

Creating a Life Out of the Ashes



Dr Jimmy Santiago Baca

[Dr. Jimmy Santiago Baca](#) was born in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1952. His awards and honors include the Wallace Stevens Chair at Yale, the National Endowment Poetry Award, Vogelstein Foundation Award, National Hispanic Heritage Award, Berkeley Regents Award, Pushcart Prize, Southwest Book Award, American Book Award, and the International Prize.

Swept up in the narco-police madness that swirls in the barrios and ghettos of America, a nearly illiterate Baca went to jail in his early twenties and served hard, flat time, with no parole. Five years later, he emerged from prison a voracious reader and a skilled self-taught writer. Baca emerged from prison a passionate and critical voice for Contemporary American Poetry.

Baca is the author of *A Place to Stand*, a memoir, and numerous books of poetry, including *Healing Earthquakes*, *Black Mesa Poetry*, *Martin and Meditations on the South Valley*, and *Immigrants in Our Own Land*. CD's include *Healing Earthquakes*, *Strike Zones*, *13 Mexicans*, and *Defiant Reaction*. Movie scripts and productions include *Bound by Honor (Blood In, Blood Out)*, Disney Productions, and *The Lone Wolf – The Story of Pancho Gonzalez*, HBO Productions.