

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Ellis Cose

PERSON

Cose, Ellis Jonathan, 1951-

Alternative Names: Ellis Cose;

Life Dates: February 20, 1951-

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Residence: New York, NY

Occupations: Newspaper Reporter

Biographical Note

Journalist Ellis Cose was born on February 20, 1951 in Chicago, Illinois to Raney and Jetta Cose. He discovered early that he had a distinctive voice as a writer. While a student at Lane Technical High School, his 140-page essay on the 1968 riots piqued the interest of an English teacher who suggested that he submit his essay to Gwendolyn Brooks, then the Poet Laureate of the State of Illinois, who invited him to her writers' group. At age nineteen, in 1970, Cose became a weekly columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times,

making him the youngest editorial page columnist employed by a major Chicago daily. While working for the Sun-Times, he graduated with his B.A. degree in psychology from the University of Illinois in 1972. Cose then graduated with his M.A. degree in science, technology and public policy from the George Washington University in 1978.

In 1979, Cose became an editorial writer and columnist for the Detroit Free Press. He then received a fellowship with the National Research Council of the National Academy of Sciences in 1981. In 1982, Cose became a special writer for USA Today ; and, in 1983, he began a three-year term as president of the Institute for Journalism Education at the University of California at Berkeley. In 1987, he held a fellowship with the Gannett Center for Media Studies at Columbia University in New York City before moving on to the New York Daily News in 1991, where he served as an editorial page editor. In 1993, Cose was hired by Newsweek as a contributing editor where he remained until 2010.

Cose is the author of *A Nation of Strangers: Prejudice, Politics and the Populating of America* (1992), *The Rage of a Privileged Class* (1993), *Color-Blind: Seeing Beyond Race In A Race-Obsessed World* (2002), *The Envy Of The World: On Being a Black Man in America* (2002), *Bone to Pick: Of Forgiveness, Reconciliation, Reparation and Revenge* (2004), and *The End of Anger* (2011).

Cose lives in New York City with his wife, attorney Lee Llambelis. They have one daughter, Elisa Maria.

Ellis Cose was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 13, 2013.

Related Entries

Brown Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

McKinley High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

George Washington University School of Business

[STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

MBA

George Washington University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

M.A.

University of Illinois at Chicago [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Chicago Sun-Times [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1972 to 1976]

Reporter, Columnist, Editor, Correspondent

Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies

[EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1976 to 1978]

Senior Fellow and Director Energy Policy Studies

Detroit Free Press [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1979 to 1980]

Editorial Writer, Management Trainee

National Academy of Sciences, National Research

Council [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1981 to 1982]

Fellow

USA Today [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1982 to 1983]

Chief Writer on Workplace and Management

Institute for Journalism Education [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1983 to 1987]

President and Chief Executive Officer

Columbia University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1948 to ?]

Fellow, Gannett Center for Media Studies

Self Employed [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1989 to ?]

Independent Author and Public Speaker

Time, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1971 to ?]

Contributor and Press Critic

New York Daily News [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1977 to ?]

Chairman, Editorial Board, and Editorial Page

Newsweek Magazine [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1993 to 2011]

Columnist and Contributing Editor

Ellis Cose, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1990 to 1994]

President

Center for Work-Life Policy [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1983 to 1985]

Senior Advisor

National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ)

[MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

