

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Stephen Burrows

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Burrows, Stephen, 1943-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Burrows,
Dates:	August 13, 2014 and July 14, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014
Physical Description:	13 uncompressed MOV digital video files (5:44:39).
Abstract:	Fashion designer Stephen Burrows (1943 -) founded Stephen Burrows World at the Henri Bendel department store in New York City, and was one of five American designers showcased at the infamous 1973 benefit fashion show in Versailles, France. Burrows was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 13, 2014 and July 14, 2014, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_200
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Fashion designer Stephen Burrows was born on September 15, 1943 in Newark, New Jersey to Gerald Burrows and Octavia Pennington. At a very young age, Burrows started sewing and making clothes under the guidance of his grandmother, Beatrice Simmons. He went on to attend elementary school in Newark, New Jersey, and graduated from Arts High School in 1960. Burrows then attended the Philadelphia Museum College of Art from 1961 to 1962, and later graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City in 1966.

Upon graduation, Burrows was hired as a fashion designer for Weber Originals, but decided to work freelance in 1967. In 1968, he co-founded O Boutique in New York City. The following year, Burrows launched a ready-to-wear collection for the upscale department store Bonwit Teller with his friend Roz Rubenstein. In 1969, Burrows was introduced to Geraldine Stutz, president of the Henri Bendel department store, and was hired and offered his own boutique called Stephen Burrows World. The success of Stephen Burrows World was immediate, and allowed Burrows to cater to celebrity clientele such as Diana Ross, Cher and Barbra Streisand. In 1973, he left Bendel's, founded Burrows, Inc., and began working on New York's Seventh Avenue. That same year, Burrows was one of five American designers invited to show his clothes on the runway of Versailles, France, where he received rave reviews. He became the first African American designer to gain international fame.

In 1977, Burrows returned to Henri Bendel and joined Pat Tennant, Inc., but left again in 1982. In 1993, he became affiliated once more with Bendel's, and in 2002, reopened Stephen Burrows World. In 2010, Burrows designed a collection for Target retail stores and opened a showroom and design studio in New York City's garment center. In 2013, he became designer and president of Stephen Burrows, LTD.

Burrows has been honored with three Coty American Fashion Critics' Awards, the highest praise that can be awarded in fashion. In 1975, he received the Council of American Fashion Critics Award and the Knitted

Association Crystal Ball Award. He was named to the Fashion Walk of Fame in 2003 and received the Council of Fashion Designers of America's Board of Directors Special Tribute Award in 2006. In 2014, Burrows was honored with lifetime achievement awards from the Savannah College of Art and Design and the Pratt Institute of Design.

Stephen Burrows was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 14, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Stephen Burrows was conducted by Harriette Cole on August 13, 2014 and July 14, 2014, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 13 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Fashion designer Stephen Burrows (1943 -) founded Stephen Burrows World at the Henri Bendel department store in New York City, and was one of five American designers showcased at the infamous 1973 benefit fashion show in Versailles, France.

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®.

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.

Controlled Access Terms

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

Persons:

Burrows, Stephen, 1943-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Burrows, Stephen, 1943---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Fashion Designer

HistoryMakers® Category:

StyleMakers

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 Stephen Burrows, August 13, 2014 and July 14, 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).

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.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Burrows, Section A2014_200_001_001, TRT: 1:28:36 ?

- Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Burrows, Section A2014_200_001_002, TRT: 2:28:59 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Burrows, Section A2014_200_001_003, TRT: 3:29:17 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Burrows, Section A2014_200_001_004, TRT: 4:30:22 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Burrows, Section A2014_200_001_005, TRT: 5:28:29 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Burrows, Section A2014_200_001_006, TRT: 6:28:41 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Burrows, Section A2014_200_001_007, TRT: 7:15:39 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Burrows, Section A2014_200_002_008, TRT: 8:30:31 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Burrows, Section A2014_200_002_009, TRT: 9:31:12 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Burrows, Section A2014_200_002_010, TRT: 10:30:32 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Burrows, Section A2014_200_002_011, TRT: 11:29:29 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Burrows, Section A2014_200_002_012, TRT: 12:32:04 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Stephen Burrows, Section A2014_200_002_013, TRT: 13:00:48 ?