

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Winifred Neisser

PERSON

Neisser, Winifred White, 1953-

**Alternative Names:** Winifred Neisser;

**Life Dates:** March 23, 1953-

**Place of Birth:** Indianapolis, Indiana, USA

**Residence:** Los Angeles, CA

**Occupations:** Television Executive

## Biographical Note

Television executive Winifred White Neisser received her B.A. degree with honors from Harvard University's Radcliffe College in 1974. She received her M.A. degree in Elementary Education from Lesley College. Neisser also completed further graduate work in Communication Arts at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. Upon graduation, Neisser was hired at NBC where she headed several major divisions. While there, she served as Vice President of Family Programming, Director of Movies for Television and

Vice President of Television Movies, NBC Productions. As vice president of family programming at NBC, Neisser oversaw special programming for children and families, including the award-winning miniseries titled, “Jim Henson’s The Storyteller.” Neisser then joined Sony Pictures Television where she served as Senior Vice President of Movies for Television and Miniseries. Neisser has served on the board of directors for several academic and non-profit institutes. At Harvard University, Neisser was appointed to the Harvard Board of Overseers as well as the Radcliffe Institute’s Advisory Board. She served as Trustee on the board of the Otis College of Design and The Center for Early Education. Neisser was a member of the Television Academy’s Board of Governors for several years. She also served on the boards of Planned Parenthood and the National Guild of Community Arts Schools. Neisser’s award-winning projects include “A Raisin in the Sun” for ABC, which was nominated for three Emmy Awards and won the Humanitas Award; “Broken Trail,” a western for AMC, which won four Emmy Awards including “Best Miniseries”; “The Company,” a miniseries about the CIA which won the DGA Award and the WGA Award; “Having Our Stay: The Delaney Sisters First 100 Years,” which won a Christopher Award and a Peabody Award; “The Crossing” for the Arts and Entertainment Channel (A & E), which won the Peabody award; “The Beach Boys: An American Family,” which was nominated for an Emmy Award in the category of Best Miniseries; and “Call me Claus,” a Christmas movie which starred Whoopi Goldberg and featured music by Garth Brooks. Neisser is married to Ken Neisser. They live in Los Angeles and have two children, Nick and Alexis. Winifred White Neisser was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 17, 2013.

## **Related Entries**

**Emanuel L. Philipp Elementary** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Homestead High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Radcliffe College** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Bachelors**

**Lesley University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Masters**

**University of Wisconsin-Madison** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**PhD**

**NBC** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2002 to ?]

**Vice President, Family Programming**

**NBC** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 199211 to 199411]

**Vice President, Movies and Miniseries**

**NBC** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 199411 to 199511]

**Consultant**

**Sony Pictures Television (Columbia Tri-Star  
Television)** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 199511 to ?]

**Senior Vice President, Movies for Television and  
Miniseries**

**Caribbean School** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1993 to 1996]

**Teacher, Multi-Lingual Classroom**

**WMTV** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1978 to 1980]

**Producer, Children's Half Hour Specials**

**NBC** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1980 to 1980]

**Associate, Variety Programs**

**NBC** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1992 to ?]

**Manager, Project Peacock**

**NBC** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1982 to 1984]

**Manager, Children's Programming**

**NBC** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 198904 to 199211]

**Director, Motion Pictures for Television**

**Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 197405 to 1976]

**Creative Dramatics Teacher**

**Elma Lewis School of Fine Arts** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 197506 to 197512]

**Assistant Operations Manager**

**NBC** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1985 to ?]

**Director, Children's Programming**

**Planned Parenthood Los Angeles** [MEMBEROF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board of Directors**

**Harvard University Radcliffe Institute** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1984 to 1990]

## **Board of Southern California**

**Academy of Television Arts & Sciences** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1987 to 1990]

## **Board of Governors**

**Lesley University** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1992 to 2004]

## **Corporation Board**

**Harvard College** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1994 to 2000]

## **Board of Overseers**

**Harvard College, Department of Visual Studies**  
[MEMBEROF]  
[from 1994 to 2000]

## **Visiting Committee**

**Harvard College, Leob Drama Center** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 1994 to 2000]

## **Visiting Committee**

**Harvard University Radcliffe Institute** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2000 to 2001]

## **Ad Hoc Board**

**Center For Early Education** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2001 to 2005]

## **Board of Trustees**

**National Guild of Community Arts Schools** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2002 to 2005]

## **Board of Directors**

**Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (ATAS)**  
[MEMBEROF]  
[from 2004 to 2005]

## **Member**

**Black Filmmakers Foundation Summit** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2004 to 2008]

**Participant**

**Otis College of Art and Design** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2005 to ?]

**Member, Trustees Board**

**Archer School for Girls** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2009 to 2013]

**Member**

**Angel City Chorale Board** [MEMBEROF]  
[from 2013 to ?]

**Member**

**Harvard Alumni Board Nominating Committee**  
[MEMBEROF]  
[from 2013 to ?]

**Member**