

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Danny Glover

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Glover, Danny
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Danny Glover,
Dates:	December 20, 2015
Bulk Dates:	2015
Physical Description:	4 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:10:34).
Abstract:	Actor Danny Glover (1946 -) portrayed the detective Robert Murtaugh in the 'Lethal Weapon' franchise. His activism extended to the 1960s, when he was involved in the Black Student Union at San Francisco State College. Glover was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 20, 2015, in San Francisco, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2015_014
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Actor Danny Glover was born on July 22, 1946 in San Francisco, California. His parents, Carrie and James Glover, were both postal workers and active members of the NAACP. Glover was a student at Daniel Webster Elementary School and Roosevelt Middle School. He graduated from George Washington High School in 1964. Glover went on to attend San Francisco State University in the late 1960s, where he played a role in the 1968 student strike, which led to the creation of the first ethnic studies department in the country. Glover went on to work for the City of San Francisco as an evaluations specialist and program manager in the Model

Cities Program from 1972 to 1977. Glover trained as an actor in the Black Actors' Workshop at the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, as well as with Jean Shelton at the Shelton Actors Lab.

Glover's career as an actor began in college, where he acted in a play by artist-in-residence Amiri Baraka. He went on to act in his first feature film, *Escape from Alcatraz* in 1979. Glover has been noted for his roles in *The Color Purple*, the popular *Lethal Weapon* series (1987, 1989, 1992, and 1998), *Predator 2* (1990), *To Sleep With Anger* (1990), and *Angels in the Outfield* (1994). He served as a narrator of the animated films of *The Prince of Egypt* (1998), *Antz* (1998), and *Our Friend, Martin* (1999). In 1994, Glover co-founded the Robey Theatre Company, a Los Angeles-based non-profit with the mission of developing new plays about the Black American experience. In 2005, Glover co-founded Louverture Films, a company expressly dedicated to production of socially-conscious films from around the world. As a humanitarian, Glover has lent his voice and aid to the American Postal Workers Union, United Auto Workers, and Service Employees International Union, amongst many other causes.

Glover was the recipient of countless awards and honors, including the BET Humanitarian Award in 2004, an NAACP Image Award – Chairman's Award in 2003, the 2002 Marian Anderson Award, several NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Actor, an Independent Spirit Award for Best Male Lead in 1991, and a 2011 Pioneer Award from the National Civil Rights Museum. Glover also received the prestigious Medaille des Arts et des Letters from the French Ministry of Culture and was honored with a tribute at the Deauville International Film Festival in 2011.

A noted humanitarian, Glover served as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Program from 1998-2004, during which time he focused on issues of poverty, disease, and economic development in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. He was a UNICEF Ambassador.

Glover lives in San Francisco with his wife, Eliane Cavalleiro. He has one daughter, Mandisa Glover, from a previous marriage.

Danny Glover was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 20, 2015.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Danny Glover was conducted by Julieanna L. Richardson on December 20, 2015, in San Francisco, California, and was

recorded on 4 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Actor Danny Glover (1946 -) portrayed the detective Robert Murtaugh in the 'Lethal Weapon' franchise. His activism extended to the 1960s, when he was involved in the Black Student Union at San Francisco State College.

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:

Glover, Danny

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Glover, Danny--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Actor

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 Danny Glover, December 20, 2015. 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 Danny Glover, Section
A2015_014_001_001, TRT: 1:31:03 2015/12/20

Danny Glover was born on July 22, 1946 in San Francisco, California to Carrie Hunley Glover and James Glover. His maternal great-grandmother, Mary Brown, was born in 1853, and was freed a decade later by the Emancipation Proclamation. Glovers' maternal grandparents owned a farm in Louisville, Georgia, where his grandmother was a midwife. His mother graduated from Paine College in Augusta, Georgia in 1942. She then moved to New York City, where she met Glover's father, who was from Kansas City, Missouri. While serving in the U.S. Army, Glover's father was sent to the San Francisco Bay Area, where he was discharged after World War II. Then, Glover's parents secured positions in the U.S. Post Office Department, and joined the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees. They also raised five children, including Glover. As a boy, he delivered the San Francisco Examiner and the San Francisco Chronicle, where he read about civil rights activists like Robert Parris Moses and Fannie Lou Hamer.

Video Oral History Interview with Danny Glover, Section

A2015_014_001_002, TRT: 2:31:41 2015/12/20

Danny Glover attended the Irving M. Scott School in San Francisco, California from the second to fourth grades. After his family bought a home in the city's Western Addition neighborhood, he transferred to Daniel Webster Elementary School, and went on to attend Roosevelt Junior High School. He describes his early experiences of discrimination, when he was bullied by his classmates because of the size of his lips. As a boy, Glover often visited his maternal grandparents' farm in Louisville, Georgia. He also accompanied his family to San Francisco's Missionary Temple C.M.E. Church, where he once mistook a parishioner for the writer Lorraine Hansberry. Glover went on to study at George Washington High School, where he was encouraged to participate in the Civil Rights Movement by his classmate, Margie Wade. Glover was also informed about the labor movement in the San Francisco Bay Area from a young age due to his parents' activism in the National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees.

Video Oral History Interview with Danny Glover, Section
A2015_014_001_003, TRT: 3:36:41 2015/12/20

Danny Glover graduated in 1964 from George Washington High School in San Francisco, California. After one year at the City College of San Francisco, he enrolled at San Francisco State College with his friend, Clarence "Buzz" Thomas. Glover joined the school's Black Student Union (BSU), which advocated for the inclusion of black and ethnic studies in the curriculum. To this end, the BSU hosted activists like poets Amiri Baraka, Roland Snellings and Sonia Sanchez; as well as Nathan Hare, who went on to found the university's College of Black Studies in 1968. The BSU also worked to mobilize the black community in San Francisco's Fillmore District, which was threatened by redevelopment. In 1969, a disparaging article about the BSU in the San Francisco State College Gator newspaper instigated a strike that shut down the campus for five months. Glover and the other strike leaders were tried and suspended for six months. At this point in the interview, Glover describes his affiliation with the Black Panther Party.

Danny Glover assumed leadership of the Black Student Union at San Francisco State College in San Francisco, California in 1969, around the time that the College of Ethnic Studies was founded. At this point in the interview, Glover describes his identification as a progressive radical like W.E.B. Du Bois and Paul Robeson, whose views differed from black nationalist thinkers like Nathan Hare. Glover also talks about the organization of the Black Power and black studies movements. In 1971, he began his work with the Model Cities program in San Francisco. As an evaluator, he assessed the needs and progress of the Hunters Point housing project and the Mission Reading Clinic. During this period, Glover began his career as an actor. He joined an improvisational theater group operated by Black Actors Now Through Unity, which was founded by the actor Mel Stewart. Glover performed with the group at venues like Minnie's Can-Do Club. He also enrolled in a scene study class at the Westcoast Black Repertory Theater.