



## CCA Santa Fe invites Dr. Michael White & Jason Berry to discuss their New Orleans music documentary: *City of a Million Dreams*

Thursday, July 7 at 6pm | \$15 | CCA Cinema, 1050 Old Pecos Trail

**June 21, 2022, Santa Fe, NM** – The Center for Contemporary Arts of Santa Fe (CCA) continues their collaborative partnership series with Lost Padre Records, CCA Amplified, with the new, powerful documentary *City of a Million Dreams* on July 7 at 6pm in CCA's large cinema theater. The film will be followed by an in-person Q&A with musician and prominent subject in the film, Dr. Michael White, alongside filmmaker Jason Berry. The talk will be moderated by CCA Head of Cinema Programming, Luke Henley, who curates this ongoing series.

**About the film:** Famous the world over, jazz funerals have origins shrouded in mystery. Filmed over twenty-two years, *City of a Million Dreams* follows Dr. Michael White and Deborah "Big Red" Cotton, exploring race relations at a tearing time in American society. Burial traditions train a lens on the unique and resilient culture of New Orleans. *City of a Million Dreams* draws from the 2018 book of the same title by Jason Berry.

Dr. White says of jazz funerals: "For someone dealing with American racism and trying to figure out your place in this life...you can be transformed into another world that really sets you free." New Orleans burial customs evolve as people of different tongues and colors reach the city, surviving floods, fires, war, political violence, civil rights struggles, and hurricanes. The film follows the French town's evolution with a stunning recreation of African burial choreographies by enslaved people, honoring ancestral memory on a field called Congo Square. The resistance drama of danced memory carries across time, gathering force as black men march as Mardi Gras Indians in one the film's most powerful funeral sequences. As African dances merge with the funeral processions of European marching bands, the fusion of the ring and the line gives shape to jazz music, and an archetype of the city's diverse society.



### About the Speakers:

**Dr. Michael White** is an accomplished, multi-faceted New Orleans-based clarinetist, bandleader, composer, musicologist, jazz historian, and educator widely regarded as one of the leading authorities and culture-bearers of traditional New Orleans jazz music. He has performed in over two dozen foreign countries, played on over 50 recordings, received countless awards, made multiple national television appearances, and been featured in major media publications.



**Jason Berry** is an author and investigative journalist based in New Orleans. He has done extensive reporting on the crisis in the Catholic Church in many articles, an award-winning documentary, "Vows of Silence," and three books. "Render unto Rome: The Secret Life of Money in the Catholic Church" received the Investigative Reporters and Editors 2011 Book Award. He has received fellowships from the Guggenheim and Alicia Patterson foundations.

### About Lost Padre Records:



Founded in 2018, Lost Padre Records has the largest selection of vinyl of any record store in New Mexico. Named "The Best Record Store in New Mexico" by *VinylMePlease.com*, the downtown-Santa Fe located shop specializes in new and used vinyl records, cassette tapes and CDs as well as vintage and new turntables, receivers and speakers. Their prime, around the Plaza corner location at 131 W. Water Street, regularly hosts live music.



### About CCA

The Center for Contemporary Arts Santa Fe is a 501c3 non-profit cultural center, celebrating creativity across the arts, humanities, and sciences through transformative experiences designed to ignite minds and connect people.

For further information, images, or interviews, please contact JC Gonzalez, CCA Marketing Coordinator, at [marketing@ccasantafe.org](mailto:marketing@ccasantafe.org).

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