

Michael Eric Dyson: “The Raw Word” Interview



Dr. Michael Eric Dyson (center) hosts the TV show 'The Raw Word' with co-hosts Claudia Jordan and Dr. Dan Ratner.

with **Kam Williams**
For *The Skanner News*

Born and raised in Detroit, Michael Eric Dyson is a writer, sociologist and ordained Baptist minister. Known for his passion and a moral urgency in and out of the pulpit, Dr. Dyson has had a profound influence on American culture. Dyson teaches Sociology at Georgetown University, writes op-eds for The New York Times; appears on MSNBC as a political analyst; serves as a contributing editor at The New Republic; and hosts of the Michael Eric Dyson Podcast featuring Dr. Dan Ratner. The prolific public intellectual is the author of around 20 topical tomes, books covering such diverse subject matter as the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., Malcolm X, Nas’ debut album “Illmatic,” Tupac, Marvin Gaye, and Hurricane Katrina’s devastating and long lasting effects. Among many honors, Dr. Dyson has won a couple of NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Literary Work in Non-Fiction and the 2007 American Book Award for “Come Hell or High Water: Hurricane Katrina and the Color of Disaster.” Named one of the 40 most inspiring African-Americans by Ebony magazine, he also landed on Ebony magazine’s annual list of the 100 Most Influential Black Americans. Besides lecturing at colleges, he’s known for his thought-provoking, motivational speeches delivered at union halls, prisons, classrooms and churches across the country. Here, the loquacious luminary discusses his new TV talk show, “The Raw Word,” as well as his latest book, “Tears We Cannot Stop.”

Kam Williams: Hi Dr. Dyson. I’m honored to

have this opportunity to speak with you.
Michael Eric Dyson: It’s a pleasure, Kam.

KW: I know you got your master’s and doctorate in Princeton, which is where I live. How did you enjoy the time you spent here?
MED: It was one of the most wonderful times I had in the academy. I went there straight from Carson-Newman college. Even though Princeton was considered the southernmost Ivy League school, I found it delightful and made the most of an opportunity to attain a world-class education.

KW: Yeah, Princeton has a shameful legacy in terms of slavery. Most of its students came from the South, and many brought servants with them to school. What interested you in The Raw Word?
MED: An opportunity to launch into daytime talk, and to bring both gravity and humor to bear upon subjects people across the country are interested in, from lighthearted topics like what’s in your belly or in your car, to what motivates us as a nation to act and behave in the ways we do. I look forward to weighing-in on all that stuff.

KW: How did you come to be paired with Claudia Jordan and Dr. Dan Ratner as co-hosts?
MED: Through our executive producer, Andre Jetmir. He worked his magic behind the scenes, bringing us all together.
KW: What makes your talk show unique?
MED: Well, you’ve got Dyson... you’ve got Ratner... and you’ve got Jordan. Each of us brings a

Read the rest of this interview at **TheSkanner.com**

Movies Opening Friday, March 30, 2018

BIG BUDGET FILMS

God’s Not Dead: A Light in the Darkness (PG for violence, mature themes and suggestive material) Third installment in the faith-based franchise finds members of a tight-knit congregation being tested by God when a deadly fire destroys their church. Co-starring Tatum O’Neal, John Corbett, Ted McGinley and Gregory Alan Williams.

Ready Player One (PG-13 for action, violence, bloody images, suggestive material, partial nudity and profanity) Adaptation of Ernest Cline’s sci-fi novel, set in 2045, revolving around a teenager’s (Tye Sheridan) participation with the help of his friends in a virtual reality Easter egg hunt where the winner will inherit an immense fortune from the contest’s late creator (Mark Rylance). Ensemble includes Olivia Cooke, McKenna Grace, Lena Waithe, Olivia Cooke, Simon Pegg and Letitia Wright.

Tyler Perry’s Acrimony (R for profanity, sexuality and violence) Revenge thriller about a long-suffering wife (Taraji P. Henson) who finally gets fed up with her philandering spouse (Lyriq Bent). With Crystie Stewart, Danielle Nicolet and Jazmyn Simon.

INDEPENDENT & FOREIGN FILMS



‘Tyler Perry’s Acrimony’



Kam Williams
Kam’s Kapsules Movie Reviews

All I Wish (Unrated) Romantic comedy about a fledgling fashion designer’s (Sharon Stone) desperate search for a soulmate until she finally meets Mr. Right (Tony Goldwyn) on her 46th birthday. Featuring Famke Janssen, Ellen Burstyn and Erica Ash.

Birthmarked (Unrated) Nature vs. nurture comedy about a couple of well-respected science professors (Matthew Goode and Toni Collette) who retire to raise their kids to test what they suspect to be a genetic predisposition to pursue their careers. With Fionnula Flanagan, Michael

Smiley and Suzanne Clement.

The China Hustle (R for profanity) Eye-opening expose’ highlighting how China has been eating America’s lunch by perpetrating a massive stock fraud in the deregulated financial markets.

Finding Your Feet (PG-13 for suggestive material, profanity and brief drug use) Romantic dramedy about a straitlaced senior citizen (Imelda Staunton) who moves in with her bohemian big sister (Cela Imrie) after catching her husband of 40 years (John Sessions) in bed with her BFF (Josie Lawrence). With Timothy Spall, Joanna Lumley, Paul Chan and David Hayman.

Gemini (R for pervasive profanity and a violent image) Crime thriller about a Hollywood

starlet’s (Zoe Kravitz) personal assistant (Lola Kirke) who ends up the prime suspect in a grisly homicide after lending a gun to her boss. Supporting cast includes Ricki Lake, John Cho and James Ransone.

The Last Movie Star (R for sexuality and partial nudity) Burt Reynolds stars in this poignant character study about an aging matinee idol forced to face the fact that his glory days are way behind him. With Chevy Chase, Clark Duke and Ariel Winter.

Outside In (Unrated) Romance drama about the taboo love affair between a recently-paroled ex-con (Jay Duplass) and a married, high school teacher (Edie Falco) he hasn’t seen since being sent up the river 20 years ago. With Kaitlyn Dever, Ben Schwartz and Aaron Blakely.



Bridge Replacement and HOV Program

SR 520 Montlake Phase

WSDOT will host a **Voluntary Proposers Meeting** for interested designers and construction contractors on **Thursday, March 29, 2018**. This **Design-Build project** is estimated to be between \$375 million and \$425 million.

Meeting details:

Date: Thursday, March 29, 2018
Time: 1 to 3 p.m.
Location: Wells Fargo Center, 15th floor
999 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

For additional information, visit us at:
wsdot.wa.gov/biz/contaa/Contracts/Montlake.htm

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