

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Keith Clinkscales

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Clinkscales, Keith T., 1964-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Keith Clinkscales,
<b>Dates:</b>	July 18, 2014
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2014
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:06:18).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Magazine publishing entrepreneur and media executive Keith Clinkscales (1964 - ) , CEO of REVOLT Media & TV and Shadow League Digital, co-founded Urban Profile magazine in 1988 and Vanguarde Media, publisher of Honey, Heart & Soul and Savoy magazines, in 1999. He also helped establish Vibe magazine, serving as president and CEO of Vibe Ventures from 1993 to 1999. Clinkscales was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 18, 2014, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2014_150
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Media executive and magazine publishing entrepreneur Keith T. Clinkscales was born on January 7, 1964 in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He received his B.S. degree in accounting and finance from Florida A&M University in 1986, and his M.B.A. degree from Harvard Business School in 1990.

In 1988, Clinkscales co-founded *Urban Profile* magazine and served as publisher and editor-in-chief until 1992, when he sold the publication to Career Communications Group. He then helped Quincy Jones establish *Vibe* magazine in 1993 and was named president and chief executive officer. He also founded the publication's digital counterpart, Vibe.com, in 1994, and helped launch Vibe's *Blaze* magazine in 1998. From 1999 to 2003, Clinkscales co-founded and served as chairman and chief executive officer of Vanguarde Media, publisher of *Honey, Heart & Soul* and *Savoy* magazines.

In 2005, Clinkscales was hired to work for ESPN as senior vice president and general manager of ESPN Publishing. In 2007, he was named ESPN's senior vice president of content development and enterprises, where he served as executive producer for ESPN Films' documentaries, and scripted and unscripted projects including the 2011 launched Year of the Quarter Back; the acclaimed and Emmy-nominated *30 for 30* documentary series, *Black Magic*; *Ali Rap*; *Kobe Doin' Work*; *Renee*; *Catching Hell*; *A Race Story: Wendell Scott*; The Tribeca Sports Film Festival; *Elite 24*; and the highest rated documentary in ESPN's history, *The Fab Five*. Clinkscales was co-creator of ESPN's award-winning TV magazine show *E:60*, the *Homecoming with Rick Reilly* show, and the adapted *SportsNation* show. He also oversaw the ESPN Classic network, ESPN Books, the ESPYs, and the X Games.

In 2011, Clinkscales founded and became chief executive officer of Shadow League Digital, a multi-platform sports news organization in partnership with ESPN. Under Shadow League Digital, he developed Shadow League

Films and co-produced the 2012 Muhammad Ali 70 Special which aired on ESPN, as well as executive produced the ESPN documentary *Benji*. In 2013, Clinkscales was named chief executive officer of Sean “Diddy” Combs’ REVOLT Media.

His honors include two National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) Excellence in Journalism Awards, two Peabody Awards, the National Magazine Award, and an Emmy nomination. In 2008, he was named one of *Diversity MBA Magazine*’s “Top 100 under 50 Diverse Corporate Executives.” In 2007 and 2009, Clinkscales was listed among the “Top 50 Minorities in Cable” by *Cableworld Magazine*; in 2014, he appeared on the *CableFax Magazine* “Top 100 Executives in Cable” list. Clinkscales has served as treasurer of the Apollo Theater Foundation Board of Trustees, as a member of PepsiCo’s Multicultural Advisory Board, and a member of the Advisory Board at UrbanWorld Media, Inc. Since 2012, he has served on the Board of Directors for Florida A&M University (FAMU) Foundation and the Board of Visitors for Howard University’s School of Communications.

Keith Clinkscales was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 18, 2014.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Keith Clinkscales was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on July 18, 2014, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Magazine publishing entrepreneur and media executive Keith Clinkscales (1964 - ) , CEO of REVOLT Media & TV and Shadow League Digital, co-founded Urban Profile magazine in 1988 and Vanguarde Media, publisher of Honey, Heart & Soul and Savoy magazines, in 1999. He also helped establish Vibe magazine, serving as president and CEO of Vibe Ventures from 1993 to 1999.

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## Restrictions

### Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The HistoryMakers®.

### Restrictions on Use

All use of materials and use credits must be pre-approved by The HistoryMakers®. Appropriate credit must be given. Copyright is held by The HistoryMakers®.

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## Related Material

Information about the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview, as well as correspondence with the interview subject is stored electronically both on The HistoryMakers® server and in two databases maintained by The HistoryMakers®, though this information is not included in this finding aid.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Clinkscales, Keith T., 1964-

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Clinkscales, Keith T., 1964---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Magazine Publishing Entrepreneur

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Media Executive

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Interview footage was recorded by The HistoryMakers®. All rights to the interview have been transferred to The HistoryMakers® by the interview subject through a signed interview release form. Signed interview release forms have been deposited with Jenner & Block, LLP, Chicago.

### Preferred Citation

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Keith Clinkscales, July 18, 2014. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

- Video Oral History Interview with Keith Clinkscales, Section A2014\_150\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:38 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Keith Clinkscales, Section A2014\_150\_001\_002, TRT: 2:28:46 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Keith Clinkscales, Section A2014\_150\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:50 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Keith Clinkscales, Section A2014\_150\_001\_004, TRT: 4:31:19 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Keith Clinkscales, Section A2014\_150\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:19 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Keith Clinkscales, Section A2014\_150\_001\_006, TRT: 6:30:43 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Keith Clinkscales, Section A2014\_150\_001\_007, TRT: 7:32:55 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Keith Clinkscales, Section A2014\_150\_001\_008, TRT: 8:32:48 ?