

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jerry Revish

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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>	Revish, Jerry, 1949-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Revish,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 3, 2012
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2012
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:20:28).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Television news anchor Jerry Revish (1949 - ) has reported for WBNS-TV in Columbus, Ohio since 1980 and received numerous awards for his international news stories. Revish was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 3, 2012, in Columbus, Ohio. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2012_089
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Television news anchor Jerry Revish was born in Youngstown, Ohio on March 15, 1949 to Estelle Revish, a homemaker and Dewey Revish, a steelworker. He graduated from East High School in 1967 and went on to attend Youngstown State University and Chapman College in Orange, California.

In 1972, Revish began his career in the media when he joined WBBW-Radio in Youngstown, Ohio as a board operator. Two years later, he went on to work for WBNS-AM/FM Radio in Columbus, Ohio as a general assignment reporter and assignment editor. In 1980, Revish became a newscaster for WBNS-TV. He reported from Saudi Arabia on the Persian Gulf War in 1990 and his stories entitled, "Desert Shield Diary" won a Midwest Regional Emmy Award in 1991. Revish reported from Bosnia during the Balkans War and created an award-winning half-hour long documentary from his time reporting on post-apartheid South Africa. Since 1992, he has served as co-anchor for WBNS-TV and has anchored the 5 PM, 6 PM and 11 PM news. In 1996, Revish won the NABJ's Best International Reporting Award for his story "A Return to Haiti: Rebuilding Paradise." Also in 1996, Revish was instrumental in exonerating Columbus bodybuilder Walter Smith, who was falsely accused of rape, by shining light on Smith's story through the testing of DNA evidence never introduced at trial. He has also reported from Barbados, Bahrain and Japan. Revish is active in his local community and the founder of The Columbus Association of Black Journalists/Jerry Revish High School Journalism Workshop for minority students in Columbus, Ohio.

Revish has garnered much recognition for his work including six Emmy awards and seventeen Emmy nominations. He has also received the Associated Press awards for best feature, best documentary and best spot news coverage. Revish is the recipient of the Blue Chip Award in Communications and the Carl Day Award for Outstanding Achievement. He was inducted into the Ohio Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2005 and has been a member of the National Association of Black Journalists since 1985. Revish and his wife have two adult children, Nicole and Jerome.

Jerry Revish was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 3, 2012.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jerry Revish was conducted by Larry Crowe on April 3, 2012, in Columbus, Ohio, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Television news anchor Jerry Revish (1949 - ) has reported for WBNS-TV in Columbus, Ohio since 1980 and received numerous awards for his international news stories.

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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

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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

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

### Persons:

Revish, Jerry, 1949-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Revish, Jerry, 1949- --Interviews

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African American television journalists--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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## Occupations:

Television News Anchor

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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## Administrative Information

### Custodial History

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

The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Revish, April 3, 2012. The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection, 1900 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

### Processing Information

This interview collection was processed and encoded on 5/30/2023 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 track of the administrative functions involved in scheduling, researching, and producing the interview.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Revish, Section A2012\_089\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:29 ?

Jerry Revish describes his family's background. His mother, Estella Saunders, was born around 1920 in Farrell, Pennsylvania, and traced her family to Beckley, West Virginia. She worked as a domestic helper, and then in retail after

she moved to Youngstown, Ohio. Revish's father, Dewey McKinley Revish, was born around 1900 in Birmingham, Alabama, and raised in Middletown, Ohio. He worked in the steel mills of Youngstown, where his parents established roots and raised their family. Revish also talks about his maternal grandparents, attending church with his parents, his childhood recollections of growing up in Youngstown, his experience at Lincoln Elementary School, and watching television with his father.

African American families.

African American mothers.

African American fathers.

Childhood and youth--Ohio--Youngstown.

African Americans--Education, Elementary--Ohio--Youngstown.

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Revish, Section A2012\_089\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:28 ?

Jerry Revish attended Lincoln Elementary School and East High School in Youngstown, Ohio, where he was interested in science and literature, and participated in his high school marching band. After graduating from high school in 1967, he worked for a year at General Foods Operation in Youngstown, and then joined Youngstown State University to study business administration. Revish then moved to California to live with his uncle, and attend Chapman College. He returned to Youngstown State University in 1970, where he became involved in an experimental broadcasting program for minority students. In 1972, Revish began working as a control board operator at WBBW radio station in Youngstown, and then moved up to become a news reporter at the station. In 1974, he left WBBW to join WBNS-radio in Columbus, Ohio. Revish also talks about his experience in school, the influence of his high school principal, who was black, radio and television in the 1950s and 1960s, and the Civil Rights Movement.

African Americans--Education--Ohio--Youngstown.

Youngstown State University.

Chapman University.

African American radio broadcasters--Ohio--Youngstown.

Radio stations--Ohio.

Role models--African American.

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Revish, Section A2012\_089\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:59 ?

Jerry Revish began to work at WBNS-Radio in Columbus, Ohio, in 1974, where he started out as a general assignment reporter, went on to become an assignment editor, and also worked with the Associated Press. In 1980, he transitioned from the radio industry into television broadcast journalism, and joined WBNS TV, Channel 10. Here, Revish has worked as a weekend news anchor, a general assignment reporter, and as a weekday news anchor. He also talks about his involvement in the coverage of the work done by U.S. Army reservists from Marion, Ohio, in his series 'Desert Shield Diary', and his involvement in exonerating a falsely charged inmate, Walter Smith, of rape charges. Revish also talks about black journalists on national networks in the 1970s, and his work with the Columbus, Ohio, chapter of the BroadNational Association of Black Journalists (NABJ), where he served as the president for four years.

Radio broadcasters--Ohio.

WBNS-TV (Television station : Columbus, Ohio).

National Association of Black Journalists--Ohio--Columbus.

Broadcast journalism--Ohio--Columbus.

African American journalists--History.

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Revish, Section A2012\_089\_001\_004, TRT: 4:31:22 ?

Jerry Revish has worked as a television broadcast journalist at WBNS-TV in Columbus, Ohio, since 1980. In this section of the interview, he describes his experience as a news anchor at WBNS-TV, his philosophy as a journalist, and his major assignments as a television journalist. Revish discusses his tour through Bosnia and Herzegovina in the aftermath of the Bosnian War, his visit to Haiti during the U.S. invasion in the 1990s, and his journalistic tours in Japan, South Africa, the Gulf, Iraq and Barbados in the 1990s. He also talks about local stories from Columbus, Ohio including major news from the 2000s, the election of Mayor Michael Coleman and the highlights of his administration, and the stability of the city's economy. In 1996, Revish won the National Association of Black Journalists' Salute to Excellence Award Contest, and in 2005, he was elected to the Ohio Journalism Hall of Fame.

WBNS-TV (Television station : Columbus, Ohio).

Broadcast journalism--Ohio--Columbus.

National Association of Black Journalists--Awards.

Traveling.

Video Oral History Interview with Jerry Revish, Section A2012\_089\_001\_005, TRT: 5:19:10 ?

Jerry Revish reflects upon his legacy, his hopes and concerns for the African American community, and how he would like to be remembered. He also describes the desegregation of the school system in Columbus, Ohio, in 1979. Revish discusses the current trend of diminishing numbers of African Americans in broadcast journalism, particularly at the managerial level. He also describes his family and his photographs.

Segregation in education--History--Ohio--Columbus.

African American families--Ohio--Columbus.

Photographs.

Diversity in the workplace.