

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Eric Deggans

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Deggans, Eric
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Eric Deggans,
Dates:	September 12, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:09:52).
Abstract:	Journalist Eric Deggans (1965 -), NPR's first full-time TV critic, worked at the Tampa Bay Times for eighteen years as an entertainment critic and columnist. He also authored <i>Race-Baiter: How the Media Wields Dangerous Words to Divide a Nation</i> . Deggans was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 12, 2014, in St. Petersburg, Florida. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_197
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist Eric Deggans was born on November 6, 1965 in Washington, D.C. He was raised in Gary, Indiana and graduated from Andean High School. In the 1980s, while attending Indiana University, Deggans worked as a professional drummer and toured with Motown recording artist The Voyage Band. He received his B.A. degree in political science and journalism from Indiana University in 1990.

Deggans first held municipal reporting positions at the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* and *Pittsburgh Press* newspapers in Pennsylvania. He then served as the music critic for the *Asbury Park Press* newspaper in Neptune, New Jersey. In 1995, Deggans joined the *Tampa Bay Times*, then called the *St. Petersburg Times*, as its pop music critic. From 1997 to 2004, he worked as a TV critic for the *Times*, and, from 2004 to 2005, he sat on the paper's editorial board and wrote bylined opinion columns. Deggans then returned to the *Tampa Bay Times* news desk, first as a media writer in 2005, then as the TV critic in 2006. In 2010, he made national headlines when he interviewed former USDA official Shirley Sherrod at the National Association of Black Journalists' summer convention in San Diego, California. Deggans left the *Tampa Bay Times* in 2013 to take a job as NPR's first full-time TV critic.

Deggans published his first book, *Race-Baiter: How the Media Wields Dangerous Words to Divide a Nation*, in 2012. He also contributed to the Poynter Institute's *The New Ethics of Journalism*, which was published in August 2013. Deggans' writing has appeared in *The New York Times* online, *Salon* magazine, CNN.com, *The Washington Post*, *Village Voice*, *VIBE* magazine, *Chicago Tribune*, *Detroit Free Press*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *The Seattle Times*, *Emmy* magazine, *Newsmax* magazine, and Rolling Stone Online, among others. Deggans also taught at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, Loyola University, California State University, Indiana University, the University of Tampa, and Eckerd College, and has guest hosted CNN's media analysis show *Reliable Sources*.

Deggans served as chair of the Media Monitoring Committee for the National Association of Black Journalists, and sat on the board of directors for the national Television Critics Association and the Mid-Florida Society of

Professional Journalists. In addition, he served on the board of educators, journalists and media experts who select the George Foster Peabody Awards for excellence in electronic media.

Deggans was named as one of *Ebony* magazine's "Power 150" in 2009. In 2013, he was awarded the Florida Press Club's first-ever Diversity Award, and the National Association of Black Journalists' Arts & Entertainment Task Force Legacy Award. Deggans also received reporting and writing awards from the Society for Features Journalism, American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors, the Society of Professional Journalists, and the Florida Society of News Editors.

Eric Deggans was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on September 12, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Eric Deggans was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 12, 2014, in St. Petersburg, Florida, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Journalist Eric Deggans (1965 -), NPR's first full-time TV critic, worked at the Tampa Bay Times for eighteen years as an entertainment critic and columnist. He also authored *Race-Baiter: How the Media Wields Dangerous Words to Divide a Nation*.

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:

Deggans, Eric

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Champagne, Curt (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Deggans, Eric--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Journalist

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 Eric Deggans, September 12, 2014. 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 Eric Deggans, Section A2014_197_001_001, TRT: 1:31:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eric Deggans, Section A2014_197_001_002, TRT: 2:32:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eric Deggans, Section A2014_197_001_003, TRT: 3:32:16 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eric Deggans, Section A2014_197_001_004, TRT: 4:29:08 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eric Deggans, Section A2014_197_001_005, TRT: 5:25:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eric Deggans, Section A2014_197_001_006, TRT: 6:28:41 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eric Deggans, Section A2014_197_001_007, TRT: 7:11:08 ?