



SIENACollege

The Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King Lecture Series  
on Race and Nonviolent Social Change  
proudly presents the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lecture given by



Dr. Michael Eric Dyson

**“(African) American Leadership in the 21st Century:  
King, Obama and the American Dream”**

Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, named by *Essence* magazine as one of the 40 most inspiring African-Americans – and by *Ebony* magazine as one of the 100 most influential Black Americans – is one of the nation’s most renowned public intellectuals. The *Philadelphia Weekly* contends that Dyson “is reshaping what it means to be a public intellectual by becoming the most visible Black academic of his time.” When one hears Dyson’s name, one thinks of the many hats he wears: prolific author, scholar, public intellectual, ordained minister, media commentator and talk radio show host.

In his books, Dr. Dyson has taken on some of the toughest and most controversial issues of our day, including Martin Luther King, Jr.’s radical legacy, in *I May Not Get There With You: The True Martin Luther King, Jr.*; the virtues and crises of hip-hop culture in *Holler If You Hear Me: Searching for Tupac Shakur*; racial conflict and black identity in *Race Rules: Navigating the Color Line*; and more recently, the political and racial fallout from Hurricane Katrina in *Come Hell or High Water: Hurricane Katrina and the Color of Disaster* and *Debating Race. April 4, 1968: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Death and How it Changed America* commemorates Dr. King's vision and commitment to justice while urging Americans to continue his mission today.

Dr. Dyson has been nominated for the prestigious NAACP Image Award three times – and has won it twice, first in 2004 for his book, *Why I Love Black Women*, and in 2006 for his *New York Times* bestselling book, *Is Bill Cosby Right? Or Has the Black Middle Class Lost Its Mind?* which dissects class warfare in Black America. Dyson’s *New York Times* bestselling *Mercy, Mercy Me: The Art, Loves and Demons of Marvin Gaye*, was optioned for a major motion picture.

Dr. Dyson is presently a Professor at Georgetown University where he teaches Theology, English and African American Studies. His legendary rise – from welfare father to Princeton Ph.D., from church pastor to college professor, from a factory worker who didn’t start college until he was 21 to a figure who has become what writer Naomi Wolf terms “the ideal public intellectual of our time” – may help explain why author Nathan McCall simply calls Dr. Dyson “a street fighter in suit and tie.”

**Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 7:00 PM**

**Alumni Recreation Center (ARC), Siena College**

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*Free and open to the public*