

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lyne Pitts

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Pitts, Lyne Johnson, 1954-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lyne Pitts,
Dates:	June 19, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014
Physical Description:	10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:58:31).
Abstract:	Television executive and journalist Lyne Pitts (1954 -) was managing editor of The Root, served as NBC News' vice president of strategic initiatives from 2007 to 2009, and worked as a producer at CBS News for over twenty years. Her honors include several Emmy Awards. Pitts was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 19, 2014, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_209
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Television executive and journalist Lyne Johnson Pitts was born on December 12, 1954 in Washington, D.C. She attended the Emma Willard School in Troy, New York, and graduated from Stanford University with her B.A. degree in communications in 1976.

Upon graduation, Pitts was hired as an editor for the *Ravenswood Post* in East Palo Alto, California. From 1977 to 1978, she worked as a writer at KPIX-TV, the CBS owned station in San Francisco. Pitts went on to serve as a writer and producer at KTLA-TV from 1978 to 1980 and at CBS's KNXT (now KCBS-TV) from 1980 until 1984. She was then hired by CBS News in 1984 as a broadcast producer for the *CBS Morning News*. She served as a producer for *CBS News Sunday Morning* and the CBS News weekend broadcasts in 1987, and then as senior producer and producer of *48 Hours* from 1987 to 1996. In 1996, Pitts was named executive producer of "The Class of 2000", a four-year ongoing project of CBS News. During this period, she also served as executive producer of "Before Your Eyes," a series of critically acclaimed CBS News primetime specials. Pitts was then appointed as executive producer of the *CBS Evening News* weekend broadcasts in 1997, and was promoted to executive producer of CBS's *The Early Show* in December 1999. In 2003, she moved from *The Early Show* to senior broadcast producer of *CBS Evening News with Dan Rather*.

Pitts left CBS News in 2004 and was hired as executive producer of NBC News' *Today, Weekend Edition* in February of 2006. In 2007, Pitts was named vice president of strategic initiatives for NBC News, where she worked until 2009. Then, after briefly serving as head of U.S. operations for Nduka Obaigbena's Arise News, she was named *The Root's* interim managing editor in September of 2013. She took on the permanent role of *The Root* managing editor in February of 2014. Pitts also serves as chief executive officer of BLP Productions LLC and of Maltese Productions, Inc.

Her honors include several national Emmy Awards and the Silver Gavel Award from the American Bar Association. She is married to ABC News chief national correspondent Byron Pitts. Together they have six children.

Lyne Pitts was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 19, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Lyne Pitts was conducted by Harriette Cole on June 19, 2014, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Television executive and journalist Lyne Pitts (1954 -) was managing editor of *The Root*, served as NBC News' vice president of strategic initiatives from 2007 to 2009, and worked as a producer at CBS News for over twenty years. Her honors include several Emmy Awards.

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:

Pitts, Lyne Johnson, 1954-

Harriette Cole (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Pitts, Lyne Johnson, 1954---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Journalist

Television Executive

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 Lyne Pitts, June 19, 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 Lyne Pitts, Section A2014_209_001_001, TRT: 1:30:02 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Lyne Pitts, Section A2014_209_001_002, TRT: 2:30:35 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Lyne Pitts, Section A2014_209_001_003, TRT: 3:32:10 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Lyne Pitts, Section A2014_209_001_003E, TRT: 3:32:10 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Lyne Pitts, Section A2014_209_001_004, TRT: 4:29:23 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Lyne Pitts, Section A2014_209_001_005, TRT: 5:29:02 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Lyne Pitts, Section A2014_209_001_005E, TRT: 5:29:02 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Lyne Pitts, Section A2014_209_001_006, TRT: 6:28:19 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Lyne Pitts, Section A2014_209_001_007, TRT: 7:30:57 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Lyne Pitts, Section A2014_209_001_008, TRT: 8:26:51 ?