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ARTS



516 ARTS, UNM M.F.A. in Creative Writing program and Outpost Performance Space present

MICHAEL DATCHER

Award-winning Memoirist, Poet, Journalist & Critic

Saturday, May 9, 7:30pm

at the Outpost Performance Space
210 Yale SE, Albuquerque

with local African American poets:

Maisha Baton**Hakim Bellamy****Idris Goodwin****Virginia Hampton****Gary Jackson****Stephanie Willis**

Michael Datcher, special guest from Los Angeles, is the author of the *New York Times* Bestseller *Raising Fences*, his memoir about a black man's right to security, family and love. In this emotionally raw and intimate narrative, Datcher reflects on his fatherless childhood in inner-city Los Angeles, his attraction to local gangs, his promiscuity, and, at times, his lack of faith. The film rights for *Raising Fences* were optioned by actor Will Smith's Overbrook Productions, who hired Datcher to write the screenplay. Datcher is co-editor of *Tough Love: The Life and Death of Tupac Shakur*. His latest play *Silence* was commissioned by and premiered at the Getty Museum. He has appeared on both news programs' *Nightline* and *Dateline* as an analyst and is a frequent commentator on BBC Radio. He is co-host of the weekly public affairs news magazine *Beautiful Struggle* on 90.7 FM KPFK. Datcher's writing has appeared in the *Washington Post*, *LA Times*, *Baltimore Sun*, *The Source*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Vibe* among many other publications. He has curated and/or presented his work at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, The Hammer Museum and other art institutions.

This event is in conjunction with **West Southwest: ABQ-LA Exchange** at 516 ARTS (April 4 - May 16, 2009), and is organized by Lisa Gill and Richard Vargas, 516 ARTS literary arts co-coordinators.

TICKETS:

\$12 / \$10 members of 516 ARTS or Outpost & UNM students
tickets available from 516 ARTS or Outpost

INFO: 242-1445

516 ARTS • 516 Central Ave. SW Downtown • open Tue - Sat, 12-5pm • 242-1445 • www.516arts.org

516 ARTS is made possible by McCune Charitable Foundation, City of Albuquerque, New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, New Mexico Department of Tourism, The FUND at Albuquerque Community Foundation, Goodman Realty and many generous New Mexico businesses.

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