Transformative Play in *Pericles* Behind Bars

Niels Herold, Oakland University

Abstract

This essay examines the 20th anniversary production of *Pericles* by the Shakespeare Behind Bars theater program at the Luther Luckett Correctional Complex as an illustrative example of the "ordinary miracles" performed through the SBB's process of transformative play. Beginning with the company's initial disappointment with the play as a co-authored and ensemble piece, the essay traces *Pericles*' ability to speak to the individual lives of prison actors seeking acceptance and rehabilitation.

The Shakespeare Behind Bars theater program at Luther Luckett Correctional Complex