

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Carol Randolph-Jasmine

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Randolph-Jasmine, Carol, 1941-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Carol Randolph-Jasmine,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 5, 2013
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2013
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:41:35).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Television anchor, newspaper columnist, and book publisher Carol Randolph-Jasmine (1941 - ) , co-founder of Akin & Randolph Agency, LLC, is the former co-host of the morning talk show, “Harambee,” which aired on WUSA-TV, a CBS affiliate in Washington D.C. She received an Emmy Award and the George Foster Peabody Award for “Outstanding Local Programming." Randolph-Jasmine was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 5, 2013, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2013_335
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Television anchor, journalist and literary agent Carol Randolph-Jasmine received her B.A. degree in biology from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, and her M.A. degree in science education from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. She went on to earn her J.D. degree from the Columbus School of Law at Catholic University in Washington, D.C.

Randolph-Jasmine entered television broadcasting in the early 1980s as the co-host of the morning talk show, “Harambee,” which aired on WDVM-TV, a CBS affiliate in Washington, D.C. While there, she also worked as an anchorwoman and interviewed politicians and celebrities such as Senator Ted Kennedy, comedian Richard Pryor, former first ladies Roselyn Carter and Nancy Reagan, and musician Stevie Wonder. Randolph-Jasmine then joined Court TV, where she served as an anchorwoman, and as the host and moderator of the show, “Your Turn,” until 1986.

In 1987, Randolph-Jasmine joined the literary firm of Goldfarb, Signer & Ross (now Goldfarb, Kaufman & O’Toole), where she specialized in representing authors and clients in television from 1988 to 1991, and, during that time, she also wrote a bi-weekly column, “Metropolitan Life,” for the *Washington Times*. She then served as general counsel for New African Visions, Inc., the non-profit organization responsible for editing the book, *Songs of My People* (1992). She is the co-founder of Akin & Randolph Agency, LLC, a firm that represents authors, artists and athletes. Randolph-Jasmine was later appointed as the vice president of strategic communications for Miller & Long Concrete Construction, and was then named senior vice president of legal affairs for Walls Communications, Inc., a minority-owned public relations firm in Washington, D.C.

Randolph-Jasmine is a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the District of Columbia Bar Association, and The Links, Inc., where she served as chair of the Hurricane Katrina Relief Committee. In 2005, she launched a “Construction Academy” at Cardoza Senior High School in Washington, D.C. for students interested in the construction business. Randolph-Jasmine is also a member of the board of directors for the Center for Dispute Resolution.

As co-host of “Harambee” in the 1980s, Randolph-Jasmine won several awards including an Emmy Award and the George Foster Peabody Award for “Outstanding Local Programming.”

Carol Randolph-Jasmine was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 5, 2013.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Carol Randolph-Jasmine was conducted by Larry Crowe on December 5, 2013, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Television anchor,

newspaper columnist, and book publisher Carol Randolph-Jasmine (1941 - ) , co-founder of Akin & Randolph Agency, LLC, is the former co-host of the morning talk show, “Harambee,” which aired on WUSA-TV, a CBS affiliate in Washington D.C. She received an Emmy Award and the George Foster Peabody Award for “Outstanding Local Programming.”

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## **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®.

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## **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.

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## **Controlled Access Terms**

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### **Persons:**

Randolph-Jasmine, Carol, 1941-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

**Subjects:**

African Americans--Interviews

Randolph-Jasmine, Carol, 1941---Interviews

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**Organizations:**

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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**Occupations:**

Television Anchor

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Newspaper Columnist

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Book Publisher

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**HistoryMakers® Category:**

MediaMakers

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**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 Carol Randolph-Jasmine, December 5, 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Randolph-Jasmine, Section A2013\_335\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:46 2013/12/05

Carol Randolph-Jasmine was born on February 10, 1941 in St. Louis, Missouri to Clarice Dreer Davis and John Davis. Her maternal great-grandfather escaped slavery in the South and settled in Washington, D.C. where his son, Herman Dreer, attended Dunbar High School. Dreer graduated from Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine and also earned his Ph.D. degree at the age of sixty-seven from the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. Randolph-Jasmine's paternal great-grandmother was a child of miscegenation. Her paternal grandfather was one of the co-founders of St. Louis' Pine Street YMCA. Both of Randolph-Jasmine's grandfathers were ministers. Her parents grew up in St. Louis' The Ville neighborhood

where they attended Sumner High School; they later earned their M.A. degrees at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Randolph-Jasmine was raised in the metro St. Louis area with her two siblings. She describes her earliest memories and the sights, sounds, and smells of her childhood in Pagedale, Missouri.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Randolph-Jasmine, Section A2013\_335\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:17 2013/12/05

Carol Randolph-Jasmine began kindergarten at the age of four, the same age she learned to read. She attended Riddick Elementary School in St. Louis, Missouri where her favorite teacher emphasized black history. Randolph-Jasmine describes what she learned from her high school social science and biology teachers. She participated in many extracurricular activities like the dance team, the Hi-Y club, and student council before graduating from high school in 1958 at age sixteen. Randolph-Jasmine recalls her desire to become a psychologist and her decision to attend Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. At Fisk, she became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and majored in biology. Randolph-Jasmine describes her professors including chemist HistoryMaker Samuel Massie and artist Aaron Douglas. She was married during her junior year and graduated from Fisk University in 1962.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Randolph-Jasmine, Section A2013\_335\_001\_003, TRT: 3:28:22 2013/12/05

Carol Randolph-Jasmine describes graduating from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee in 1962 and getting her first job in television. As an undergraduate, she felt some professors at Fisk discouraged her from pursuing medicine because she was a married woman. In 1963, Randolph-Jasmine and her husband moved to St. Louis, Missouri where she enrolled at Washington University in St. Louis. That same year, she participated in the 1963 March on Washington. After graduating in 1965, Randolph-Jasmine taught biology at McKinley High School in St. Louis until 1967 when she moved to Washington, D.C. and began working for United Planning Organization, an anti-poverty program. She describes her memories of the riots in Washington, D.C. following the assassination of Reverend

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968. Randolph-Jasmine talks about her audition for 'Harambee' in 1969, a television show produced by Channel 9, a CBS affiliate.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Randolph-Jasmine, Section A2013\_335\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:52 2013/12/05

Carol Randolph-Jasmine talks about hosting 'Harambee,' a black community affairs program at WDVM-TV in Washington, D.C. On the show, she worked closely with producers Jeannie Thorton (ph.) and Beverly Price. Memorable moments on 'Harambee' included a black history segment featuring HistoryMakers Robert Hooks and U.S. Congressman Ronald Dellums, a segment on AIDS, and a special with Eubie Blake before his death. During her tenure, the 'Harambee' show underwent several transformations under different names, hosts, and formats. Randolph-Jasmine talks about D.C.'s black community during the early years of 'Harambee'. She also talks about Blacks in Broadcasting, an organization whose members, including Max Robinson and HistoryMakers Jim Vance and Sheila Thomas, met to discuss issues in the media. While working as a co-host, Randolph-Jasmine enrolled at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., earning her J.D. degree in 1977. She became a columnist for the Washington Times after leaving WDVM-TV in 1987.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Randolph-Jasmine, Section A2013\_335\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:51 2013/12/05

Carol Randolph-Jasmine began writing for the Washington Times after leaving the world of broadcast television in 1987. While at the Times, the Congressional Black Caucus sent her to Israel to cover the First Intifada, but her editor refused to publish her articles from the trip. She then joined Goldfarb, Kaufman, & O'Toole in 1988. Randolph-Jasmine became involved in efforts to publish "Songs of My People," working with people like photographer and HistoryMaker Roy Lewis as well as one of the book's editors, D. Michael Cheers. She was then hired as an anchor at Court TV where she covered cases like Claire Maglica's palimony lawsuit, the Menendez Brothers' murder trial, and the O.J. Simpson trial. Randolph-Jasmine worked for Walls Communication from

2000 to 2006 before joining Miller and Long Concrete Construction where she worked with the Academy of Construction Design at Cardozo High School in Washington, D.C. She talks about her volunteer work at JOBS Coalition and at Shepherd Elementary School.

Video Oral History Interview with Carol Randolph-Jasmine, Section A2013\_335\_001\_006, TRT: 6:16:27 2013/12/05

Carol Randolph-Jasmine reflects upon her life and career including what she would do differently. She talks about the portrayal of the black community in the media as well as the state of the black community. Randolph-Jasmine also describes a memorable experience from her years as a teacher. She then talks about her family and her second husband, Frank Jasmine. She concludes her interview by considering her hopes and concerns for the African American community, her legacy and how she would like to be remembered.