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## **Guncles are the “New” Gurus for the Black Sheep in All of Us**

*In his new book The Wisdom of Guncles, debut author Michael Dumlao pens ten diverse memoirs about queer people and family which serve as a manifesto on disrupting, defying, and redefining tradition*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Sep. 22, 2021 - Author Michael Dumlao and publisher New Degree Press have just released Dumlao’s first book *The Wisdom of Guncles*, a creative non-fiction anthology of ten distinct biographies and memoirs about queer people and their relationship with biological and chosen family. A veteran creative storyteller and diversity strategist, Dumlao features a diverse pantheon of gay uncles (“guncles”) and other LGBTQ+ mentors, these stories offer unique perspectives about life, love, and personal empowerment.

Dumlao examines what various LGBTQ+ experiences teach about disrupting norms, exploring identity, and creating chosen families that help a person walk the path from trauma to triumph. The chapters navigate the intersections of sexual identity, gender identity and expression, race and ethnicity, disability, immigration, faith, and veteran status. These include stories such as “The Alchemist,” a non-binary Paraguayan drag-queen who combines masculine and feminine roles into a new gender expression, to “The Chameleon,” a bisexual African-American Army veteran who chooses to never code-switch, to “The Elder,” a Filipino retiree whose story of surviving the AIDS crisis honors every secretly queer family ancestor that silently paved the way.

While Dumlao’s real-life narratives are unapologetically queer, they hold universal lessons about the human condition that, like all stories about family, are grounded in love. They inspire readers to challenge and change traditions that hide those that are different, and to become a beacon for others lost in the dark by never dimming their light. And above all, each story asks readers to consider leaving a space more welcoming than how they found it.

According to popular creators and authors Tom & Lorenzo, “Dumlao’s book is a loving, empathetic ode to queer people and the emotional power they have to teach and guide their own families to make a better world.” Best-selling author Steven Rowley also writes, “I’m grateful to Michael and these ten souls for living out loud and sharing their wisdom.” And Yanev Suissa, Founder, of SineWave Ventures says, “Anyone who has experienced adversity will find tremendous strength in this guide to realizing that your adversity is your superpower.”

Dumlao was born in the Philippines under martial law, then grew up in Sydney, Australia and Santa Barbara, California. Dumlao later settled in Washington, DC where he launched a -year career advancing diversity, equity, and social justice through brand strategy, digital marketing, and creative storytelling. He led the rebrand of a Fortune 500 company as its first Director of Brand and serves as a senior advisor for leaders in defense and intelligence.

MICHAEL DURLAO

# THE WISDOM OF GUNCLES

To celebrate and promote his first book, Michael is going on a national tour to conduct readings and signings in the following cities:

1. October 1 in New York City (private residence)
2. October 10 in Washington, DC (Eaton DC, 1201 K St., NW)
3. October 14 in Dallas, TX (The Trove, 320 W 7<sup>th</sup> St.)
4. October 16 in Austin, TX (The Platform, 2823 E Martin Luther King Jr Blvd)
5. October 19 in San Francisco, CA (SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St.)
6. October 21 in San Diego, CA (private residence)
7. October 24 in Los Angeles, CA (private residence)
8. October 29 in Santa Barbara, CA (Filipino Community Center, 425 State St.)

For more information about *The Wisdom of Guncles*, book events, or to contact the author for interviews and speaking engagements, please contact:

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Video: <https://youtu.be/0npB4u2rfnI>

PHOTOS: Book cover & author head shot

