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For Immediate Release

Educator and Writer Yolo Akili releases new book "Dear Universe"

New York City, April, 2013- On April 30th, writer and educator Yolo Akili will release "Dear Universe: Letters of Affirmation & Empowerment For All Of Us." Published by *Michael Todd Books*, "Dear Universe" is a collection of humorous, inspirational and enlightening letters. The book touches on a plethora of topics ranging from jealousy to social issues with great anecdotes and relatable stories.

Dear Universe was birthed out of Yolo's work as an anti-violence and emotional wellness counselor. As a counselor, he has often worked with individuals and groups to confront personal issues, many of whom are often affected by a variety of social inequalities. Akili states "Dear Universe is about engaging ourselves and our communities with compassion and humor. It's not about spooky new age theories but everyday challenges-- including social inequalities-- and different ways of thinking about them." What makes Dear Universe most enduring is it does not languish in a lofty place of self- help. Instead it is a combination of common sense mixed with spirituality, compassion, patience and wit.

Phyllis Alesia Perry, Pulitzer prize winning Journalist and author of "*Stigmata*" and "*A Sunday In June*" says, "No one celebrates and connects spirituality and social change in the way Yolo Akili does. Anoint yourself with these loving and strengthening words and then get out there and engage with life!"

Michael Todd Books will officially release Dear Universe on April 30, 2013 with a book signing and launch party-taking place at the historic Strand Bookstore in New York City. Dear Universe will be available online at Amazon.com and at select bookstores (visit DearUniverse2013.com for full listing) in New York City, Atlanta, Los Angeles and San Francisco April 15th, 2013.

For more information on "Dear Universe", or Akili visit DearUniverse2013.com, or Contact Seitu Jemel Hart at (917) 306-5384 or Seitu@scenesllc.com

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