

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Art Fennell

PERSON

Fennell, Art, 1961-

Alternative Names: Art Fennell;

Life Dates: January 10, 1961-

Place of Birth: Bennettsville , South Carolina, USA

Residence: Atlanta, GA

Work: Philadelphia, PA

Occupations: Broadcast Journalist

Biographical Note

Broadcast journalist Art Fennell was born and raised in Bennettsville, South Carolina. One of twelve children, he graduated from South Carolina State University with a communications degree.

Fennell began his broadcasting career as a radio announcer in Orangeburg, South Carolina. He went on to work in on-air positions at The South Carolina Educational Television Network; WBTW-TV in Florence, South Carolina; WCBD-TV in Charleston, South Carolina; WSAV-TV in Savannah, Georgia and WAVY-TV in Portsmouth, Virginia. Fennell then moved to WCAU NBC-10 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he served in various roles, including as anchor, reporter, host and producer. He was subsequently named principal anchor and managing editor for CN8 News on the Comcast Network based in Philadelphia, and hosted the nightly 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscasts. From 2006 to 2014, CN8-TV aired “Art Fennell Reports,” where Fennell was executive producer and anchor.

Fennell has also served on special assignments for TV-ONE and led the network’s live national coverage of “The Michael Jackson Memorial” from Los Angeles, “The Democratic National Convention” from Denver, “Election Night 2008” from Chicago, and the historic “Inauguration of President Barack Obama” from Washington, DC. In addition, he taught as an adjunct communications professor at Delaware State University.

Fennell served as president of the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) from 1995 to 1997. He also served on the boards of UNITY: Journalists of Color and

the NABJ, as well as president of the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists, and founding president of the Hampton Roads Black Media Professionals. In 2001, he founded The Arthur Fennell Foundation, which is committed to raising funds and awareness to assist community based organizations dealing with disease, education and prevention in diverse, under-served populations.

Throughout his career, Fennell has been honored with more than seventy-five awards, including the prestigious Vanguard Award presented by the Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists. He also received the 2009 “Journalist of The Year Award” for his work in the Philadelphia region and the 2006 Emmy Award for “Outstanding News Anchor” in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Art Fennell was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 12, 2014.

Related Entries

Blenheim High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

South Carolina State University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

SC ETV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1982 to 1983]

Reporter

WCBD [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983 to 1985]

Anchor Reporter

WBTW [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983 to 1984]

Photographer

WSAV [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1985 to 1987]

Anchor

WAVY [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1987 to 1990]

Anchor Reporter

WCAU [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990 to 2000]

Anchor Reporter

Fennell Media [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1999 to ?]

Comcast NBC Universal [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2000 to 2014]

Anchor/Executive Producer

National Association of Black Journalists [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to 1995]

Regional Director

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

NABJ Media Institute [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Cofounder

Philadelphia Association of Black Journalists [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Hampton Roads Black Media Professionals [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Founder

National Association of Black Journalists [MEMBEROF]

[from 1995 to 1997]

National President