

Soon after his incarceration, Poindexter became a leader in the Harambee Association. The association gets its name from the Swahili word for “all pull together” and was formed to combat alcoholism and to encourage a healthy mindset among inmates. He earned an associates degree from Southeast Community College. He also participated in bands and drama clubs. Jazz legend Preston Love Sr. gifted him a saxophone.

In 1979, Poindexter transferred to the prison system of Minnesota to complete a college degree. He earned a bachelor’s in Human Services from Metro State University of St. Paul. He began coursework toward a master’s in Management of Instructional Systems (MIS) from Goddard Graduate School at Norwich University in Vermont. He did not have money to pay for courses or the degree.

In Minnesota, Poindexter taught non-credit self-improvement classes to youth, and chaired and directed self-help groups within the prison. He ran a juvenile detention hotline. He became a member of Toastmasters International to develop skills in public speaking. He wrote several screenplays, most notably, a sci-fi thriller named “Talons” about a murderous **supernatural creature with talons like a bird of prey.**

He worked in the prison audio-visual department and recorded and produced motivational rap songs under the name, “The Jammer from the Slammer.” A sample can be heard on the NOISE timeline, Part Three. He participated in a Turn Off the Violence Campaign, and wrote two books, “The Youth SURVIVAL Guide... for the 90s,” and “The Youth SURVIVAL Guide... Part 2.” Poindexter was given permission to establish a publishing company called St. Ives Publishing to sell his books. His other written works include "EsteemQuest: A Holistic Guide to Building Self-Esteem in Inmates," and "Building Self-Esteem: For Convicts, Juvenile Delinquents and Criminal Offenders." When he returned to Nebraska in 2006, he rejoined Harambee’s leadership serving as the education chairman for a time until his health declined and he was no longer able to be active in public service within the prison.

More information about Ed Poindexter is also available at FreePoindexter.com

Source: A defunct website, n2pp.info, hosted by the late Buddy Hogan, a longtime supporter.