

Wednesday, September 30, 2009, 8pm
Zellerbach Hall

Michael Pollan



Ken Light

Presented in association with the College of Letters & Science's On the Same Page program.

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For the past 20 years, **Michael Pollan** has been writing books and articles about the places where the human and natural worlds intersect: food, agriculture, gardens, drugs and architecture. He is the author, most recently, of *In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto*. His previous book, *The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals*, was named one of the 10 best books of 2006 by *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*. It also won the California Book Award, the Northern California Book Award, the James Beard Award for best food writing, and was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. Mr. Pollan's previous book, *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's-Eye View of the World*, was also a *New York Times* best-seller, received the Borders Original Voices Award for the best nonfiction work of 2001, and was recognized as a best book of the year by the American Booksellers Association and Amazon.com. PBS is airing a two-hour special documentary based on *The Botany of Desire* in fall 2009. His next book, *Food Rules: An Eater's Manual*, will be published in December 2009.

Mr. Pollan is also the author of *A Place of My Own* (1997) and *Second Nature* (1991). As contributing writer to *The New York Times Magazine* since 1987, his writing has received numerous awards, including the James Beard Award for best magazine series in 2003, the John Burroughs prize (for

the best natural history essay in 1997), the QPB New Vision Award (for his first book, *Second Nature*), the 2000 Reuters-I.U.C.N. Global Award for Environmental Journalism for his reporting on genetically modified crops, and the 2003 Humane Society of the United States' Genesis Award for his writing on animal agriculture. His essays have appeared in many anthologies, including *Best American Essays* (the 1990 and 2003 editions), *Best American Science Writing* (2004) and the *Norton Book of Nature Writing*. In addition to publishing regularly in *The New York Times Magazine*, his articles have appeared in *Harper's* (where he served for many years as executive editor), *Mother Jones*, *Gourmet*, *Vogue*, *Travel + Leisure*, *Gardens Illustrated* and *The Nation*.

In 2003, Mr. Pollan was appointed the John S. and James L. Knight Professor of Journalism at UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism, and the director of the Knight Program in Science and Environmental Journalism. In addition to teaching, he lectures widely on food, agriculture and gardening.

Michael Pollan, born in 1955, grew up on Long Island, and was educated at Bennington College, Oxford University and Columbia University, from which he received a master's degree in English. He lives in the Bay Area with his wife, the painter Judith Belzer, and their son, Isaac.