

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Brian Stokes Mitchell

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Mitchell, Brian Stokes
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Brian Stokes Mitchell,
Dates:	November 29, 2016
Bulk Dates:	2016
Physical Description:	10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:55:02).
Abstract:	Actor Brian Stokes Mitchell (1957 -), a Tony Award winning performer, appeared onstage in <i>Ragtime</i> ; <i>Kiss Me, Kate</i> ; and <i>Man of La Mancha</i> . He also appeared on television shows such as <i>The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air</i> , <i>Trapper John, M.D.</i> , and <i>Mr. Robot</i> . Mitchell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 29, 2016, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2016_146
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Actor Brian Stokes Mitchell was born on October 31, 1957 in Seattle, Washington to Lillian Stokes Mitchell and George Mitchell. Because of his father's position as a civilian electrical engineer in the U.S. Navy, Mitchell's family moved frequently during his childhood, living for a time in Guam and the Philippines before settling in San Diego, California in 1971. In high school, Mitchell performed with The Bright Side, a children's singing group that toured nationally, and acted in his first plays with the San Diego Junior Theater. At the age of sixteen, he made his professional acting debut in a production of *Godspell* at San Diego's Old Globe Theatre.

Mitchell moved to Los Angeles in 1976 to pursue a career in acting. He landed his first on-screen role in 1979, as John Dolan in *Roots: The Next Generations*. Later that same year, Mitchell became a series regular on the *MASH* spinoff *Trapper John, M.D.* After seven seasons on *Trapper John, M.D.*, Mitchell turned his focus to stage acting, making his Broadway debut in 1988 in the musical *Mail*. During the early 1990s, he appeared on stage as the replacement for the original lead, Gregory Hines, in *Jelly's Last Jam*, and played the recurring character Trevor Collins-Newsworthy on the television show *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*. Mitchell starred in the role of Coalhouse Walker in the musical *Ragtime* on Broadway in 1998, receiving a Tony Award nomination for Best Actor in a Musical. Also, in 1998, Mitchell provided the singing voice for the character Jethro in the animated film *The Prince of Egypt*. He went on to receive multiple leading man roles on Broadway, including as Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha* and as the King in *King Hedley II*. His performance as Fred Graham in *Kiss Me, Kate* earned him the 2000 Tony Award for Best Actor in a Musical and the 2000 Drama Desk Award Outstanding Actor in a Musical. Mitchell was cast in a recurring role on the USA Network television series *Mr. Robot* in 2015. In 2016, Mitchell played Fournoy Miller in George C. Wolfe's revival of the musical *Shuffle Along*, acting alongside Audra McDonald and Billy Porter. Mitchell's voice acting credits include *James Bond, Jr.*, *The Addams Family* and *Vampirina*.

Mitchell became the chairman of the board of the Actors Fund of America in 2004, and was honored with the 2016 Tony Award Isabelle Stevenson Award. A talented baritone singer, Mitchell released his self-titled album in 2006 and his second album entitled *Simply Broadway* in 2012.

Mitchell and his wife, Allyson Tucker, have one son, Ellington Mitchell.

Brian Stokes Mitchell was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 29, 2016.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Brian Stokes Mitchell was conducted by Harriette Cole on November 29, 2016, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Actor Brian Stokes Mitchell (1957 -), a Tony Award winning performer, appeared onstage in *Ragtime*; *Kiss Me, Kate*; and *Man of La Mancha*. He also appeared on television shows such as *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*, *Trapper John, M.D.*, and *Mr. Robot*.

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:

Mitchell, Brian Stokes

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Mitchell, Brian Stokes--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Actor

HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers

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 Brian Stokes Mitchell, November 29, 2016. 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 Brian Stokes Mitchell, Section A2016_146_001_001, TRT: 1:29:55 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Brian Stokes Mitchell, Section A2016_146_001_002, TRT: 2:28:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Brian Stokes Mitchell, Section A2016_146_001_003, TRT: 3:33:43 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Brian Stokes Mitchell, Section A2016_146_001_004, TRT: 4:28:00 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Brian Stokes Mitchell, Section A2016_146_001_005, TRT: 5:31:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Brian Stokes Mitchell, Section A2016_146_001_006, TRT: 6:30:21 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Brian Stokes Mitchell, Section A2016_146_001_007, TRT: 7:30:18 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Brian Stokes Mitchell, Section A2016_146_001_008, TRT: 8:30:10 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Brian Stokes Mitchell, Section A2016_146_001_009, TRT: 9:30:55 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Brian Stokes Mitchell, Section A2016_146_001_010, TRT: 10:21:31 ?