

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Pemon Rami

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Rami, Pemon
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Pemon Rami,
Dates:	July 13, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:43:49).
Abstract:	Arts administrator and theater director Pemon Rami (1950 -) director of educational services and public programs at The DuSable Museum of African American History and produced <i>Of Boys and Men</i> , <i>Nineteen and A Day: The Life and Times of D-Jef</i> , and <i>93 Days</i> . Rami was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 13, 2018, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_141
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Arts administrator and theater director Pemon Rami was born on August 9, 1950 in Chicago, Illinois to Mary Foster and Harold Ray. At the age of fourteen Rami started his first theatre company with the support and encouragement of Okoro Harold Johnson. At eighteen, Rami became the associate director of the Southside Center for the Performing Arts formerly the Joe Louis Theatre under the direction of Theodore Ward. The following year, Rami took over Val Gray Ward's role as director of the Kuumba Theater, one of Chicago's first African-American independent theaters. In 1973, Rami founded the Lamont Zeno Theater where he served as the artistic and managing director with the Better Boys Foundation. There, Rami directed numerous productions including: *The Black Fairy* and *Young John Henry*, written by Chicago-based poet, Useni Eugene Perkins.

The first African American film casting director in Chicago, Rami provided talent for the classic feature films and television movies; *Blues Brothers*, *Mahogany*, *Cooley High*, *The Spook Who Sat by The Door*, and *Uptown Saturday Night*. As an actor Rami appeared in the PBS weekly series *Bird of the Iron Feather*.

After relocating to Los Angeles for over twenty years, in 2004, Rami returned to Chicago and produced *Stories from the Soul* a TV series for the Black Family Channel and the feature film *Of Boys and Men*, starring Angela Bassett and Robert Townsend.

Pemon co-founded Productions to Change Lives (P2CL) a training and production model, which focused on integrating art and media through the eyes of teens, in an effort to effect community involvement and positive change. Through the P2CL Teen Talk Radio apprenticeship program implemented at high schools in Chicago, Rami and his wife Masequa Myers mentored over 300 teens and indirectly impacted thousands through live performances and weekly radio broadcasts.

In 2011, Pemon became director of educational services and public programs at The DuSable Museum of African American History in Chicago. After five years with DuSable, Rami returned to filmmaking and produced the

feature film *93 Days* in Lagos, Nigeria starring Danny Glover for which he was nominated for an African Academy Award and received the Visionary Award in 2016 at the Los Angeles Pan African Film Festival.

Rami served on the Joseph Jefferson Awards committee from 2016 to 2018. He was selected one of the Chicago Defender's "50 Men of Excellence," as well as to the Wendell Phillips High School Hall of Fame. Rami has also been recognized with awards from numerous organizations including: Deloris Jordan Award for Excellence in Community Leadership at the Black Harvest Film Festival, American Advertising Federation, International Television Association, the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP (Best Theatre Director Award), Proclamation from the Los Angeles City Council, Key to the City of Detroit and the Life Time Achievement Award from the Chicago African American Arts Alliance.

Pemon Rami was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 13, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Pemon Rami was conducted by Larry Crowe on July 13, 2018, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Arts administrator and theater director Pemon Rami (1950 -) director of educational services and public programs at The DuSable Museum of African American History and produced *Of Boys and Men*, *Nineteen and A Day: The Life and Times of D-Jef*, and *93 Days*.

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:

Rami, Pemon

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Rami, Pemon--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Theater Director

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 Pemon Rami, July 13, 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 Pemon Rami, Section A2018_141_001_001, TRT: 1:29:13 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Pemon Rami, Section A2018_141_001_002, TRT: 2:29:58 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Pemon Rami, Section A2018_141_001_003, TRT: 3:29:21 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Pemon Rami, Section A2018_141_001_004, TRT: 4:29:32 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Pemon Rami, Section A2018_141_001_005, TRT: 5:28:37 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Pemon Rami, Section A2018_141_001_006, TRT: 6:29:44 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Pemon Rami, Section A2018_141_001_007, TRT: 7:32:13 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Pemon Rami, Section A2018_141_001_008, TRT: 8:15:11 ?