

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Clinton Turner Davis

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Davis, Clinton Turner, 1950-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Clinton Turner Davis,
Dates:	October 25, 2016
Bulk Dates:	2016
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:12:12).
Abstract:	Theatrical director Clinton Turner Davis (1950-) began his career with Negro Ensemble Company in 1972. He has directed numerous off-Broadway productions, including works by Pearl Cleage, Paul Carter Harrison and August Wilson. Davis was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 25, 2016, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2016_045
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Theatrical director Clinton Turner Davis was born on April 9, 1949 in Washington, D.C. to Josephine Davis and Clinton Davis. Davis attended McKinley Technical High School, where he performed in plays and was president of the thespian club. He briefly attended Hanover College in Hanover, Indiana, but received his B.F.A. degree in theater from Howard University in 1972.

After being cast in *Slaughterhouse Play* at the Public Theatre in New York City, Davis began his career with the Negro Ensemble Company in 1972 as the production stage manager for *The Great Macdaddy* at St. Mark's Playhouse. Throughout the 1970s, Davis served as the stage manager for a succession of Negro Ensemble Company productions, including *Eden*, *Nevis Mountain Dew*, *Old Phantoms: A Play in Two Acts*, *The Sixteenth Round*, *Zooman and the Sign*, *Weep Not for Me* and *Home*. In 1982, Davis made his directorial debut with *Abercrombie Apocalypse: An American Tragedy* at Westside Arts Theatre in New York City. Produced by Negro Ensemble Company and written by playwright Paul Carter Harrison, the off-Broadway drama starred Graham Brown, Timothy B. Lynch, and Barbara Montgomery. Davis would go on to direct Pearl Cleage's first play, *Puppetplay*, at Theatre Four in New York City in 1982, and serve as the stage manager for *Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music* in 1983. Additional Negro Ensemble Company productions directed by Davis in the 1980s included *Two Can Play*, *House of Shadows* and *That Serious He-Man Ball*. In 1986, Davis co-founded the Non-Traditional Casting Project. He then directed his first August Wilson play, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, at Theatreworks in Palo Alto, California in 1989. At the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in 1993, Davis directed Joe Turner's *Come and Gone*, which was the festival's first produced work by an African American playwright. In 2013, he directed Charles Fuller's *One Night....* Davis was an associate professor of drama at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Davis served as a director for the American Young Playwrights Festival in New York City. He was a guest lecturer at Yale University, Dartmouth College, Columbia University, The Ohio State University, and Howard University;

and directed theatrical productions at The Juilliard School, Brandeis University, and Colorado College. Davis received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Howard University, in addition to Dallas Theatre, Bay Area, and Drama-logue Critics' Awards. In 2015, Davis received the Lloyd Richards Directors Award from the National Black Arts Festival.

Clinton Turner Davis was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 25, 2016.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Clinton Turner Davis was conducted by Harriette Cole on October 25, 2016, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Theatrical director Clinton Turner Davis (1950-) began his career with Negro Ensemble Company in 1972. He has directed numerous off-Broadway productions, including works by Pearl Cleage, Paul Carter Harrison and August Wilson.

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:

Davis, Clinton Turner, 1950-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Davis, Clinton Turner, 1950---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Theater Director

Stage Producer

HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers

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 Clinton Turner Davis, October 25, 2016. 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 Clinton Turner Davis, Section A2016_045_001_001, TRT: 1:27:43 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clinton Turner Davis, Section A2016_045_001_002, TRT: 2:31:14 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clinton Turner Davis, Section A2016_045_001_003, TRT: 3:29:33 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clinton Turner Davis, Section A2016_045_001_004, TRT: 4:30:28 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clinton Turner Davis, Section A2016_045_001_005, TRT: 5:28:10 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clinton Turner Davis, Section A2016_045_001_006, TRT: 6:29:11 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clinton Turner Davis, Section A2016_045_001_007, TRT: 7:33:08 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clinton Turner Davis, Section A2016_045_001_008, TRT: 8:32:27 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Clinton Turner Davis, Section A2016_045_001_009, TRT: 9:10:18 ?