



Stephen A. Smith

AUTHOR · JOURNALIST · MEDIA PERSONALITY

Dynamic Sports Media Icon and Inspiring Voice on Leadership, Adversity, and Personal Branding



About:

- **Gender:** Male
- **Nationality:** United States
- **Languages:** English
- **Travels from:** United States

Engagement Types:

- Event Hosting
- Moderating and Emcee

Topics:

- Leadership & Management
- Mindfulness & Resilience

Biography Highlights

- Famed Sports TV Personality and Journalist
- Host, ESPN's 'First Take' and 'SportsCenter with Stephen A. Smith'
- Podcaster and Host, 'Know Mercy'
- Expert in Leadership and Personal Branding

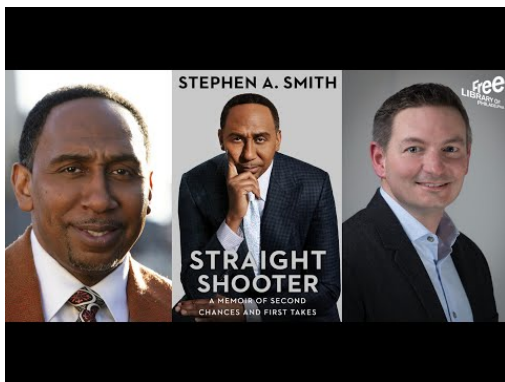
Biography

Legendary sportscaster, veteran journalist, actor, author, and podcaster Stephen A. Smith offers powerful and humorous lessons from the world of sports – and beyond – on overcoming adversity, leadership, building a personal brand, and ethics. After getting his start in journalism working for the New York Daily News and the Philadelphia Inquirer, Smith transitioned to TV and landed at ESPN in 2003. Known for his memorable catchphrases and thought-provoking analysis, Smith is a host on ESPN's First Take, an NBA analyst and insider on SportsCenter, and hosts his own weekly NBA show, SportsCenter with Stephen A. Smith. Smith released his bestselling memoir, *Straight Shooter: A Memoir of Second Chances and First Takes*, on January 17th, 2023. As he does in sought-after events, Smith shares his personal journey to becoming a giant of sports media, the adversities he has overcome, and how sports became his salvation.

Smith is set to host a new podcast, *Know Mercy*, with Cadence13/Audacy and featuring a range of notable guests and thought leaders. The fan-

favorite commentator and 'The Face of ESPN' will offer his candid perspective on politics, entertainment, social issues, criminal justice, business, and of course, sports. He is a proud HBCU graduate, a brand ambassador for HBCU Week, and his Mr. SAS Productions is in development for Black Excellence, a documentary series examining the legacy of Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Revered for speaking his truth and engaging audiences, Smith consistently receives rave reviews for his events, such as: "Amazing! They loved him. He was the ultimate professional and inspiring at the same time. I've booked a lot of speakers, and I'd book him again and again. He knocked it out the park." (Chrysler Minority Association)

Videos





Stephen's Topics

Adversity: Keep Your Head in the Game!

From heart-wrenching defeats to capturing glory, rarely is anyone faced with adversity more than the modern-day athlete. True champions have learned not only to overcome their adversities, but to use them as a tool. From his roots in Hollis to covering some of the biggest names and games in the world, Stephen A. Smith uses his life experiences and sports-as-life references to offer his perspective on how to keep your head in the game using courage, determination, and patience, so you too can use adversity to your benefit.

Available: In person, Virtually

The Road to Great Leadership

Stephen A. Smith's career has allowed him to be up close and personal with tremendous leaders and athletes, and he has learned firsthand about the trials and tribulations on the road to great leadership. In these powerful and actionable remarks, Smith highlights how leadership is now more important than ever, and decodes the keys to goal setting, personal motivation. Chock-full of anecdotes from the world of sports, Smith's remarks will enthrall, entertain, and educate.

Available: In person, Virtually

Ethics and Building a Personal Brand, On the Field and Off

What is the right thing to do when lines of ethics are increasingly blurred? Being the best and having more power and money enables those on the way up to be filled with praise, big paydays, and role-model status. But the headlines are filled with fall-from-grace storylines all the time, as major athletes have dealt with personal scandals and transgressions. What is the new model for success, and how can we build a personal brand associated with dependability, moral character, and trust?

From sportsmanship to gambling, steroid use to point shaving, sports journalist Stephen A. Smith has seen and covered a wide spectrum of ethical issues both on-and-off the field....interviewing an abundance of major players. He uses his unique insight to offer perspective on how we can become the best versions of ourselves,

holding ourselves, our teammates, and our role models, to an ever-higher standard. This engaging and eye-opening presentation will make you think about ethical decisions in a refreshing, productive way.

Available: In person, Virtually

Author Talk: Stephen A. Smith and 'Straight Shooter'

Inspired by his highly anticipated memoir *Straight Shooter*, Stephen A. Smith shares his candid perspective, reveals the challenges he's overcome, and opens up about who he is when the cameras are off in this engaging moderated conversation.

Available: In person, Virtually

Testimonials

“

Amazing! They loved him. He was the ultimate professional and inspiring at the same time. I've booked a lot of speakers, and I'd book him again and again. He knocked it out the park.

Chrysler Minority Association

“

The event went great! Stephen was captivating and we had some really good feedback. Him and the moderator were also really entertaining together and our attendance reached over 1000 students.

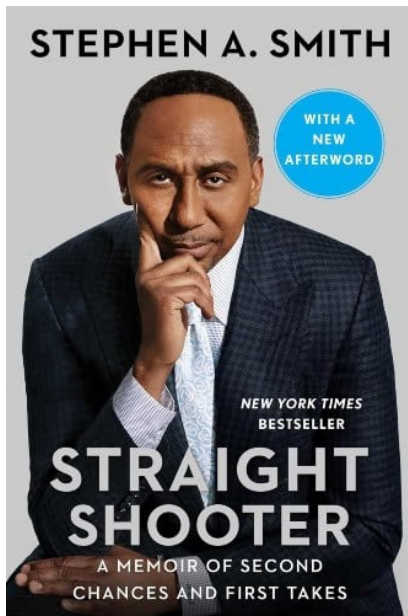
Ohio State University

“

Stephen A. was awesome and the event went extremely well! The students loved having him.

University of Connecticut

Books



Straight Shooter: A Memoir of Second Chances and First Takes

America's most popular sports media figure tells it like it is in this "raw, deeply authentic, and immensely entertaining" (Bob Iger, #1 New York Times bestselling author and CEO of The Walt Disney Company) book, not only dishing out his signature, uninhibited opinions but also revealing the challenges he overcame in childhood as well as at ESPN. Stephen A. Smith has never been handed anything, nor was he an overnight success. Growing up poor in Queens, the son of Caribbean immigrants and the youngest of six children, he was a sports-obsessed kid who faced struggles, from undiagnosed dyslexia to getting enough cereal to fill his bowl. As a basketball player at Winston-Salem State University, he got a glimmer of his true calling when he wrote a newspaper column arguing for the retirement of his own Hall of Fame coach, Clarence Gaines. Smith hustled and rose up from a reporter on the high school beat at Daily News (New York) to a general sports columnist at The Philadelphia Inquirer before getting his own show at ESPN in 2005. After he was unceremoniously fired from the network in 2009, he became even more determined to fight for success. He got himself rehired two years later and, with his razor-sharp intelligence and fearless debate style, found the show he was destined to star in: First Take, the network's flagship morning program. In Straight Shooter, Smith writes about the greatest highs and deepest lows of his life and career. He gives his thoughts on Skip Bayless, Ray Rice, Colin Kaepernick, the New York Knicks, the Dallas Cowboys, and former President Donald Trump. But he also pulls back the curtain and talks about life beyond the set, sharing authentic stories about his negligent father, his loving mother, being a father himself, his battle with life-threatening COVID-19, and what he really thinks about politics and social issues. He does it all with the same intelligence, humor, and charm that has made him a household name. A provocative and moving "blueprint of tenacity" (Fat Joe), this book is the perfect gift for lovers of sports, television, and anyone who likes their stories delivered straight to the heart.

[BUY THE BOOK](#)

Speaker Bureaus And Talent Agencies

Stephen A. Smith is available to book via these agencies

 **Recommended**



Speaking Agency