Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Janet Angel MacLachlan

MacLachlan, Janet

Alternative Names: Janet Angel MacLachlan; Janet Angel MacLachlan

Life Dates: August 27, 1933-October 11, 2010

Place of Birth: New York, New York, USA

Residence: Los Angeles, CA

Occupations: Stage Actress; Film Actress

Biographical Note

Stage and film actress Janet Angel MacLachlan was born on August 8, 1933, in Harlem, New York; her mother, Iris South MacLachlan, and father, James MacLachlan, were both Jamaican born and members of the Church of the Illumination. Attending P.S. 170 and Julia Ward Junior High School, MacLachlan graduated from Julia Richmond High School in 1950, and earned her B.S. degree in psychology from Hunter College in 1955. While holding down clerical jobs
MacLachlan studied acting at the Harlem YMCA, the Herbert Berghoff Acting Studio, and the Little Theatre of Harlem. Later, MacLachlan received additional training from The Actors Studio, Joanie Gerber Voiceovers, and Theatre East in Los Angeles.


Often cast as a judge, nurse, doctor, psychiatrist, teacher, or social worker, MacLachlan was also featured in the Emmy Award winning KCET-TV PBS production of Voices of Our People: In Celebration of Black Poetry. MacLachlan served as the grant committee chair of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, while remaining a resident of Los Angeles.
Janet MacLachlan passed away on October 11, 2010.

**Related Entries**

**Julia Richman High School** [**STUDENT OF**]  
[from ? to ?]  
**H.S.**

**Julia Ward Howe Junior High School 81** [**STUDENT OF**]  
[from ? to ?]  

**P.S. 170** [**STUDENT OF**]  
[from ? to ?]  

**Hunter College** [**STUDENT OF**]  
[from ? to ?]  
**B.A.**

**St. Mark's Playhouse** [**EMPLOYEE OF**]  
[from ? to ?]  
**Actress**

**New York Life Insurance Company** [**EMPLOYEE OF**]  
[from 1950 to 1950]  

**Special Markets, Inc.** [**EMPLOYEE OF**]  
[from 1955 to 1956]  

**Guthrie Theater** [**EMPLOYEE OF**]  
[from 1962 to 1963]  
**Actress**

**Universal Studios** [**EMPLOYEE OF**]  
[from 1964 to ?]  
**Actress**

**Committee for the Employment of Negro Performers**
Member

Screen Actors Guild [MemberOf] [from 1961 to ?]

Board Member

Television Academy of Arts and Sciences [MemberOf] [from 1970 to ?]

Board Member

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences [MemberOf] [from 1980 to ?]

Committee Member