

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Oscar Brown, Jr.

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Brown, Oscar, Jr.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Brown, Jr.,
Dates:	September 19, 2000
Bulk Dates:	2000
Physical Description:	7 Betacam SP videocassettes (3:23:14).
Abstract:	Poet, entertainer, and music composer Oscar Brown, Jr. (1926 - 2005) was a black music theorist whose compositions include the song "Afro Blue" which has been performed by Dianne Reeves, Dee Dee Bridgewater and Liz Wright. Brown was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 19, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2000_010
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

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.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Oscar Brown, Jr. was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on September 19, 2000, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 7 Betacam SP videocassettes. Poet, entertainer, and music composer Oscar Brown, Jr. (1926 - 2005) was a black music theorist whose

compositions include the song “Afro Blue” which has been performed by Dianne Reeves, Dee Dee Bridgewater and Liz Wright.

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:

Brown, Oscar

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Bieschke, Paul (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews.

Brown, Oscar--Interviews.

African American artists--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews.

African American musicians--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews.

African American entertainers--Illinois--Chicago--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers

EntertainmentMakers

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 Oscar Brown, Jr., September 19, 2000. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 6/8/2015 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, September 19, 2000

Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Brown, Jr., Section A2000_010_001_001,
TRT: 1:31:08 2000/09/19

Childhood--Illinois--Chicago.
African American families.
African American parents.
African American neighborhoods.

Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Brown, Jr., Section A2000_010_001_002,
TRT: 2:31:17 2000/09/19

African American neighborhoods--Illinois--Chicago.
Communist parties.
Radio broadcasting--Illinois--Chicago.
African Americans--Education (Higher).

Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Brown, Jr., Section A2000_010_001_003,
TRT: 3:30:55 2000/09/19

African American political activists--Illinois--Chicago.
Communist parties.
Labor unions--United States.
African American musicians--Illinois--Chicago.
Theatrical productions.

Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Brown, Jr., Section A2000_010_001_004,
TRT: 4:29:07 2000/09/19

African American music.
Gangs--Illinois--Chicago.
Playwriting.
African American dancers.

Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Brown, Jr., Section A2000_010_001_005,
TRT: 5:31:13 2000/09/19

African American communities.
African Americans in art.
Community activists.

Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Brown, Jr., Section A2000_010_001_006,
TRT: 6:29:12 2000/09/19

Pace, Jean.
Taxation.
Race relations.

Video Oral History Interview with Oscar Brown, Jr., Section A2000_010_001_007,
TRT: 7:20:22 2000/09/19