

Interview Map

Interviewee: Ernie Valenzuela

Interviewers: Myrna, Nayel, Alyssa, Jahzeel

Date: November 7, 2014

Subject of conversation	Time	Notes
Ernie's construction job	00:00-1:00	Intro to Ernie
Name, Age, where he grew up	1:00-3:00	Intro to Ernie
Growing up	3:00-10:10	Intro to Ernie
Regrets	10:00-11:00	Intro to Ernie
Relationship with Father <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Abusive ● Never around ● Always came home drunk ● Left Ernie's family at age 13-14 Relationship with Brother <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gang member ● "Party central" ● Drug dealer Relationship with Mother <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Always working, never home ● Supported the family 	11:00-12:50	Relationship with Family members
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In and out jail previously for petty crimes ● Evicted from apartment ● Accompanied by a friend ● Broke back in to use home phone ● Police surrounding the area ● Accused and Arrested Ernie for First Degree of Residential Burglary ● Fits the description of a man described by a witness stating he broke into her house 	12:50-16:00	Day of Crime What lead up to it

<p>Trial</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public defender • Really good DA 	<p>16:00- 18:30</p>	<p>Ernie explains the trial process</p>
<p>Jail Process</p>	<p>18:30- 20:50</p>	<p>Ernie explains the process he went through from being arrested to ending up in Donovan Prison</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fought his case 10 months • Knowing when he was going to get out one day and start over 	<p>20:50- 22:00</p>	<p>How Ernie Coped in Donovan</p>
<p>Sentence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 years and 8 months and he served 4 years • DA and PO wanted Ernie to serve 6 years in prison • 4 years with 85% plus probation violation 8 months with half which made it 4 years total 	<p>22:00 23:10</p>	<p>Ernie's Sentence</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He didn't want to be there anymore • Always a good person but not on the right track 	<p>23:10 23:50</p>	<p>The Turning Point</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 years with 85% (3 years and 5 months) • 8 months with half (4 months) • Almost 4 years (sentenced reduced) 	<p>23:50- 24:20</p>	<p>Clarifying Sentence</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mom picked him up • Not much changed 	<p>24:20- 24:50</p>	<p>How he felt when he came out</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ernie met Adriana 3 months after coming out of prison • Met at a wedding • His brother was the DJ • Mutual friend brought Adriana to Ernie and told them to dance and they just talked • After the wedding they ran into each other and he got her number 	<p>24:50- 26:45</p>	<p>When Ernie met his Wife Adriana</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped him sober up • Started smoking weed at age 14 • Started smoking crystal meth at age 15 • All he did for four years • Easy to get the drugs because of his brother • He decided he wasn't going to do drugs 	<p>26:45- 28:40</p>	<p>How his experience in prison changed his life</p>

<p>anymore in prison even though he had the chance to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ernie mentions he did drugs once after he came out of prison and felt really bad • Met his wife and it was a “rollercoaster ride” 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Got engaged a year after they met • Adriana got a job with a bunch of men and when he met them they had a few drinks and were driving from place to place and got pulled over and got a DUI • He went back to jail for 3 months and she stayed by his side • Asked his wife to marry him the day before Christmas eve • Adriana is from LA 	<p>28:40- 30:55</p>	<p>More about Ernie’s wife</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Didn’t know what to do with himself • His dad got him a job • He worked for a month and got bored • Met a girl and she was into drugs so he did it once and that was the first and last time he did after he came out of prison 	<p>30:55- 32:10</p>	<p>How he felt when he came out pt.2</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastor for all the church activites for his family • In one of the baptism for his son, then Ernie realized the pastor was the deacon that he talked to before going to prison • The deacon kind of remembered him 	<p>32:10- 33:45</p>	<p>Talks about the Deacon</p>
<p>~~~~~</p>	<p>33:45- 35:17</p>	<p>Asking questions about our project</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has two kids • His daughter is 4 and his son is 2 • Ariel and Gabriel • “I’m a better person now” 	<p>35:17- 36:00</p>	<p>Talks about his kids</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell mates would come back soon after they were realest • Jail is all politics/all about drugs • Hispanics and South siders are not supposed to deal with black people • He stayed out of trouble • He had a job and made 75 cents an hour • Made shoes like converse • Spent his money on food ex. chips, tortillas, beans, rice, soup, and soda 	<p>36:00- 44:30</p>	<p>His experience in Donovan</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The men in the prison would go into solitary confinement to make their names bigger in the prison • Would play handball, cards, dominos, workout, talk on the phone, stay off the yard and away from the gang tables • “I don’t want to get stabbed” “Selfies in the cell” • Mostly females would be persuaded into doing favors for the inmates • Stayed in touch with just his mom • Dad only bought him a T.V. but didn’t talk to him 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In jail for indictment with 8 other people • Got him on a wire tap • sentenced to 8 years • Been in there for 2 years • “3 kids 3 different baby mama’s” • Ernie keeps in touch with his oldest niece 	44:30-48:20	Talking about his brother
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From being a hardcore drug addict to going to jail • It’s all of what you make of it 	48:20-48:50	Reflecting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was cold and dark • Worst experience: fire storm • Smokey and couldn’t breath • No cops • Only saw the guards for breakfast and lunch and head count • Locked in the cell for 3 days • The less amount of points you have the less security you have • Regular clothes 	48:50-54:20	Conditions of jail
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turning 19 years old • Everyone gave him their apples • Some fun things to do in Donovan 	54:20-55:45	Best Memory right before going to Donovan
<p>“Don’t be ashamed of where you came from, just know that you can move forward.” - Ernie Valenzuela</p>	55:45-End	What message we want the play to have