

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Tony F. Sias

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Sias, Tony F., 1964-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Tony F. Sias,
Dates:	September 25, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:24:54).
Abstract:	Arts administrator Tony F. Sias (1964 -) was the director of arts and education for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and the president and CEO of the Karamu House in Cleveland, Ohio. Sias was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 25, 2018, in Cleveland, Ohio. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_190
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Arts administrator Tony F. Sias was born on December 20, 1964 in Jackson, Mississippi to Helen Louise Walker Sias and Leo Sterling Sias, Sr. After graduating from John W. Provine High School, Sias went on to receive his B.S. degree in dramatic arts from Jackson State University in 1988, and his M.F.A. degree in acting from Ohio University in 1992.

While earning his M.F.A. degree, Sias was an intern and resident at the Cleveland Play House in Cleveland, Ohio. After graduating, he remained in Cleveland and began acting in several of the city's theaters including a production of Kathleen McGhee-Anderson's *Oak and Ivy* at the Karamu House in 1993. Sias then went on to work as a program director for the Rap Arts Youth Fellowship Program through The Centers for Families and Children before moving to the Murtis Taylor Human Services System where he ran the Coordinated Arts Program for the Greater Cleveland Neighborhood Centers Association. In 1998, Sias performed in a production of Tony Kushner's *Angels in America: A Gay Fantasia on National Themes* at the Dobama Theatre in Cleveland. For this performance, Sias and his fellow cast members earned a collective Ensemble Keefer Award. The next year, he returned to the Karamu House to perform in *Crumbs From the Table of Joy* by Lynn Nottage. Sias made one of his first directing debuts in 1999 at the Cleveland Public Theatre where he directed the world premiere of Keith Josef Adkins' *On the Hills of Black America*. Then, in 2000, Sias became the director of arts education for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. While in this position, Sias continued to perform in and direct productions throughout the city including *Elevator* at the Karamu House in 2001 and the Ensemble Theatre's one-man show *Paul Robeson*. In 2003, while still working for the school district, Sias became the director of the All-City Musical and served as the artistic director of the Cleveland School of the Arts. He also began teaching at Cuyahoga Community College. In 2008, Sias served as a delegate from the U.S. Department of State to Istanbul, Turkey as a representative of the Council of International Programs, USA. In 2015, Sias became the president and CEO of the historic Karamu House in Cleveland. There, he continued to direct and create new productions including the Karamu House's *Holiday Jazz Revue*.

Sias served on the board of trustees of the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture, Inc. and as a board member of The League of Historic American Theatres, Inc. He was also an advisory board member for Project 1 Voice, Inc. Sias also received several awards for his acting and directing in Cleveland including the Ohio House of Representatives Tribute for Excellent Leadership and the Times Newspaper's Outstanding Director.

Tony F. Sias was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on September 25, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Tony F. Sias was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 25, 2018, in Cleveland, Ohio, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Arts administrator Tony F. Sias (1964 -) was the director of arts and education for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and the president and CEO of the Karamu House in Cleveland, Ohio.

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:

Sias, Tony F., 1964-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Sias, Tony F., 1964- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Arts Administrator

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 Tony F. Sias, September 25, 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 Tony F. Sias, Section A2018_190_001_001, TRT: 1:28:37 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Tony F. Sias, Section A2018_190_001_002, TRT: 2:29:09 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Tony F. Sias, Section A2018_190_001_003, TRT: 3:28:37 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Tony F. Sias, Section A2018_190_001_004, TRT: 4:30:36 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Tony F. Sias, Section A2018_190_001_005, TRT: 5:27:55 ?