

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Wyclef Jean

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Jean, Wyclef
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Wyclef Jean,
Dates:	December 12, 2016
Bulk Dates:	2016
Physical Description:	10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:28:38).
Abstract:	Hip hop artist Wyclef Jean (1969 -) was a founding member of the hip-hop group the Fugees, before launching his own solo career. He also produced music for artists like Carlos Santana, the Knocks and Shakira. Jean was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 12, 2016, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2016_148
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Hip hop artist Wyclef Jean was born on October 17, 1969 in Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti to Yolanda Jean and Gesner Jean. His family emigrated from Haiti to Brooklyn, New York, and moved to Newark, New Jersey. Jean graduated from Vailsburg High School in Newark in 1988, and attended East Nazarene College and Five Towns College.

In 1990, Jean, Pras Michel and Lauryn Hill formed the musical group the Fugees. The Fugees released their LP *Blunted on Reality* in 1994, followed in 1996 with their most popular album, *The Score*. Achieving significant commercial success with *The Score*, and winning the 1997 Grammy Award for Best Rap Album of the Year, the Fugees disbanded in 1997, and Jean began his solo career with the release of his debut album *The Carnival*. He continued to release albums throughout the 2000s including *The Eclectic: 2 Sides II a Book*, *Masquerade*, *The Preacher's Son*, *Welcome to Haiti: Creole 101*, *Carnival Vol. II: Memoirs of an Immigrant*, *From the Hut, To the Projects*, *To the Mansion*, *J'ouvert*, and *Carnival III: Road to Clefication*. In 2006, Jean became widely known for his feature on singer Shakira's single "Hips Don't Lie," which topped the U.S. Billboard Charts. As a producer, Jean worked with a diverse array of artists over the years including rappers Canibus and T.I., Latin guitarist Carlos Santana, Italian singer Eros Ramazzotti, and electronic music duo the Knocks. In addition, Jean composed music for movies like *The Agronomist*, *Ghosts of Cité Soleil*, *A Place In Time*, and the song "Million Voices" for the movie *Hotel Rwanda*. Jean also was featured in several cameo roles on the NBC show *Third Watch*, and the ABC show *Nashville*.

In 2001, Jean established the charity organization Yéle Haiti, in order to provide aid after Hurricane Jeanne, and the 2010 Haitian earthquake. He also participated in the benefit concert "America: A Tribute to Heroes" following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. In 2010, Jean announced a run for the presidency of Haiti, but was ruled ineligible. Jean published his memoir "Purpose: An Immigrant's Story" in 2012.

Jean and his wife, Claudinette Fushard Jean, have one daughter, Angelina Jean.

Wyclef Jean was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 12, 2016.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Wyclef Jean was conducted by Harriette Cole on December 12, 2016, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Hip hop artist Wyclef Jean (1969 -) was a founding member of the hip-hop group the Fugees, before launching his own solo career. He also produced music for artists like Carlos Santana, the Knocks and Shakira.

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:

Jean, Wyclef

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Jean, Wyclef--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Hip Hop Artist

HistoryMakers® Category:

MusicMakers

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 Wyclef Jean, December 12, 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 Wyclef Jean, Section A2016_148_001_001, TRT: 1:28:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Wyclef Jean, Section A2016_148_001_002, TRT: 2:27:17 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Wyclef Jean, Section A2016_148_001_003, TRT: 3:31:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Wyclef Jean, Section A2016_148_001_004, TRT: 4:30:16 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Wyclef Jean, Section A2016_148_001_005, TRT: 5:26:11 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Wyclef Jean, Section A2016_148_001_006, TRT: 6:24:09 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Wyclef Jean, Section A2016_148_001_007, TRT: 7:33:21 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Wyclef Jean, Section A2016_148_001_008, TRT: 8:22:32 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Wyclef Jean, Section A2016_148_001_009, TRT: 9:31:15 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Wyclef Jean, Section A2016_148_001_010, TRT: 10:14:20 ?