

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Oscar Brown, Jr.

PERSON

Brown, Oscar, 1926-

Alternative Names: Brown, Oscar , 1926-; Oscar Brown; Oscar Cicero Brown, Jr.; Oscar Deric Brown

Life Dates: October 10, 1926-May 29, 2005

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois

Residence: Chicago, Illinois

Occupations: Poet; Entertainer; Music Composer

Biographical Note

Born October 10, 1926, in Chicago, Oscar Brown, Jr. defied narrow definition. Throughout his forty-year career, he was part jazz singer, part poet, part entertainer and part songwriter. As an aspiring young playwright in 1960, Brown made an unprecedented two-hour appearance on NBC soon after writing "Kicks & Company". Though the play never made it to Broadway, Brown had arrived. He began sharing the stage with such greats as Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, John Coltrane, Nancy Wilson and Julius "Cannonball" Adderley. His London-based, two-hour, one-man show, "Oscar Brown, Jr. Entertains," led him to be hailed as a musical genius. He also made headlines with a project that worked effectively with local gang members, done in conjunction with his performance partner and wife, Jean Pace. Among their many discoveries were the Jackson Five. A composer of several hundred songs and more than a dozen full-length feature pieces, Brown lived in Chicago with his family.

He passed away on May 29, 2005.

Related Entries

Clark, Margaret [GRANDCHILD^{OF}]
Grandmother (M)

Lawrence , Walter [GRANDCHILD^{OF}]
Grandfather (M)

Fairchild, Laura [GRANDCHILD^{OF}]
Grandmother (P)

Brown, Napoleon [PARENT^{OF}]
Son

Brown , Joan [PARENT^{OF}]
Daughter

Brown Kane, Donna [PARENT^{OF}]
Daughter

Case, Iantha [PARENT^{OF}]
Daughter

Brown, Maggie [PARENT^{OF}]
Daughter

Brown, Africa Pace [PARENT^{OF}]
Daughter

Pace, Jean [SPOUSE^{OF}]
Wife

Brown, Sterling [GRANDCHILD^{OF}]
Grandfather (P)

Brown, Sr., Oscar [CHILD^{OF}]
Father

Brown, Helen Lawrence [CHILD^{OF}]
Mother

Brown, Helen [SIBLING^{OF}]
Sister

Frances E. Willard Elementary School [STUDENT^{OF}]
[from ? to ?]

Urban Prep Charter Academy for Young Men: Englewood Campus
[STUDENT^{OF}]
[from ? to ?]

diploma

Lincoln University [STUDENT^{OF}]
[from ? to ?]

University of Wisconsin-Madison [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Entertainer [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1960 to 2005]

Self-employed entertainer

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People [MEMBEROF]
Member

Communist Party of the United States of America [MEMBEROF]
Member