in 2023-2024. These *JustUs* presentations share poignant personal stories of leaders who were formerly incarcerated, interwoven with powerful music, to expose the devastating impact of the criminal legal system and inspire action towards a vision of true justice.

A special component of these presentations is to pair Motus *JustUs* monologists with an elected district attorney, DOC leader, law enforcement leader or other allied leaders working to reform the criminal legal system, who read aloud the monologists' personal story as a means to stand in their shoes. Through the transformative experience of reading and holding someone else's story, each performance creates the space necessary for listeners to learn from people who have been impacted by the injustices of the criminal legal system and reflect on choices that best support public safety for all.



Boulder County DA Michael Dougherty reading *JustUs* monologist Dereck Bell's monologue. © Rick Villarreal



Retired judge Martin Gonzales reading *JustUs* monologist Brandon Wainright's monologue. © Will Prosper



Estes Park Police Captain Corey Pass reading *JustUs* Brian (CB) Lynch's monologue. © Rick Villarreal



Spirit of Grace singing at *JustUs* performance. © Michael Ensminger



The ReMINDers singing at *JustUs* performance. © Will Prosper.



"Justice and mercy require us to walk in the shoes of others."

- Dean Williams, ED of Colorado DOC about reading a *JustUs* Monologue

"Motus Theater's *JustUs* presentation at Fair & Just Prosecution's 2021 Conference truly surpassed even our incredibly high expectations. Motus' performances will make a difference in decisions made by DAs across the country and, as such, in the willingness to rethink punitive approaches that simply waste more lives."

- Miriam Krinsky, ED of FJP

If you're interested in partnering with Motus Theater to develop an in-person or virtual presentation specifically tailored for your community that will help support a greater understanding of the need for criminal legal reform, set up a conversation by emailing justustour@motustheater.org. Stories can be chosen from a range of themes that might be important to your office and community, for example: juvenile justice, racial bias in sentencing, criminalizing substance abuse, violence in prison, restorative justice versus punitive models, and the systemic racism and poverty that shuts young people out of legal economies pushing them into illicit economies.

"The shortest distance between two people is a story."

About: [Motus Theater](#) (based in Boulder, CO) creates original theater to facilitate dialogue on critical issues of our time – working at the nexus of strategic storytelling and policy change. Motus developed *JustUs* in 2019, launching the first performance for 1,600 people at the National Association for Community and Restorative Justice Conference. Since then, *JustUs* monologues have been featured as keynotes at over six national and international conferences. Guest readers include not only DAs, but also DOC officials, legislators, and law enforcement leaders.

MOTUS THEATER
Moving Stories that Move Us Forward