

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Reginald Hudlin

PERSON

## Hudlin, Reginald

**Alternative Names:** Reginald Hudlin;

**Life Dates:** December 15, 1961-

**Place of Birth:** Centerville, Missouri, USA

**Work:** Beverly Hills, CA

**Occupations:** Film Director; Broadcast Executive; Television Director

### Biographical Note

Reginald Alan Hudlin was born on December 15, 1961, in Centerville, Missouri. He was raised in East St. Louis, Illinois, by his parents Warrington W. Hudlin, Sr. and Helen (Cason) Hudlin. In 1983, Hudlin received his B.A. degree from Harvard University where his senior thesis project was the first version of the film, *House Party*. Hudlin was supported as an artist-in-residence by the Illinois Arts Council from 1984 to 1985.

At the age of seventeen, Hudlin co-founded the non-profit Black Filmmakers Foundation (BFF) with his brother, Warrington Hudlin, Jr., in 1978. The brothers then formed Hudlin Bros., Inc., a production company which made several popular music videos for MCA and Polygram Records for artists like Heavy D and the Boyz, Guy and Blue Magic. In 1990, Hudlin expanded his Harvard thesis project into the full length feature film *House Party*, starring the rap duo Kid 'N Play. Hudlin directed the hit movie *Boomerang* in 1992, starring Eddie Murphy. Later that year, Hudlin co-executive produced *Bebe's Kids*, an animated musical comedy based on the comic monologues of the late Robin Harris. In 1994, Hudlin created and directed the animated series *Cosmic Slop* which combined fantasy and social commentary. He received a Cable Ace Award for his work on *Cosmic Slop* in 1995.

The Hudlin Brothers then founded Hudlin Bros. Records in 1996 and signed a distribution deal with Epic Records, a division of Sony. Between 1996 and 2002, Hudlin directed or produced a number of films including *The Great White Hype* (1996), *Ride* (1998), *The Ladies' Man* (2000) and *Serving Sara* (2002). Starting in 2004, Hudlin began writing the story line for the Marvel Comic series *Black Panther*, the first modern Black superhero. In 2005, Hudlin co-wrote a comic novel, *Birth of a Nation*, with *The Boondocks* creator Aaron McGruder. He also serves as executive producer for

the animated version of The Boondocks on the Cartoon Network. On July 12, 2005, Hudlin was named President of Entertainment for Black Entertainment Television (BET) Networks. At BET, Hudlin is chief programming executive in charge of the network's music, entertainment, specials, sports, news and public affairs, film and program acquisitions, home entertainment and programming development units. Hudlin married Chrisette Suter on November 30, 2002. They have a daughter, Helena Grace, and reside in Los Angeles, California.

## Related Entries

**Alta Sita Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**St. Francis Xavier School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Assumption Catholic High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Harvard University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Black Entertainment Television** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**President**

**Self Employed** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Filmmaker, Director and Producer**

**University of Wisconsin--Milwaukee** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Visiting Lecturer**

**Ogilvy and Mather** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Copywriter**

**Black Filmmakers Foundation** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]