

# **First ever Prison Literary *THROWDOWN* !!**

Staged by Bestselling authors Keith and Kent Zimmerman

David joins five other authors from the outside, competing against six inmate writers inside the walls of San Quentin State Prison

Bay Area authors **Keith and Kent Zimmerman**, in association with **Litquake**, will host the very first **Literary Throwdown** that will happen inside the walls of **San Quentin State Prison**. It takes place on two consecutive **Friday evenings, June 11 and June 18, 2010** from **6:30 – 8:30 pm**, at the Zimmerman brothers' Creative Writing Class on the San Quentin H-Unit yard. Six Bay Area journeymen published authors will compete on June 11 against six designated inmate students in the writing Throwdown. Three Hollywood authors/screenwriters will serve as judges at the June 18 class. **Litquake**, the largest nonprofit literary festival on the West Coast, enlisted the authors.

**The Literary Throwdown** goes like this: On **June 11**, 25-30 inmate writers and six noted authors will write for 40 minutes on a spontaneous subject. Since no computers or electronic devices are allowed behind prison walls, all entries will be handwritten. The following Friday, on **June 18**, the Zimmerman brothers will have selected and will read aloud twelve anonymous writings, six inmate student and the six author entries. A blue-ribbon panel of judges will score them on a point system. Points will be tallied and the winning **Throwdown** team will be announced at the end of the **June 18<sup>th</sup>** class. Who will triumph, the published authors or the amateur inmates?

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Authors include **Alan Black** (*Kick the Balls: A Bruising Season in the Life of a Suburban Soccer Coach*), **Jack Boulware** (*Gimme Something Better: The Profound, Progressive and Occasionally Pointless History of Bay Area Punk*), **David Corbett** (*Do They Know I'm Running, Blood of Paradise, The Devil's Redhead*), **Joe Loya** (*The Man Who Outgrew His Prison Cell: Confessions of a Bank Robber*), **Anne N. Marino** (*The Collapsible World*) and **Bucky Sinister** (*Get Up: A 12-Step Guide to Recovery for Misfits, Freaks and Weirdos*).

**Throwdown** judges include novelist/screenwriter/director **Michael Tolkin** (*The Player, Nine*) and authors/screenwriters/directors/actors **Noah & Logan Miller** (*Touching Home, Either You're In or You're In the Way*).

The **Literary Throwdown** is a part of the Zimmerman brothers' weekly San Quentin creative writing class, **Finding Your Voice on the Page**, which the identical twin writing team has been teaching since April, 2003 as part of San Quentin State Prison's acclaimed **Stand Up** education program. The Zimmermen have co-authored 17 books, including best-selling memoirs with the Sex Pistols and the Hell's Angels, plus their upcoming **Operation Family Secrets** (a book about the Chicago mob) for Broadway/Random House.

"The spontaneous writing that comes out of this class has been astounding and inspirational," said **Kent Zimmerman**. "It's long been our fantasy to find out how our students' writing stacks up against the published pros."

"Litquake is thrilled to partner with the Zimmerman brothers for the Literary Throwdown at San Quentin," said **Litquake Foundation co-founder Jane Ganahl**. "Bringing the written word to every corner of society is our mission, so we jumped at

the chance to send authors behind prison walls, where they might both inspire and learn."

"Whatever the outcome and whoever prevails, everyone wins," added **Keith Zimmerman**, "Our class uses writing as a positive and powerful force to help combat criminal recidivism, one person at a time."

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