

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Karen Hunter

PERSON

Hunter, Karen

Alternative Names: Karen Hunter;

Life Dates: April 24, 1966-

Place of Birth: Orange, New Jersey, USA

Residence: West Orange, NJ

Work: South Orange, NJ

Occupations: Publishing Chief Executive; Author

Biographical Note

Publisher and author Karen Hunter was born on April 24, 1966 in Orange, New Jersey. In 1983, she graduated from Marylawn of the Oranges Academy in South Orange, New Jersey. After high school, Hunter attended Drew University, where she received her B.A. degree in English.

In 1989, Hunter joined the New York Daily News

where she worked as a columnist and covered numerous topics for the paper, including sports, business, and news stories. From 1996 to 1998, Hunter worked as a professor of journalism at New York University. In 1999, as a member of the Daily News' editorial board, she received a Pulitzer Prize for the paper's series of editorials that formed a campaign to save the Apollo Theater in Harlem. While still at the New York Daily News, Hunter also began writing music reviews, through which she met various musicians, including LL Cool J. It was through him that Hunter began writing books, starting with a collaborative effort to write LL Cool J's memoir *I Make My Own Rules*. She also has collaborated in creating the celebrity memoirs of Queen Latifah and Kris Jenner, as well as Reverend Al Sharpton's book *Al on America*. Other books that Hunter worked on discussed issues of African American culture, such as Karyn Langhorne Folan's *Don't Bring Home a White Boy*.

In 2002, Hunter took a new academic position as an assistant visiting professor at Hunter College in the Department of Film and Media Studies. From 2003 to 2006, she co-hosted a morning talk show with Steve Malzberg at the AM radio station WWRL. Hunter also became a contributor to many cable news channels, including appearances on the Paula Zahn Now show on CNN and MSNBC.

In 2007, Hunter became CEO of her own publishing company, Karen Hunter Publishing, as an imprint of Simon and Schuster Publishing. The label publishes mostly popular nonfiction targeted towards the market for African American titles. In 2010, she published a book as the sole author, called *Stop Being Niggardly*, which is addressed to African Americans and their successes. In 2011, Hunter began a separate business venture called First One Digital Publishing that focuses solely on e-books for electronic reading devices.

Hunter lives in New York City.

Karen Hunter was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 3, 2012.

Related Entries

Marylawn Of The Oranges Academy [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Diploma

Drew University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

B.A.

New York Daily News [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1989 to 2004]

Columnist

New York University [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1996 to 1998]

Journalism Professor

St. Martin's Press [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1998 to 1999]

Author

Hunter College [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2002 to ?]

Assistant Visiting Professor, Department of Film and Media Studies

1600 AM WWRL [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2003 to 2006]

Radio Talk Show Host

Random House Publishing [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2005 to 2007]

Author

Karen Hunter Publishing [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2007 to ?]

Founder and CEO

First One Digital Publishing [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2011 to ?]

President and CEO