

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Abena Joan P. Brown

PERSON

Brown, Abena Joan, 1928-2015

Alternative Names: Abena Joan P. Brown; Abena Joan Brown;

Life Dates: May 8, 1928-July 12, 2015

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Residence: Chicago, IL

Occupations: Stage Producer

Biographical Note

Abena Joan P. Brown was born on the South Side of Chicago. Brown was one of those rare individuals who was not only passionate about the creative arts, but also shrewd enough to see the need for organization. Over the years, Brown distinguished herself as a masterful businesswoman as well as an artist. With over one hundred-fifty professional theater productions to her credit, in addition to a Master's degree in Community Organization and Management from the University of Chicago, Brown was the driving force behind the 1971 creation of the eta Creative Arts Foundation, the only African American full service cultural arts collective in Chicago and the nation.

Her many honors included an Award of Merit from the Black Theater Alliance, The Paul Robeson Award from the Chicago African American Arts Alliance, the Governor's Award in the Arts and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Joseph Jefferson Committee. Brown was also cited as one of America's Top Business and Professional Women by Dollars and Sense magazine, and she was inducted into the Women's Hall of Fame of Chicago in 1991. Always looking towards the future, Brown was committed to building eta Creative Arts Foundation. Her goal was to always provide a venue where the stories of African American people will be told "in the first voice" for generations to come.

Brown passed away on July 12, 2015 at age 86.

Related Entries

University of Chicago [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

ETA Creative Arts Foundation [EMPLOYEEOF]

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