

Meet Author John Espinosa Nelson

As a former offender turned award-winning author and speaker, John Espinosa Nelson has a stake in changing the way we've been trained to rely more on entertaining custody tropes than on personal interpretations of incarceration. He *knows* prison isn't just for "those people," and he knows the limits of a rape, riots, and rotten food mentality. In fact, he learned first hand that there's a lot more to prison – and a lot more we can all do to keep people from reoffending – than what's seen on TV. But unless we work harder to reverse misperceptions and defy stereotypes, we won't get far.



John is determined to douse our burgeoning shift in social consciousness with propellant. Using his sarcasm like a farm tractor to pull audiences through dirt and grime, he offers a rare, insider look focused on the humor, heart, and humanity that also exist behind our nation's electric fences. And by exposing his own personal growth by way of example, John speaks compellingly about rehabilitation, recidivism, and the tremendous importance of caring, qualified front-line custody personnel in an offender's quest to "get character or become one."

John's triple award-winning memoir, *Where Excuses Go to Die*, is as much a celebration of these "first responders of rehabilitation" – civilian educators, volunteers, and custody staff – as it is a poignant, hilarious tale of the value excuses have when one is surrounded by nothing but. Whether read, seen, or heard, John Nelson's unforgettable message will leave audiences laughing out loud *and* wanting to know more.

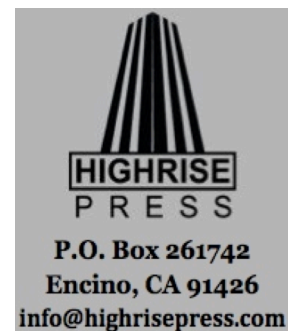


John's journey as a writer began with a prison essay competition and continued after his release, from work with the U.S. Veterans Initiative (U.S. VETS), to DreamWorks and Maverick Records, to contracts with Mattel Toys. He has been published in *Esquire*, *Details*, *Players*, the *LA Weekly*, and with multiple web assets. John has appeared on numerous radio and TV programs, including ABC's *20/20*. He regularly blogs about excuses and the need to "get character or become one."

John is engaging, informative, and articulate about recidivism, prison overcrowding, reentry issues, and surviving the penal system with humor intact. He speaks regularly to adults and pre-adults alike, offering credible ways for everyday folks to be part of the solution to our nation's incarceration crisis.

To access John's full bio or read an excerpt from his award-winning memoir, *Where Excuses Go to Die*, please visit whereexcusesgotodie.com

For more information, or to book John for a speaking engagement, please contact Crystal Martin at cmartin@highrisepress.com



Check out the Blog at www.whereexcusesgotodie.com



Watch the Book Trailer at <http://www.youtube.com/user/HighriseExcuses>



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