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Reality TV Show Born at L.A. County Probation Camp

July 22, 2010, Los Angeles, CA- Youth wards at L.A. County Probation Camp David Gonzales have created a reality TV show concept worthy of network television in the original play *How Far Would You Go?* The play is entirely conceived, written, and performed by teens at the camp as a part of the nationally recognized and award winning mentoring program The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company. *How Far Would You Go?* will be presented **Saturday, August 28th at 1:00pm** at Probation Camp David Gonzales in Calabasas, CA.

How Far Would You Go? follows the story of ten reality show contestants that find themselves stuck on an elevator with a mysterious suitcase. Unknowingly being watched by a studio audience, each contestant must overcome their personal demons to win the prize of a game they never signed up to play.

- It costs taxpayers up to \$11,000 to educate one youth per year in comparison to more than \$90,000 a year to incarcerate a youth in the California corrections system.
- Youth who participated in arts enrichment programs in Los Angeles County detention camps had a 58% lower rate of re-incarceration and a 45% lower rate of re-arrest.

In partnership with New Roads, The Unusual Suspects has been a steadfast arts and education component at Camp David Gonzales for over five years. A team of professional teaching artists and volunteer mentors guide youth wards through an intensive ensemble playwriting and rehearsal process. Participants have the opportunity to express themselves in a safe environment, reflect on their troubled past, and acquire new life skills. The Unusual Suspects programs have proven to increase communication skills, reading skills, confidence, and conflict resolution skills.

“I never did nothing like this before. No reading. No writing. My test scores were bad. I think this did a lot to help me. I passed my CAHSEE!” ~Brian, Camp Gonzales writer, *How Far Would You Go?*

How Far Would You Go? will be presented Saturday, August 28, 2010 at 1:00pm at L.A. County Probation Camp David Gonzales in Calabasas, CA. Admission is free but by RESERVATION ONLY for security purposes. Reservation deadline is Wednesday, August 25, 2010. Please note that minors are prohibited from this event due to probation regulations. To make a reservation or for more information please call 213-488-8488, x201 or email RSVP@theunusualsuspects.org.

*Born out of the ashes of the 1992 L.A. Riots, **The Unusual Suspects Theatre Company** has grown into an award winning, model mentoring program using theatre arts to reach youth in underserved and at-risk environments, including kids in foster care, violence-plagued neighborhoods, gangs and juvenile corrections facilities. The Unusual Suspects offers two consecutive 10-week (60-80 hours each) playwriting and performance workshops where youth develop self-esteem, tolerance, and the communication and coping skills needed to make positive life choices. For more information, visit The Unusual Suspects website at www.TheUnusualSuspects.org.*

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