

# LEARN IT WELL

THOUGHTS ON BEAUTY, FASHION, AND A LITTLE OF THIS-N-THAT

words SHAWN E. SMITH



I've learned many things in my life but understanding what it takes to be a strong, motivated, dedicated and loving man has been one of the most difficult. There was a certain point when releasing the boy and cultivating the man became one of the trickiest crossroads I'd ever come to.

I spent most of my twenties thinking I had all the answers to what it took to be a man.

Life's funny though and can at times flip you in all kinds of crazy ways, leaving you disoriented and wondering which way to go. At 42, I'm blessed to say I've been paying close attention to the lessons along the way. I no longer let others define who I am and what my purpose is. It feels good to be the man of my own definition.

Statistics state more than 60% of the people in prison are now racial and ethnic minorities, 60%. This is unacceptable and on so many levels a travesty. I'm sure a great number of those men are feeling overwhelmed by this system of inequality and that they may never

be more than society's definition of what a *real* man is. I think we all know it can be difficult to see any semblance of hope when the odds are not in your favor.

Believing in myself, staying strong and focused and determined to make a better life for myself and everyone around me has been my mission as a man. It's a continuous challenge, sometimes filled with adversity, but not an impossible one, so I look ahead.

Men. We come in all shapes, sizes, colors and orientations and we are who we know ourselves to be in our hearts. If you're a man who's gotten it together, and feel like you have some insight, take a look around and see if you can help somebody else find their way. It's what a good man does.

## MAN-UP

FINDING YOUR PLACE IN THIS WORLD



### Street Etiquette

Founded in 2008 by New Yorkers, Joshua Kissi and Travis Gumbs, Street Etiquette is a style blog that approaches personal style from an urban perspective.  
[streetEtiquette.com](http://streetEtiquette.com)



### Lo Heads

With roots in 1980s street gangs, these Polo Ralph Lauren enthusiasts have made Polo clothing a lifestyle. Once having to boost their Polo from stores and fight to keep it on the streets, their culture has spread worldwide.

## The Way We Used To Do - Summer Playlist

GROOVES TO REMIND US HOW SWEET SUMMER CAN BE

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 01. <b>Don't Stop Til You Get Enough</b> - MJ   | 07. <b>Got To Give It Up</b> - Marvin Gaye      |
| 02. <b>Funkin' for Jamaica</b> - Tom Browne     | 08. <b>Mighty Mighty</b> - Earth Wind & Fire    |
| 03. <b>Yeah</b> - Usher                         | 09. <b>Bustin' Loose</b> - Chuck Brown          |
| 04. <b>Rock Steady</b> - Aretha Franklin        | 10. <b>Boogie Oogie Oogie</b> - Taste of Honey  |
| 05. <b>Hott in Herre</b> - Nelly                | 11. <b>Jammin'</b> - Bob Marley                 |
| 06. <b>It Takes Two</b> - Rob Base/DJ Easy Rock | 12. <b>Get Up Offa That Thing</b> - James Brown |

## SUMMER SWAG

### Sunscreen

For every shade under the sun. That's right, it's for everybody. If you plan to hang out in the sun, make sure you stay protected.

### Cologne

Never wear so much that you leave your scent behind. A spritz or two will do.

### Timepiece

Be sure to stay on time for all appointments and dates with a trendy colorful watch.

### Sunglasses

Protect your eyes from the sun's rays and be stylish at the same time.

### Hat

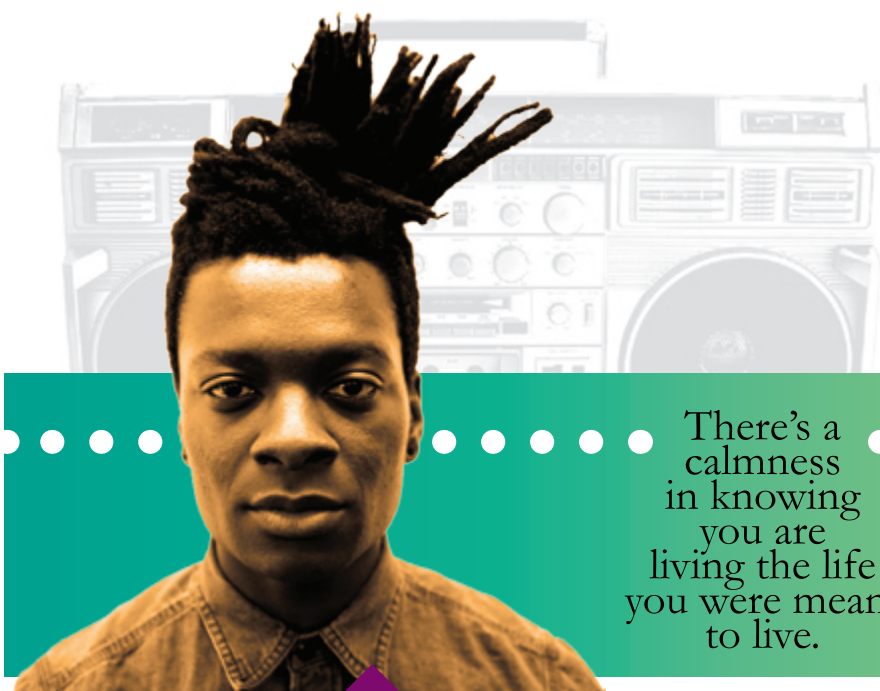
If I heard it once, I heard it a thousand times from my Momma, "Boy, put a hat on your head".

### Carry-All

Staying organized and keeping your swag together is what's up.

### Lip Moisturizer

No one should ever walk around with lips so dry they crack. This is a must have.



There's a calmness in knowing you are living the life you were meant to live.

## CROWNED

An online portrait series by photographer André D. Wagner, depicts the styles of 12 men through the lens of their personal hair style - their "crowns."  
[www.abstractelements.com/crowned](http://www.abstractelements.com/crowned)

**There will be no prison which can hold our movement down.**

- Huey P. Newton



**SHAWN E. SMITH**, a man with many creative outlets, divides his time working as a makeup artist, graphic designer, and volunteer for local nonprofit agencies. A passion for learning and teaching is what keeps him inspired and motivated. His professional résumé includes Makeup Artistry, Graphic Design, Creative Direction, and work as a Stylist. He offers one-on-one makeup lessons as well as group sessions. Feel free to also contact him for any of the aforementioned services you may need.

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