

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers - Special Collection: Fashion Chicago Style

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	The HistoryMakers
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers - Special Collection: Fashion Chicago Style,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 2, 2008
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2008
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1 Betacam SP videocassette (0:17:30).
<b>Abstract:</b>	This collection contains footage used for Fashion Chicago Style. This collection contains records of the sponsors for the event, records of the production of the live event, research on the honorees and talent, press releases, printed material and graphics used during the shooting. Fashion Chicago Style was a public program The HistoryMakers and the Chicago History Museum collaborated on to make possible. The program was a panel discussion with five HistoryMaker StyleMakers about their work as stylists in their perspective industries and the fashion industry in general in Chicago. The event was held at the Chicago History Museum in Chicago, Illinois on December 2, 2008 and a reception was held before the program began. The five StyleMaker panelists were fashion designers Barbara Bates, Jermikko Shoshanna Johnson and Reginald Thomas; fashion consultant, Barbara Samuels; and hairstylist and salon owner Leigh Jones. The event was moderated by WGN-TV anchor, Micah Materre.
<b>Identification:</b>	S2008_004
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

### The HistoryMakers

The HistoryMakers is a national 501(c)(3) non profit educational institution founded in 1999, committed to preserving, developing and providing easy access to an internationally recognized, archival collection of thousands of African American video oral histories. The HistoryMakers is the single largest archival collection of its kind in the world designed to promote and celebrate the successes and to document movements, events and organizations that are important to the African American community and to American society.

The HistoryMakers is the next methodic and wide-scale collection effort since the WPA Slave Narratives Project from 1936 to 1938. The HistoryMakers goal is to complete 5,000 interviews of both well-known and unsung African American HistoryMakers. In recording messages of leadership, achievement and perseverance embodied in these life stories, The HistoryMakers has disseminates its

holdings through traditional and interactive media as well as public programs, special events, an interactive website and a unique digital archive.

The purpose of this archive is to educate the world on the accomplishments of African Americans, show the breadth and depth of this important American history as told in the first person, highlight the accomplishments of individual African Americans, showcase those who have played a role in African American-led movements and/or organizations and preserve these video oral histories for years and generations to come.

## **Barbara Bates**

Fashion designer Barbara Bates was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1955. Bates went through Chicago's public school system and graduated from Marshall High School in 1962. In 1984, while working as a secretary for the First National Bank of Chicago, Bates began selling the clothing she made out of the bathroom during lunchtime. This experience led Bates to design clothes full time and, two years later, she opened a 700-square foot showroom. In 1999, Bates founded the Bates Foundation to provide custom prom dresses to underprivileged or hard-to-fit young women from inner-city schools in Chicago. Bates' desire to make dresses for these women comes primarily from her own trials as a teen mother. Bates Designs continues to be a leader in the world of fashion. Exotic fabrics and leather trim are among the hallmarks of her designs. Bates has outfitted numerous celebrities, including Sinbad, Michael Jordan, Whitney Houston and Mike Tyson.

## **Leigh Jones**

Cosmetologist, salon owner, and award winning hairstylist, Leigh Jones was born December 22, 1944 in Kansas City, Kansas. He graduated from Chicago's Westcott Vocational High School in 1960. In 1962, Jones enrolled in the American School of Beauty Culture, as one of the first African American students, and he graduated with his license in 1964. He worked for a number of exclusive salons before opening his own salon in 1983. During this period he was also the stylist for television's A. M. Chicago and its host, Oprah Winfrey. Early on Jones became the hairstylist of choice for many well known clients including: Lena Horne, Eunice Johnson, Dori Wilson, Heather Bilandic, Diahann Carroll, Natalie Cole, Marlo Thomas, Barbara Eden, Billy Dee Williams, Debra Norville, Phyllis Newman, and Essie Kuppinet. He is known for treating all of his clients with the same high standard of courtesy and enjoys the positive feedback he gets from his work.

## **Jermikko Shoshannah Johnson**

Fashion designer Jermikko Shoshanna Taliaferro Johnson is a Chicago native whose father was an entrepreneur and mother a textile weaver. Johnson combined the talents of both parents by founding her own fashion design business. Johnson earned a bachelor of fine arts degree from the School of the Art Institute in 1972 and was hired by Eucos in Evanston, Illinois, upon graduating. Johnson worked as a fashion designer for a succession of firms, including Fureal; Pier 1 Imports; Revere Sportswear; and HJ, Inc. In 1979, she founded Jermikko Shoshanna Johnson Originals, and in 1987 created JJ Hobeau. Her businesses thrive today. Johnson won the State of Illinois Fashion Designer of the Year Award in 1997 and was honored as the Manufacturer of the Millennium in 1999. Johnson also started the adult education fashion design programs at Olive-Harvey College and Chicago State University.

## **Barbara Samuels**

Business consultant, retail buyer, fashion consultant, and retail buyer Barbara Samuels was born in

1937 in Gary, Indiana. After graduating from Lucy Flower Vocational High School, she attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and Chicago State University. Starting in 1963 as a copywriter for the Sears Catalog, Samuels was promoted to the position of buyer of handbags and to national buyer of casual footwear. She was named "Buyer of the Year" in 1988. Samuels then launched THE LION'S SHARE in 1994 to offer profit-oriented advice for the fashion industry. Featured on Channel 32 Fox TV, WVON Radio, and the Bertrice Berry Show, Samuels has worked as wardrobe and set design consultant for public television's America's Family Kitchen with Vertamae Grosvenor. Samuels serves on several boards including Fashion Group International, Apparel Industry Board, Inc. of Illinois, GenArt, Color of Fashion, the Chicago Urban League and the Costume Committee of the Chicago Historical Society.

## Reginald Thomas

Fashion designer Reginald Thomas was born in Lake Wales, Florida on October 21, 1957. Following the deaths of his mother at age five and his father when he was nine, Thomas was sent to Chicago to live with his oldest sister, and there his artistic talents blossomed. At thirteen, he was given a sewing machine for Christmas, and he spent long hours sewing in the closet of his home. After high school, Thomas attended Northern Illinois University, hoping to become a special education teacher, but following a successful fashion show, he transferred to the Art Institute of Chicago. Thomas graduated from the Art Institute in 1983, and the following year, his signature line, Reginald Designs, was born. Since then, Thomas has been a key figure in the Chicago fashion scene. His designs are known for their clean lines, flowing fabrics, interchangeable pieces and comfort, and he takes pride in ensuring that his work is available to all.

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## Scope and Content

This collection contains footage and administrative records from The HistoryMakers - Special Collection: Fashion Chicago Style filmed on December 2, 2008, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 1 Betacam SP videocassette. This collection contains footage used for the event, records of the sponsors for the event, records of the production of the live event, research on the honorees and talent, press releases, printed material and graphics used during the shooting.

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## 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®.

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## Related Material

Additional information pertaining to this special collection 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Bates, Barbara(Interviewee)

Jones, Leigh(Interviewee)

Johnson, Jermikko Shoshannah (Interviewee)

Samuels, Barbara (Interviewee)

Thomas, Reginald (Interviewee)

Materre, Micah (Interviewee)

### Subjects:

African American beauty operators--Interviews

African American fashion designers--Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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Chicago History Museum

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

Event 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 - Special Collection: Fashion Chicago Style, December 2, 2008. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

## Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 1/7/2013 by The HistoryMakers® staff. The finding aid was created adhering to the following standards: DACS, AACR2, and the Oral History Cataloging Manual (Matters 1995).

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## Other Finding Aid

A Microsoft Access contact database and a FileMaker Pro tracking database, both maintained by The HistoryMakers®, keep additional data pertaining to this special collection..

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Program Footage, December 2, 2008

#### Show Elements (1 Beta Cam SP Tape)

Show Elements: Clip Roll In, TRT: 0:05:50

Fashion Chicago Style was a public program The HistoryMakers and the Chicago History Museum collaborated on to make possible. The program was a panel discussion with five HistoryMaker StyleMakers about their work as stylists in their perspective industries and the fashion industry in general in Chicago. The event was held at the Chicago History Museum in Chicago, Illinois on December 2, 2008 and a reception was held before the program began. The five StyleMaker panelists were fashion designers Barbara Bates, Jermikko Shoshanna Johnson and Reginald Thomas; fashion consultant, Barbara Samuels; and hairstylist and salon owner Leigh Jones. The event was moderated by WGN-TV anchor, Micah Materre.

## Container List

### Series II: Administrative Records and Production Information, 2005

#### Fashion Chicago Style (0.4 Linear Feet)

Folder# 1: Fundraising, Sponsors, Acceptances

- Folder# 2: Event, Printed Materials
- Folder# 3: Event, Printed Materials, DVDs
- Folder# 4: Event, Printed Materials, Flyer
- Folder# 5: Event, Printed Materials, Invitations
- Folder# 6: Event, Public Relations, Press
- Folder# 7: Event, RSVPs
- Folder# 8: Production, Crew
- Folder# 9: Production, Schedule
- Folder# 10: Production, Script
- Folder# 11: Production, Talent, Honorees
- Folder# 12: Production, Talent, Moderator