



Storyteller and Humorist

Allen "A.J." Joseph Smith, Jr. was born in Lafayette, Louisiana, on January 19, 1951. He currently lives with his wife, Anita, in Lake Charles, Louisiana. Allen has a technical degree in petroleum drafting and is a piping designer. He enjoys telling stories and jokes at festivals, corporate and associative meetings, on cruise ships, and at schools. A.J. first became interested in the craft as a young child listening to his parents, friends, and recordings of Bud Fletcher and Justin Wilson.

Cajun humorist A. J. Smith derives his humor directly from southwest Louisiana, where he and his family have lived in the heart of Cajun country for many generations. His exuberant delivery is a combination of facial punctuation and unwavering energy.

Allen Smith has demonstrated at these festivals: New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival; Cajun/Zydeco Fest in Fort Lauderdale; and Tastes of Louisiana Festival in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan and Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He appeared

on the Nashville Network with Doug Kershaw and Jo El Sonnier. A.J. also appeared in *Swapping Stories*, the movie *Dirty Rice*, and co-authored *Cajun Humor*, and won the 1991 winter International Cajun Joke Telling Contest.