



MICHELE SERROS

What's life like as a hyphenated American? Ask **Michele Serros**, a Mexican-American writer and performer reared on both *cultura mexicana* (watching *novelas* and eating *chicharrones*) and American pop culture (digging Judy Blume novels and downing Cocoa Puffs). Born in rural Oxnard, California, Michele later moved 60 miles south to Los Angeles, where Chicana Falsa, her first book of short stories and poems was published, and quickly became required reading for Chicano Studies departments in colleges and universities throughout California and the Southwest.

"Because Michele has the genius to create full-blooded characters in just a few sentences," *Si* magazine raves, "the poems lend themselves to performances, which are part poetry reading, part stand-up comedy, part theatrical event."

Enter Selected Stories from Chicana Falsa, Michele's debut CD on the Mouth Almighty label, which adds a vivid new aural dimension to her achievements on the page. Highlights include an account of her sister's landmark appearance on *The Price Is Right* ("The Day My Sister Was On Television"), her death-defying ode to fried porkskin ("Dead Pig's Revenge"), the gap that separates her dad's old school ways from her new way of life as an urban sophisticate in L.A. ("Good Parking"), and one of Michele's most popular stories, "Attention Shoppers," a satire explaining how racist packaging of "Latino-style" frozen vegetables can ignite a supermarket riot.

The CD itself, produced by **Marcos Frommer**, the co-host of KPFK-LA's morning talk show, "Up For Air," is a highly-polished production similar in style to the golden-age radio dramas. It features such talented Angelenos as NPR commentator **Ruben Martinez**, who plays the Tall Mexican With The Really Good Voice in "The Day My Sister Was On Television," and playwright **Luis Alfaro** who reads the part of Martina, Theirate Activist in "Attention Shoppers."

Michele is clearly an accomplished performer of her own work, who's gained a strong following since her success as a touring poet for Lollapalooza '94. You don't have to be Latino, female or a hyphenated American to enjoy her stories. She captures what the *Village Voice*'s Elena Oumano recognizes as "more than the vagaries of Latina life in LaLa; the pressures and yearnings Serros describes are those of anyone anywhere in America."

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