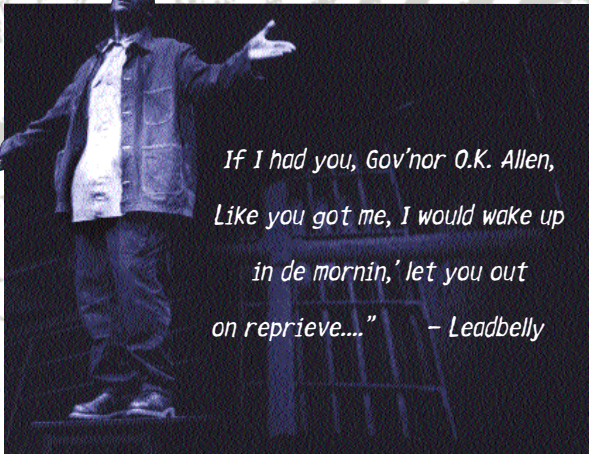


**Michael Keck in a performance
dialogue excerpted from**

VOICES IN THE RAIN
The Struggle for Survival and Hope
Stories From Our Prisons and Communities



*If I had you, Gov'nor O.K. Allen,
Like you got me, I would wake up
in de mornin,' let you out
on reprieve..." – Leadbelly*

Why are there are more men of color between the ages of 15-35 in prison than in schools and universities? It cost more to incarcerate a person than it does to educate one.

The United States has well over 2 million citizens in federal and state prisons and many many more in jails, juvenile detention centers, on probation and parole; over 3,200 men, women and children are under sentence of death and the number of those executed is increasing. More than 70% of those incarcerated have been in jail before. A dramatically disproportionate number of prisoners are African-American, Latino, and poor people. The fastest growing groups of inmates are women and Native Americans. The cycle of violence and incarceration devastates families and communities while simultaneously feeding the prison-industrial complex, which is making immense profits off these prisoners.

There is a correlation between the incidence of family violence, violence to women and children, and the violence that those victims perpetrate on others when they gain the power advantage. Prison intensifies the tendency towards violence. Not only is it predictable that victims of family violence have an extraordinary high likelihood of incarceration, it is behavior that is corrosive to the life of the communities in which it occurs. In spite of all this, prison life is a step up for some youth whose numbers are growing more rapidly than the prison space to accommodate them.

VOICES IN THE RAIN was developed with the help of: Buzz Alexander: University of MI Ann Arbor, Dr Terry Kupers, Nate Jones, Dep. Warden Charles Sprang: Egeler Correctional Facility, Denise Thomas: Program Director: Green Oaks Facility. Carol King: Program Director: Maxey Training School, Ahmad A. Rahman: Interfaith Council For Peace and JusticePete Cabel: Director Of Recreation - Western Wayne Correctional Facility. Inmates of The Western Wayne Correctional Facility: Inmates of The Florence Craine Women's Correctional Facility: Inmates of The Egeler Correctional Facility: Inmates of The Adrian Correctional Facility: Residents of The Adrian Training School For Boys and Girls; Residents of The Maxey Boys Training School Tim Raphael.

VOICES IN THE RAIN was co-commissioned by The Illusion Theater, Minneapolis, Saint Mary's University of Winona, MN; The Reston Community Center of Reston, Va; Junebug Productions of New Orleans, LA; and Mayfair Festival of The Arts of Allentown, PA.

MICHAEL KECK designs and facilitates Arts in Education workshops in various settings including public and private schools, universities, community centers and correctional facilities primarily as a component to his solo multi-media theatre performance of **VOICES IN THE RAIN: Stories From Our Prisons and Communities**. He is an actor, writer, and composer whose works have been featured at Arena Stage and The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, The Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles, Cincinnati Playhouse, The Alliance Theater, Portland Center Stage, The Children's Theatre Company of Minneapolis, Oregon Shakespeare Festival and many others. His international credits include The National Theater of Croatia, The Barbican Theatre Center and Bristol Old Vic Theatre in UK. His academic residencies include: NYU/Tisch School For Performing Arts; DePaul University; University Of Illinois - Urbana; Dartmouth Drama, Stanford University, Duke University Institute For the Arts, Arizona State University, University of MI - Ann Arbor and Cornell University. He serves on the advisory committee for the Prison Creative Arts Project at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor and is on the Prison Creative Writing Awards Committee for PEN-America - New York, NY.

Michael is the recipient of many grants and awards including The AATE 2002 Most Distinguished Play Award with playwright James Still; The Spencer Cherashore Actors Award for 2000. He has served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, The New York State Arts Council, Georgia Council for the Arts and Meet The Composer. He is a member of AEA, AFTRA, ASCAP, PEN and The Dramatists Guild.

Michael G. Keck

212-501-6757 • mgkex@earthlink.net • P.O. Box 1287, Grand Central Station, NY, NY 10163