

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Mark Whitaker

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Whitaker, Mark
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Mark Whitaker,
Dates:	December 15, 2016 and October 28, 2016
Bulk Dates:	2016
Physical Description:	11 uncompressed MOV digital video files (5:44:19).
Abstract:	Journalist and author Mark Whitaker (1957 -) was the editor of Newsweek magazine from 1998 to 2007, Washington bureau chief for NBC News from 2008 to 2011, and managing editor for CNN Worldwide from 2011 to 2013. Whitaker was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 15, 2016 and October 28, 2016, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2016_080
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist and author Mark Whitaker was born on September 7, 1957 in Lower Merion, Pennsylvania to Syl and Jeanne Whitaker. After attending the George School in Newtown, Pennsylvania, Whitaker went on to receive his B.A. degree in social studies from Harvard University in 1979, and become a Marshall Scholar at Oxford University's Balliol College in London, England.

From 1981 to 2006, Whitaker worked as a journalist for *Newsweek*. In 1987, he was appointed the business editor for the magazine, leading coverage of the stock market crash, insider trading scandals, and the savings and loan crisis. He also wrote the cover story on the release of Nelson Mandela in 1990. Whitaker became the Editor of *Newsweek* in 1998, making him the first African American to occupy the top editorial position at a national newsweekly. In 2007, he was hired as senior vice president of NBC News. Whitaker became the Washington bureau chief for NBC News after Tim Russert's death in 2008. In that role, he oversaw the television program *Meet the Press*, and supervised the coverage of the 2008 presidential election and the first two years of the Obama administration. Whitaker left NBC to become the executive vice president and managing editor for CNN Worldwide, positions he held from 2011 to 2013.

During Whitaker's tenure as *Newsweek* editor, the magazine won National Magazine Awards for General Excellence for their coverage of the September 11 attacks and the Iraq War. At NBC and CNN, he oversaw programming that was nominated for News & Documentary Emmy Awards, and won several Peabody Awards. Whitaker served as president of the American Society of Magazine Editors from 2004 to 2006, and he is currently a member of the selection committees for the John Chancellor Award and the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards in journalism.

Whitaker has written three books: a family memoir entitled *My Long Trip Home*; *Cosby: His Life and Times*, a biography on comedian Bill Cosby; and *Smoketown: The Untold Story of the Other Great Renaissance*, a history of

the contribution of black Pittsburgh to the worlds of music, sports, theater, journalism and politics. Whitaker and his wife, Alexis Gelber, have two children, Rachel and Matthew.

Mark Whitaker was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 24, 2016 and December 15, 2016.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Mark Whitaker was conducted by Harriette Cole on December 15, 2016 and October 28, 2016, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 11 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Journalist and author Mark Whitaker (1957 -) was the editor of Newsweek magazine from 1998 to 2007, Washington bureau chief for NBC News from 2008 to 2011, and managing editor for CNN Worldwide from 2011 to 2013.

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:

Whitaker, Mark

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Whitaker, Mark--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 Mark Whitaker, December 15, 2016 and October 28, 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 Mark Whitaker, Section A2016_080_001_001, TRT: 1:28:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Mark Whitaker, Section A2016_080_001_002, TRT: 2:29:52 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Mark Whitaker, Section A2016_080_001_003, TRT: 3:32:48 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mark Whitaker, Section A2016_080_001_004, TRT: 4:41:07 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mark Whitaker, Section A2016_080_002_005, TRT: 5:32:19 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mark Whitaker, Section A2016_080_002_006, TRT: 6:31:20 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mark Whitaker, Section A2016_080_002_007, TRT: 7:28:26 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mark Whitaker, Section A2016_080_002_008, TRT: 8:29:07 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mark Whitaker, Section A2016_080_002_009, TRT: 9:30:42 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mark Whitaker, Section A2016_080_002_010, TRT: 10:34:46 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mark Whitaker, Section A2016_080_002_011, TRT: 11:25:10 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Mark Whitaker, Section
A2016_080_Whitaker_Mark_06_MED_001, TRT: