

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Petrella Pollefeyt

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Pollefeyt, Petrella, 1947-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Petrella Pollefeyt,
Dates:	April 2, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:58:24).
Abstract:	Singer Petrella Pollefeyt (1947-) was discovered in 1988 by pioneer record producer Jack Gale, and released her debut album <i>Countryversial</i> in 1993. She was named New Female Vocalist and Album of the Year in Nashville Tracker Magazine in 1994. Pollefeyt was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 2, 2018, in San Francisco, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_059
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Singer Petrella Pollefeyt was born on April 15, 1947 in Hot Springs, Arkansas to Herbert and Dorothy Bonner. She graduated from Goldstein Elementary School in 1959, and from Langston Junior/Senior High School in 1964. Pollefeyt received her B.S. degree in business administration from Philander Smith College in 1968.

In 1968, Pollefeyt went to work for the National Rejecters Industries as a timekeeper. In 1972, Pollefeyt became the first African American administrator for Governor of Arkansas Dale Bumpers. She later accepted a position with Alcoa Aluminum and in 1973, Pollefeyt moved to Detroit, Michigan and worked for Chrysler Defense. She was later married and moved St. Louis, Missouri and worked for the GAF Corporation in 1976. Pollefeyt worked in the GAF accounting department from 1976 to 1980 and then at Kimmenade as an office manager in accounting and administration from 1980 to 1984. She then joined JC Penney in accounts payable from 1984 to 1986 as well as working as an accounting administrative assistant for Ford Aerospace and for Pyromet Industries in accounting and administration from 1989 to 1994.

Pollefeyt's singing talent was discovered by noted indie Nashville pioneer record producer Jack Gale in 1988. She also became a songwriting member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers in 1992, and Pollefeyt released her debut album *Countryversial* in 1993. Her single *I Found Somebody* spent fourteen weeks on the national Top 100 Country Singles Chart and she was the first African American female in country music to be featured on the cover of *Cashbox* magazine. She was named New Female Vocalist and Album of the Year in *Nashville Tracker* Magazine in 1994. Pollefeyt served as partner for P2 Production and P. Phunk Music, from 1994 to 2007, while serving as president of the charitable organization, Dreams of the Heartland Foundation in 1996. She was also credited on the albums *Papa Did A Raindance* in 2001, and *Find A Cure* in 2002. She released *Walk Around Heaven*, *Homes for the Holidays* and *Dreams of the Heartland* albums on the Petrella record label in 2005, and became a registered agent and manager for Garden Mound LLC in 2007. Pollefeyt released her single, *Working in The USA* to country radio in 2013. Pollefeyt and Jack Gale celebrated the 25th Anniversary of her

musical career with the release of the CD *Shine on Me*.

Pollefeyt twice received the Golden Microphone Award in 2002 and 2003, and Producer's Choice Award in 2002 and 2004 from Airplay International King Eagle Awards.

Pollefeyt donated her personal papers, audio and video recordings, posters, costumes and memorabilia documenting her career as a country soul singer-songwriter to Archives of African American Music and Culture at Indiana University for Petrella Pollefeyt Collection. Pollefeyt also gifted an annual donation to her alma mater, Philander Smith College for the music students. She shared her legacy, donated historic land and family property to the Garland County Habitat for Humanity in Hot Springs.

Petrella Pollefeyt was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 2, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Petrella Pollefeyt was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 2, 2018, in San Francisco, California, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Singer Petrella Pollefeyt (1947-) was discovered in 1988 by pioneer record producer Jack Gale, and released her debut album *Countryversal* in 1993. She was named New Female Vocalist and Album of the Year in Nashville Tracker Magazine in 1994.

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:

Pollefeyt, Petrella, 1947-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Pollefeyt, Petrella, 1947- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Singer

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 Petrella Pollefeyt, April 2, 2018. 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 Petrella Pollefeyt, Section A2018_059_001_001, TRT: 1:30:02 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Petrella Pollefeyt, Section A2018_059_001_002, TRT: 2:27:29 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Petrella Pollefeyt, Section A2018_059_001_003, TRT: 3:28:54 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Petrella Pollefeyt, Section A2018_059_001_004, TRT: 4:29:05 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Petrella Pollefeyt, Section A2018_059_001_005, TRT: 5:26:48 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Petrella Pollefeyt, Section A2018_059_001_006, TRT: 6:29:19 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Petrella Pollefeyt, Section A2018_059_001_007, TRT: 7:02:05 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Petrella Pollefeyt, Section A2018_059_001_008, TRT: 8:04:42 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Petrella Pollefeyt, Section A2018_059_Pollefeyt_Petrella_06_MED_001, TRT: 0:42:15
- Video Oral History Interview with Petrella Pollefeyt, Section A2018_059_Pollefeyt_Petrella_06_MED_002, TRT: 0:27:54