Overview of the Collection

Repository: The HistoryMakers® 1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com

Creator: Chase, Debra Martin

Title: The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Debra Martin Chase,

Dates: March 31, 2005
Bulk Dates: 2005

Physical Description: 6 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:45:25).

Abstract: Film producer Debra Martin Chase (1956 - ) served in executive positions in Denzel Washington’s and Whitney Houston’s production companies before forming her own company, Martin Chase Productions. Chase was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 31, 2005, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.

Identification: A2005_091

Language: The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Movie producer Debra Martin Chase was born on October 11, 1956, in Great Lakes, Illinois. Chase’s father, policeman Robert Douglas Martin, and her mother, teacher Beverly M. Barber Martin, moved to Pasadena, California, when Chase was six years old. Attending Copernicus Elementary School and Our Lady of Solace School in Chicago, and Washington School and Loma Alta School in Altedena, California, Chase graduated from Amherst High School in 1973. Chase earned her B.A. degree from Mount Holyoke College in 1977, and graduated from Harvard Law School in 1981.
Chase practiced law at Houston’s Mearday, Day, and Caldwell firm, and wrote freelance articles for Houston City magazine. After serving as a lawyer for Tenneco from 1983 to 1985, Chase moved to New York City where she worked for Stroock, Stroock, and Lavan law firm, and eventually became in-house counsel for Avon Products. In 1988, Chase worked for the Michael Dukakis presidential campaign and David Dinkins’s successful mayoral campaign.

Interested in the film industry, Chase joined the legal department of Columbia Pictures, and by 1989, she was executive assistant to Frank Price. By 1992, Chase was heading Denzel Washington’s production company, Mundy Lane Entertainment, producing The Pelican Brief, Devil in a Blue Dress, The Preacher’s Wife, Courage Under Fire and the Academy Award nominated documentary, Hank Aaron: Chasing the Dream. By 1995, Chase had become the executive vice president of Whitney Houston’s Brown House Productions, which produced the 1997 Emmy nominated television musical Rogers and Hammerstein’s Cinderella, and The Princess Diaries. In 2000, Chase formed Martin Chase Productions; she went on to produce Fox-TV’s Missing and Disney’s The Cheetah Girls, Miracle (2004), and Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants (2005).

Chase volunteered for Friends of the Studio Museum of Harlem; the Heartland Film Festival; the Community Resource Advisory Committee of the Los Angeles County Museum; and served on the board of Chicago’s Columbia College. A producing mentor for the University of Southern California, Chase remained a resident of the Hollywood Hills.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Debra Martin Chase was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 31, 2005, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 6 Betacame SP videocassettes. Film producer Debra Martin Chase (1956 - ) served in executive positions in Denzel Washington’s and Whitney Houston’s production companies before forming her own company, Martin Chase Productions.

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:

Chase, Debra Martin
Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)
Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Chase, Debra Martin--Interviews
African American women executives--Interviews
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


Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 2/5/2020 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**

Video Oral History Interview with Debra Martin Chase, Section A2005_091_001_001, TRT: 0:28:15 2005/03/31

- African American women executives--Interviews.
- African American motion picture producers and directors--Interviews.
- African American television producers and directors--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Debra Martin Chase, Section A2005_091_001_002, TRT: 0:29:52 2005/03/31

Video Oral History Interview with Debra Martin Chase, Section A2005_091_001_003, TRT: 0:29:35 2005/03/31

Video Oral History Interview with Debra Martin Chase, Section A2005_091_001_004, TRT: 0:28:06 2005/03/31

Video Oral History Interview with Debra Martin Chase, Section A2005_091_001_005, TRT: 0:29:15 2005/03/31

Video Oral History Interview with Debra Martin Chase, Section A2005_091_001_006, TRT: 0:20:22 2005/03/31