

## A TOUCH OF CLASS

The FIELD MOB boys are just a pair of Georgia rappers with bad table manners and rough edges. Can a day at etiquette school transform them from ashy to classy?

Say it, don't spray it.



Over my head.



### > Clean Up Your Act:

"It's important that you always come out looking fresh," Ellerbee says while eyeing the six hairs sprouting from Shawn's chin.

The boys apply beauty products aggressively. Shawn soaks his braids with a can of hair sheen, and the aerosol suffocates everyone in the room. Next, he tries on a new scent, but he's more liberal with the cologne than the city of Amsterdam is with weed.

"I'm spraying it all over myself before I go to the club," Shawn says. Ellerbee coughs for a minute and then opts to move on.

Can I keep the props?" Shawn Jay shouts to no one in particular while swinging around an unopened bottle of cabernet. "What are we learnin' about anyway? Table manners? We're hungry!" Although he's eager to quiet his rumbling stomach, today's about more than breaking bread. Shawn and his partna Smoke are preparing for the release of their third CD, *Light Poles and Pine Trees*, so VIBE is lending a hand to their press campaign by pairing the duo with an etiquette coach. Angelo Ellerbee is a modern-day Emily Post. He's played Henry Higgins to everyone from Mary J. Blige to Big Daddy Kane. After a quick meet-and-greet at Ellerbee's Double XXposure office in New York City, Field Mob is put on its best behavior.

### > The Food

Ellerbee sits the boys down in front of fancy place settings and begins explaining the utensils. "There's the salad fork, dinner fork, and then the butter knife," he says.

The boys couldn't care less. Smoke's salad ends up all over the tablecloth. Meanwhile, Shawn sticks his knife through a piece of fish and bangs it against his plate.

"I just want to eat," Shawn whines. "We don't do the formal, 12-course dinner thing." Ellerbee excuses the starving pair from the table before they can break his fine china.

### > 21 Questions

When it comes to interview techniques, "Showing up is the first rule," Ellerbee says firmly. His other media rules include: Find something in common with your interviewer, be complimentary, and kill haters with kindness. "Never let anyone break down what you've said," he says. "Don't give them anything negative."

A mock Q&A pits Field Mob against Ellerbee, who impersonates an antagonistic reporter. Even when he compares a Field Mob concert to a high school talent show, they respond with clichéd compliments. The duo wins this showdown, proving that, sometimes, good etiquette is just good acting.

Mic check.



Training day.



Get your weight up.



### > The Workout Plan:

"Usually we have artists do some type of physical training," Ellerbee says. This lesson doesn't last very long.

"I bet you I can do 100 push-ups!" Smoke blurts out before ripping off his sweater and button-down. Ellerbee calls his bluff. After only 23 reps, Smoke collapses on the floor. After a handful of sit-ups, Shawn meets the same fate. "Close enough," Ellerbee says.

Tired, hungry, and slightly better behaved, Field Mob graduates with a passing grade. Barely. *Chris Yuscavage*

6: NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE HOSTED BET'S RAP CITY ("THE MAYOR" CHRIS THOMAS, JOE CLAIR, BIG LEZ, TIGGER, MAD LINX, AND J-NICKS). 15: YEARS RAP CITY HAS BEEN ON THE AIR. 100: REPORTED LENGTH (IN FEET) OF PRODUCER SCOTT STORCH'S MULTIMILLION-DOLLAR YACHT, DOCKED AT HIS MIAMI HOME.