



## ABOUT EDWARD M. GARNES, JR.

Atlanta native **Edward M. Garnes, Jr.** is a journalist, counselor, educator, editor, producer, and activist. He is the founder of **From Afros to Shelltoes: Art Action & Conversation**, a series of inter-generational cultural productions that champion emotional healing, solution focused dialogue, and arts programming to empower hip hop heads, youth, and elders.

Redefining clichéd visions of leadership, **From Afros to Shelltoes (FATS)** employs progressive strategies to move the community from rhetoric to reality. **FATS** service and productions include **Dave Chapelle's Block Party**, **Katrina On The Ground**, **MTV Jams**, **Hands on Atlanta MLK Service Summit**, **National Black Arts Festival**, **Atlanta Hip Hop Film Festival**, and the **Southern Poetry Conference**.

Hailed as a national expert in diversity and multicultural counseling, Garnes and fellow activist **Kevin Powell** kicked off 2004 launching the **State of Black Men National Tour**. **Dr. Joseph White**, noted psychologist and author of **Black Men Emerging**, calls Garnes a new school leader "equipped with the courage, resilience, and dedication to take us to the next level." On the forefront of institutional change, he co-founded **Depauw University's Student Coalition for Awareness, Revolution and Education (S.C.A.R.E.)** and assisted university administration and legal counsel in the drafting of DePauw's formal **Hate Crime Policy** as an undergraduate. Garnes received his BA in English Writing with specializations in Mass Comm and Black Studies from Depauw. He also worked as a Black Studies Department Teachers Assistant and administrator in Multicultural Affairs.

A **Competitive Doctoral Fellow** in **Urban Counseling**, he received his M.A. in Counseling from **Michigan State University**. Garnes has worked as a diversity and leadership development consultant for the Washington D.C. firm **Woodard & Associates** executing projects with the **US Department of Agriculture** and the **US Department of Housing**.

A finalist for the **Fulton County Arts Council Dialog Literary Fellowship**, he has shared the stage with such legends **Nikki Giovanni**, **Amiri Baraka**, and **The Last Poets**. A nationally renowned writer, he is currently a music contributor to **Creative Loafing**, Atlanta's revered alternative news weekly. Garnes is an award-winning journalist who has worked as the Entertainment Editor for **Atlanta's Good News (GN) Magazine** and as a contributor for **Upscale**, the Southeast Performer, and **Elemental**. Garnes has profiled and interviewed such cutting edge artists as **Spike Lee**, **Outkast**, **Gerald Levert**, **DMC** of **Run DMC**, **T-Boz** of **TLC**, and **Raphael Saadiq**. Featured as a cast member of the **Black Family Channel's Spoken**, hosted and executive produced by Apollo legend Jessica Care Moore, he is currently penning **In Search of Dr. Garnes**, a provocative book of essays on black leadership, hip-hop, and higher education. Garnes is the co-owner of **Babuke Brothers, LLC**, a media relations, entertainment, and arts programming firm.