

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Renee Poussaint

PERSON

Poussaint, Renee

Alternative Names: Renee Poussaint;

Life Dates: August 12, 1944-

Place of Birth: New York City, New York, USA

Residence: Washington, D.C.

Work: Washington, D.C.

Occupations: Journalist

Biographical Note

Journalist Renee Poussaint was born on August 12, 1944. Poussaint received her B.A. degree in English literature from Sarah Lawrence College in 1964; and, in 1970, she graduated with her M.A. degree in African studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. She has also studied at Yale Law School and the Sorbonne in Paris, France.

In 1970, Poussaint began her career in television broadcasting working as a news correspondent at WBBM-TV in Chicago, Illinois. She went on to anchor the ABC Evening News, substituting for Peter Jennings, as well as news segments on Good Morning America. She was a national correspondent for the CBS network, and ABC's news magazine show Prime Time Live. Poussaint also anchored the local ABC evening news in Washington, D.C. for more than a decade. She has reported from locations around the world including Haiti, South Africa and Uganda, and has interviewed many historic movers and shakers, as well as everyday people whose problems shape our world.

In 2001, Poussaint and Camille Cosby, educator and producer, founded the National Visionary Leadership Project. The project utilizes various educational media to record, preserve, and distribute the stories and wisdom of older generations of African Americans. The entirety of the NVLP collection is archived at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. as a component of the broader "National Visionary Leadership Project Collection." In 2004, Poussaint and Cosby co-authored a book titled, *A Wealth of Wisdom: Legendary African American Elders Speak*, which appeared on the New York Times best-seller list.

Poussaint is also founder of Wisdom Works, a documentary production company. The company's highly-acclaimed documentary, "Tutu and Franklin: A Journey towards Peace," aired nationally on PBS in 2001, and was filmed at the infamous slave port Goree, Senegal. Her work as a documentary filmmaker has also appeared on Discovery, A&E, and Lifetime. In addition, she taught journalism at the University of Maryland.

Poussaint is the recipient of three national and seven local Emmy awards. As an independent consultant and community activist, Poussaint has worked with nonprofit and community organizations to help them

better define their message for a larger audience. Her volunteer activities have included tutoring, mentoring, and reading newspapers for the blind. Poussaint has received honorary doctorates from Georgetown University and Mount Vernon College.

Renee Poussaint was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 17, 2013.

Related Entries

Andrew Jackson High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

High School Diploma

Sarah Lawrence College [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Yale Law School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

J.D.

University of California, Los Angeles [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

M.A.

Indiana University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Ph.D.

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism

[STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

WBBM TV [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1970 to 1971]

News Writer

CBS News [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1973 to 1975]

Midwest Correspondent

CBS News [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1976 to 1978]

White House Correspondent

WJLA TV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1978 to 1990]

Anchor

CBS News [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1982 to 1985]

Anchor

Prime Time Live [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990 to 1993]

Correspondent

Wisdom Works [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1993 to ?]

Founder

National Visionary Leadership Project [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2000 to 2006]

Founder and CEO