

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Yanick Rice Lamb

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Lamb, Yanick Rice
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Yanick Rice Lamb,
Dates:	October 23, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:06:57).
Abstract:	Magazine editor Yanick Rice-Lamb (1957 -) , founding editor of BET Weekend, is the co-author of three books: <i>The Spirit of African Design</i> , <i>Born to Win: The Authorized Biography of Althea Gibson</i> , and <i>Rise and Fly: Tall Tales and Mostly True Rules of Bid Whist</i> . Rice Lamb was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 23, 2013, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_275
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Editor, publisher and professor Yanick Rice Lamb was born on September 27, 1957 in Akron, Ohio to William R. Rice and Carmelie Jordan. Lamb graduated from Buchtel High School in Akron in 1976. She went on to receive her B.A. degree in journalism from Ohio State University in 1980.

Upon graduation, Lamb was hired as a copy editor at the *Toledo Blade*, where she was promoted to reporter in 1982. Lamb then worked for the *Journal-Constitution* in Atlanta, Georgia, as a copy editor until 1984, when she was hired as a layout editor for the *New York Times*. While employed at the *New York Times*, Lamb worked in various capacities, including deputy home and living editor, assistant editor of the *Connecticut Weekly*, and metropolitan copy editor. Then, in 1992, she became a senior editor for *Child Magazine*, serving two years. She was then hired as an editor-at-large at *Essence Magazine* in 1994. From 1995 until 2000, Lamb served as editor-in-chief, editorial director, and vice president at Black Entertainment Television. At BET, she was responsible for editorial management of *BET Weekend*, for which she was founding editor, as well as BET Publishing Group's *Heart & Soul*. Lamb worked at Vanguard Media, Incorporated, as editor-in-chief from 2000 to 2001. She was then hired as a journalism lecturer at Howard University in 2001, and was later promoted to associate professor. After receiving her M.B.A. degree from Howard University in 2005, she became the associate publisher and editorial director of *Heart & Soul*, where she served until 2011. In 2010, Lamb co-founded Fully-Connected.com, a website that connects people from Atlanta to Accra through interactive journalism and social networking. She also co-founded FierceforBlackWomen.com in 2013. Lamb continued to teach at Howard University, serving as chair of the Department of Media, Journalism and Film since 2013. Lamb has co-authored three books: 1996's *The Spirit of African Design*, 2004's *Born to Win: The Authorized Biography of Althea Gibson*, and 2005's *Rise and Fly: Tall Tales and Mostly True Rules of Bid Whist*. She has also received numerous awards, including the Folio: Editorial Excellence Award and the McDonald's Black History Maker of Today Award in Journalism. Lamb was also honored at the NABJ Salute to Excellence Awards; and she has served twice as president of the New York

Association of Black Journalists. In addition, the Association of Health Care Journalists selected Lamb as a Health Performance Fellow in 2010; and, in 2013, she became the John A. Hartford/MetLife Foundation Journalism in Aging & Health Fellow.

Yanick Rice Lamb was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 23, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Yanick Rice Lamb was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 23, 2013, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Magazine editor Yanick Rice-Lamb (1957 -), founding editor of BET Weekend, is the co-author of three books: *The Spirit of African Design*, *Born to Win: The Authorized Biography of Althea Gibson*, and *Rise and Fly: Tall Tales and Mostly True Rules of Bid Whist*.

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:

Lamb, Yanick Rice

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Lamb, Yanick Rice--Interviews

African American editors--Interviews.

Women publishers--Interviews.

College teachers--Journalism-Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Magazine Editor

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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 Yanick Rice Lamb, October 23, 2013. 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).

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 Yanick Rice Lamb, Section A2013_275_001_001, TRT: 1:04:37
?

Yanick Rice-Lamb describes her photographs.

Photographs.

Video Oral History Interview with Yanick Rice Lamb, Section A2013_275_001_002, TRT: 2:28:03
?

Yanick Rice-Lamb describes her family background. Her maternal grandfather, Marcell Hubert LaForest, was a political writer in Haiti. Her mother, Carmelie LaForest Jordan, was born July 1932 in the Dominican Republic, but was raised in Haiti. Carmelie Jordan came to the United States in 1956 and became a nurse. Rice-Lamb's father, William Radford Rice, was born in Fort Valley, Georgia in September 1929. He attended Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana, the University of Akron, and Kent State University in Ohio, where he earned his M.A. degree in foreign languages and English. He met Carmelie Jordan in Haiti and the couple married in 1956. Rice-Lamb was born September 1957 in Akron, Ohio. She graduated from John R. Buchtel High School in 1976. Rice-Lamb talks about her family's religious background, her siblings, and early childhood memories, including growing up in a Haitian household in a diverse neighborhood. Rice-Lamb also talks about what influenced her interest in writing.

African American families--Ohio--Akron.

African American parents--Haiti.

Childhood and youth--Ohio--Akron.

African Americans--Religion--Ohio--Akron.

Video Oral History Interview with Yanick Rice Lamb, Section A2013_275_001_003, TRT: 3:28:08
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Yanick Rice-Lamb graduated from John R. Buchtel High School in Akron, Ohio in 1976. She enrolled at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in journalism in 1980. Rice-Lamb talks about black journalists in the 1970s who served as role models, her experience at Ohio State University, and various internships she held as a student. Notable internships included 'Reader's Digest' and 'The Times Union' in New York City. Rice-Lamb wrote for the black student newspaper 'Our Choking Times,' as well as 'The Call and Post,' a black newspaper in Columbus, Ohio. She was hired at 'The Toledo Blade' in 1980 after graduating from Ohio State University, and worked there until 1983. She talks about the mentors she met in school, during internships, and at 'The Toledo Blade.' Rice-Lamb was hired as a reporter at 'The Atlanta Journal Constitution' in 1983.

Akron Buchtel High School.

Ohio State University.

Reader's Digest Association.

Toledo Blade (Newspaper).

Atlanta journal-constitution.

Mentoring.

Video Oral History Interview with Yanick Rice Lamb, Section A2013_275_001_004, TRT: 4:28:24
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Yanick Rice-Lamb discusses her career from the late 1980s through the 1990s. Rice-Lamb worked for 'The Atlanta Journal Constitution' from 1983-1984, and then worked as an editor with the 'New York Times' until 1987. She transitioned from newspapers to magazines in 1992 when she joined 'Child' magazine as the senior editor. From 1994-1995, she was the editor-at-large for 'Essence' magazine, and then in 1995 became the founding editor of 'BET Weekend,' a weekly magazine published by Black Entertainment Television. Rice-Lamb began teaching at Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 2001. She talks about the various skills she learned at each job and the professional mentors she met at each publication. Rice-Lamb discusses the success of 'BET Weekend' magazine, and the criticism the company has faced over its television programming. She also compares the process of developing a story for a newspaper versus a magazine, and her philosophy about magazine layout and production.

Atlanta journal-constitution.

New York times.

Child magazine.

Black Entertainment Television--Periodicals.

Howard University.

Mentoring.

Video Oral History Interview with Yanick Rice Lamb, Section A2013_275_001_005, TRT: 5:29:02
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Yanick Rice-Lamb talks about her career as a magazine editor, non-fiction writer, and journalist. Rice-Lamb is the author of three books. She wrote a coffee table book titled The Spirit of African Design in 1996, and co-authored an authorized biography of tennis champion Althea Gibson with Fran Gray in 2004. In 2005, Rice-Lamb co-authored a book about the card game bid whist, Rise and Fly, with Greg Morrison. She was also the editorial director of 'BET Weekend' and 'Heart and Soul' magazines simultaneously in the early 2000s. In addition, Rice-Lamb has authored multiple articles on the subject of media. She describes memorable stories from her magazines, working with students at Howard University to cover the 2008 presidential election, and her coverage of the 2012 Supreme Court ruling on the Affordable Care Act. She also shares memories about her Aunt Rose, who influenced her heavily and whom she eventually wrote about.

Gibson, Althea, 1927-2003.

Morrison, Greg, 1965-

Howard University.

Aunts.

Presidents--Elections--United States.

United States. Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Video Oral History Interview with Yanick Rice Lamb, Section A2013_275_001_006, TRT: 6:08:43
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Yanick Rice-Lamb talks about her professional association memberships, including the National Association of Black Journalists, the Association of Health Care Journalists, the American Society of Magazine Editors, and the Association for Education and Mass Communications in Journalism. Rice-Lamb received the National Association of Black Journalists' Salute to Excellence

Award, and was the president of the New York chapter of the National Association of Black Journalists from 1987-1988. Rice-Lamb talks about her personal philosophy on journalism and teaching journalism at Howard University in Washington, D.C. She reflects on her career as a whole and her professional legacy. Rice-Lamb also talks about her family and how she would like to be remembered.

National Association of Black Journalists. New York Chapter.

Journalism--Study and teaching.

Howard University.

African American families.

American Society of Magazine Editors.

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication.