

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Charles Randolph- Wright

PERSON

Randolph-Wright, Charles

**Alternative Names:** Charles Randolph-Wright;

**Life Dates:** August 26, 1956-

**Place of Birth:** York, South Carolina, USA

**Residence:** New York, NY

**Work:** New York, NY

**Occupations:** Choreographer; Film Director

## Biographical Note

Charles Randolph-Wright was born an only child in York, South Carolina, on August 26, 1956, to Ruth and Charles Randolph-Wright, Sr. He attended Jefferson elementary and junior high schools. Randolph-Wright graduated with honors from York High School in 1974,

where he was the first African American A.B. Duke Scholarship recipient.

Randolph-Wright entered Duke University as a pre-med major. During his junior year at Duke University, Randolph-Wright decided to change his major to religion and theater. In 1976, he was afforded the opportunity to go to London. Subsequently, he studied acting with the Royal Shakespeare Company and danced with Alvin Ailey in New York. Randolph-Wright graduated with honors from Duke University in 1978 with his B.A. degree in theater and religion.

In 1979, Randolph-Wright relocated to New York City where he was cast in Pippin and in the original cast of Dreamgirls. Randolph-Wright has built a dynamic and diversified career in performing, producing, directing and writing for theater, television, and film. He was the producer and writer for the Showtime cable television series Linc's. Randolph-Wright's musical staging has been seen on a variety of programs, including The Golden Girls. Randolph-Wright's direction of Senor Discretion Himself won the Helen Hayes Award for the Best Musical. He made his film directorial debut in 2006 with Preaching to the Choir, which won feature prizes at the ninth annual American Black Film Festival.

Randolph-Wright serves on the board of directors of the Roundabout Theater and the artistic board at Duke University. He is also a founding member of the Wright Family Foundation of South Carolina. After learning that an ancestor was a free man during slavery, this foundation converted the family's former funeral home into a family history museum.

## Related Entries

**York High School** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Jefferson Elementary School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Duke University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**B.A.**

**York Junior High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]