

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with June Baldwin

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Baldwin, June M.
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with June Baldwin,
Dates:	December 20, 2013
Bulk Dates:	2013
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:07:18).
Abstract:	Entertainment executive June Baldwin (1950 -) became one of the first African Americans to enter the executive ranks of the entertainment industry when she worked for NBC. Baldwin was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 20, 2013, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2013_310
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Entertainment executive June M. Baldwin graduated from Stanford University with her B.A. degree in psychology. She went on to receive her J.D. degree from Harvard Law School in 1975.

Following graduation, Baldwin served as clerk for the jurist Luther Swygert on the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago, Illinois. She then moved to Los Angeles and was hired as an executive for NBC, where she was responsible for, among other things, the day-to-day business transactions for *The Tonight Show* and Carson Productions, the television and motion picture production company

founded by the late talk show host, Johnny Carson. At NBC, Baldwin became one of the first African Americans to enter the executive ranks of the entertainment industry. She then worked for Norman Lear, Quincy Jones and Aaron Spelling, where she held the position of head of business affairs at their independent production companies. Baldwin went on to be hired as vice president of business affairs at United Paramount Network. She also worked in a similar capacity at Columbia TriStar Television from 2000 until 2001. In 2004, Baldwin was hired as director of business and legal affairs at KCET, the nation's largest independent public television station. Then, in 2010, she was promoted to vice president and general counsel of KCET. Baldwin has negotiated a variety of production deals, and has worked on such critically acclaimed productions as *Auschwitz: Inside the Nazi State*, *A Place of Our Own*, *Los Ninos En Su Casa*, *Wired Science*, and *SoCal Connected*. In addition, for seven years she managed business and legal affairs for the PBS late-night talk show *Tavis Smiley*, and the primetime series *Tavis Smiley Reports*.

Baldwin has served on numerous boards, including the Hollywood Women's Political Committee, the Hollywood Policy Center, the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, the California Women's Law Center, Planned Parenthood, the Archer School for Girls, Women in Film, Women in Film Foundation, Artists For A New South Africa, The Coalition for At-Risk Youth, NBC Credit Union, the Minority Health Institute, and the Black Entertainment and Sports Lawyers Association.

June M. Baldwin was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 18, 2013.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with June Baldwin was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 20, 2013, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Entertainment executive June Baldwin (1950 -) became one of the first African Americans to enter the executive ranks of the entertainment industry when she worked for NBC.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access

Restrictions may be applied on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of The

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:

Baldwin, June M.

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Baldwin, June M.--Interviews

Organizations:

Occupations:

Entertainment Executive

HistoryMakers® Category:

EntertainmentMakers

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 June Baldwin, December 20, 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 2/5/2020 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 June Baldwin, Section
A2013_310_001_001, TRT: 1:27:53 2013/12/20

June Baldwin was born on October 4, 1950 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Audrey McLaughlin Harris and John Baldwin, Jr. Her maternal great-grandmother, Lelia Berry Yates, was a renowned school teacher in Danville, Virginia, where she raised Baldwin's grandfather, Moody McLaughlin. He later became a factory worker, and married Ruby Luck McLaughlin. They relocated to Philadelphia, where Baldwin's mother was born. She spent her formative years in Danville, and returned to Philadelphia to study at Temple University, although she did not graduate. Baldwin's paternal great-grandmother, Pauline Newsome, had Haitian ancestry and raised ten children, including Baldwin's grandmother, Marie Newsome Carter. After her parents' short marriage, Baldwin and her older brother, William James, were raised by their mother in the integrated Germantown section of Philadelphia. There, Baldwin's peers included dancer Judith Jamison and Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. She began her education at the St. Madeleine Sophie School.

Video Oral History Interview with June Baldwin, Section
A2013_310_001_002, TRT: 2:28:57 2013/12/20

June Baldwin completed the first through fifth grades at the St. Madeleine Sophie School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She then attended the Ancilla Domini Academy, where she was the only African American student in her class. During this time, Baldwin enjoyed reading Nancy Drew and the Hardy Boys books, and aspired to become a dancer and actress. With the help of Dorothy Eells Coffin and headmaster Margaret Bailey Speer, Baldwin integrated the Shipley School for Girls,

which was a boarding school in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. While her interactions with her white classmates were mostly pleasant, she was unable to socialize with them outside of school. Nevertheless, Baldwin was a popular student, and headed the Christian association. Influenced by the activism of Nelson Mandela and Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., she organized a fundraiser for the Poor People's Campaign. Against her guidance counselor's advisement, she applied elite colleges like Stanford University in Stanford, California.

Video Oral History Interview with June Baldwin, Section A2013_310_001_003, TRT: 3:29:01 2013/12/20

June Baldwin learned about the Civil Rights Movement at a young age, and attended the March on Washington with her mother, Audrey McLaughlin Harris, in 1963. During high school, Baldwin became the first African American student to attend the Shipley School for Girls in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Years later, she and her mother were honored by the school for their courage. In 1968, Baldwin enrolled at Stanford University in Stanford, California, where her classmates included attorney Charles Ogletree. She majored in psychology, and aspired to become a criminal lawyer. On campus, she helped found the Stanford Prison Information Center. During her junior year, she studied abroad in Italy and France. She also travelled to Algeria to meet Black Panther activist Eldridge Cleaver, who asked her stay as his translator, although Baldwin ultimately decided against it. After returning to the United States for her senior year, she graduated in 1972, and then enrolled at Harvard Law School.

Video Oral History Interview with June Baldwin, Section A2013_310_001_004, TRT: 4:33:46 2013/12/20

June Baldwin earned her J.D. degree from Harvard Law School, where she was taught by the school's first black professor, Derrick A. Bell, Jr. Although she no longer aspired to become a criminal lawyer, she clerked for Judge Luther M. Swygert in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. After graduating, she joined the law office of Morrison and Foerster LLP in San Francisco, California. She later moved to Los Angeles, California,

where she worked in entertainment law at Silverberg, Rosen, Leon and Behr as well as Barovick, Konecky, Braun, Schwartz and Kay. She also joined the Women In Film organization. In 1980, Baldwin became the first African American business affairs executive at NBC, where she was assigned to ‘The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson.’ This role led to her vice presidency of business affairs at Johnny Carson’s production company, Carson Productions, under executive vice president Maynell Thomas. Baldwin also helped produce the first broadcast of the NAACP Image Awards on NBC.

Video Oral History Interview with June Baldwin, Section
A2013_310_001_005, TRT: 5:29:09 2013/12/20

June Baldwin worked with television executives Willis Edwards and Hamilton Cloud, II to produce the first televised NAACP Image Awards. During her six years at NBC, she handled the legal affairs for socially conscious television movies like ‘Roe vs. Wade.’ In 1990, Baldwin left NBC to work for Norman Lear’s production company, Act III Productions. After six months, she was laid off, and shifted to the senior vice presidency of business affairs at Quincy Jones Productions, Inc. After leaving that role, Baldwin worked as a consultant with Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc. in 1995, before joining Aaron Spelling Productions. She then partnered with music producer George Butler to start a music publishing label, although the venture was unsuccessful. Baldwin went on to work at United Paramount Network (UPN) and Columbia TriStar Television. In 2004, she was hired at the public television station KCET, which co-produced children’s programming, talk shows, documentaries and the presidential forum debates of 2008.

Video Oral History Interview with June Baldwin, Section
A2013_310_001_006, TRT: 6:27:50 2013/12/20

June Baldwin oversaw KCET’s merger with Link TV in 2012. The newly created television station, KCETLink, moved its studios to Burbank, California, where they produced programming for both the KCET and Link TV channels. Baldwin was involved with the Los Angeles County Bar Association and the Stop Bullying Foundation, Inc., and served on the advisory council for

the Minority Health Institute, Inc. She was chairwoman of the Educational Program and Services Committee of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. At this point, Baldwin shares her plans for the future, and reflects upon her career, including her legacy in the entertainment industry. She also talks about her international travels, dating life and family, which included her brother, William James, and mother, Audrey McLaughlin Harris. Baldwin concludes the interview by describing how she would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with June Baldwin, Section
A2013_310_001_007, TRT: 7:10:42 2013/12/20

June Baldwin narrates her photographs.