

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Audrey Edwards

PERSON

Edwards, Audrey, 1947-

Alternative Names: Audrey Edwards;

Life Dates: April 21, 1947-

Place of Birth: Tacoma, Washington, USA

Residence: Brooklyn, NY

Occupations: Magazine Editor; Author

Biographical Note

Magazine editor and author Audrey M. Edwards was born on April 21, 1947 in Tacoma, Washington. Edwards received her B.A. degree from the University of Washington in 1969, and her M.A. degree from Columbia University in 1974.

In 1970, Edwards began her career at Redbook magazine as an associate editor in the fiction department. She served for one year as editor of Community New Service, a black and Puerto Rican news service in 1974. Then, in 1975, Edwards went to Fairchild Publications where she was hired as a news reporter for the trade paper, Supermarket News, and was then promoted to the promotions news editor position. In 1977, Edwards joined Black Enterprise magazine as an associate editor, but left in 1978 to become a senior editor at Family Circle magazine. Edwards was named executive editor of Essence magazine in 1981, and was promoted to the position of editor two years later. She left Essence in 1986 to open a real estate brokerage firm, Plaza Properties, but continued to write for the magazine as a contributing editor/writer. In 1990, she returned to Black Enterprise magazine as executive editor and vice president of editorial operations, while continuing to run her real estate business. In 1998, Edwards became a senior editor at More magazine.

In 2008, after successfully running her real estate company for twenty-two years, Edwards joined the real estate firm of Brown Harris Stevens as an associate broker. In addition, Edwards has served as an adjunct professor of magazine writing and magazine editing at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University and New York University, respectively. Edwards has consistently freelanced as a journalist, and her work has appeared in numerous publications including Vibe, the New York Times Sunday Magazine, the Columbia Journalism Review, Essence, More, Redbook, Ladies Home Journal, Glamour and Black Enterprise. Edwards has also authored several books

including, *Children of the Dream: The Psychology of Black Success*, published by Doubleday in 1992, and co-written with Dr. Craig Polite. Her latest work is a collaboration with Edward Lewis, co-founder, CEO and publisher of *Essence* magazine, on his business memoir, *The Man From Essence: Creating a Magazine for Black Women*, to be published by Atria Books (Simon & Schuster) in 2014.

Edwards' professional affiliations include membership in the New York Association of Black Journalists (NYABJ), The National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) and the Real Estate Board of New York (REBNY). She served as a regional director of NABJ from 1981 to 1983, and was the program co-chair for the NABJ Annual Convention held in New York in 1989. In 1992, Edwards received an NYABJ Excellence Award for Magazine Feature Writing.

Audrey Edwards was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on December 12, 2013.

Related Entries

University of Washington [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Columbia University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M.A.

Rogers Elementary School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Gault Middle School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Lincoln High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Fairchild Publications/Supermarket News [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to 1977]

Promotions News Editor

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Adjunct Professor

New York University Graduate School of Journalism [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Adjunct Professor

[EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Redbook [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1970 to 1974]

Associate Editor

Community News Service [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1974 to 1974]

Editor

Fairchild Publications/Supermarket News [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1975 to ?]

News Reporter

Black Enterprise [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1977 to 1978]

Associate Editor

Family Circle [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1978 to 1981]

Senior Editor

Essence [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1981 to 1983]

Executive Editor

Essence [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1983 to 1986]

Editor

Plaza Properties [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1986 to ?]

Founder/Owner

Black Enterprise [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1990 to 1998]

Executive Editor and Vice President of Editorial Operations

More Magazine [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 1998 to ?]

Senior Editor

Brown Harris Stevens [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 2008 to 2011]

Associate Broker

Brown Harris Stevens [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from 2011 to ?]

Vice President and Director

New York Association of Black Journalists [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Member

National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

Real Estate Board of New York [MEMBEROf]
[from ? to ?]

Member

National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) [MEMBEROf]
[from 1981 to 1983]

Regional Director

National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) [MEMBEROf]
[from 1989 to ?]

Program Co-Chair of Annual Convention