

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Anthony Chisholm

PERSON

Chisholm, Anthony

**Alternative Names:** Anthony Chisholm;

**Life Dates:** April 9, 1943-October 16, 2020

**Place of Birth:** Cleveland, Ohio, USA

**Residence:** New York, NY

**Work:** New York, NY

**Occupations:** Actor

## Biographical Note

Actor Anthony Chisholm was born on April 9, 1943 in Cleveland, Ohio to Edith Amilia and Victor Chisholm. Drafted by the U.S. Army, Chisholm served as platoon leader for the 4th Armored Calvary, 1st Infantry Division in the Vietnam War.

Upon returning from the Vietnam War, Chisholm performed in The Boys from Syracuse and The Threepenny Opera at Karamu House in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1968, he made his film debut in Uptight, directed by Jules Dassin. That same year, Chisholm began studying with Lloyd Richards in the Negro Ensemble Company's master class. Chisholm appeared in a number of films in the late 1960s and early 1970s, including Putney Swope in 1969 and Cotton Comes to Harlem in 1970. In 1985, he portrayed Habu and Drill Sergeant Williams in Tracers at the Joseph Papp Public Theater in New York City. In 1987, Chisholm's Vietnam War experiences served as the inspiration for the HBO television series Vietnam War Story. He also joined the Vietnam Veterans Ensemble Theater Company, where he acted in several productions including Back in the World in 1988 and The Strike in 1990. Chisholm met August Wilson in 1990 while auditioning for Two Trains Running, and was cast in the role of Wolf. After appearing in the first run at Yale Repertory Theatre, he went on tour with the production to Boston's Huntington Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, Los Angeles' Doolittle Theatre, the Kennedy Center, and San Diego's Old Globe Theatre. Chisholm reprised the role in the Broadway production of Two Trains Running at the Walter Kerr Theatre in New York City in 1992. In 1996, he became part of the core cast for August Wilson's Jitney, which appeared off-Broadway at New York City's Second Stage Theatre in 2000. Between 2001 and 2003, Chisholm portrayed prisoner Burr Redding in the HBO crime drama series, Oz. He then acted in August Wilson's Gem of the Ocean

in 2004, alongside Phylicia Rashad, Ruben Santiago-Hudson and John Earl Jelks. Beginning in 2007, Chisholm portrayed Elder Joseph Barlow in the final installment of August Wilson's "Pittsburgh Cycle," Radio Golf. He received a Tony Award nomination for his portrayal of Elder Joseph Barlow in the Broadway production of Radio Golf, directed by Kenny Leon at the Cort Theatre in New York City.

In addition to his stage roles, Chisholm appeared in numerous television shows and films, including Reign Over Me (2007), Premium Rush (2012) and Spike Lee's Chi-Raq (2015). He was the recipient of the Drama Desk, Obie, Ovation, NAACP Theatre, and AUDELCO awards.

Anthony Chisholm was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on November 10, 2016 and April 14, 2017.

Chisholm passed away on October 16, 2020.

## Related Entries

**New York University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

N/A

**Case Western Reserve University** [STUDENTOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**HBO** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Guest Star- Strip Search/Thought Crimes**

**HBO** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Host/Storywriter- Vietnam War Stories**

**New Line Cinema** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Supporting- Going in Style**

**Independent Film** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Supporting- Essential Ingredients**

**Cort Theatre** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Elder Joseph Barlow- Radio Golf**

**Walter Kerr Theatre** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from ? to ?]

**Solly Two Kings- Gem of the Ocean**

**Walter Kerr Theatre** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Wolf- Two Trains Running**

**Second Stage Theatre** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Lefty- The Happiest Song Plays Last**

**Two River Theatre Company** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Hambone- Two Trains Running**

**Two River Theatre Company** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Fielding- Jitney**

**Long Wharf Theatre** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Simon- The Train Driver**

**Second Stage & Union Square Theatre** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Fielding- Jitney**

**Joseph Papp Public Theatre** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Habu- Tracers**

**Delacorte Theatre** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Servant- King Lear**

**Joseph Papp Public Theater** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Snow- Ice Bridge**

**Joseph Papp Public Theater** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Knowledge- Black Visions**

**Joseph Papp Public Theatre** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Eldridge- The Mighty Gents**

**Manhattan Theatre Club** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Marvin- The Talented Tenth**

**Mark Taper Forum** [EMPLOYEEOf]

[from ? to ?]

**Solly Two Kings- Gem of the Ocean**

**CBS (MOW)** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1975 to 1975]

**Guest Star- American Parade/Sojourner**

**CBS (MOW)** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1990 to 1990]

**Guest Star- Murder in Black & White**

**Xanon Entertainment Group** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1993 to 1993]

**Lead- Let's Get Bizzee**

**Fox Broadcasting Company** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1996 to 1996]

**Guest Star- New York Undercover**

**Buena Vista Entertainment** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 1998 to 1998]

**Supporting- Beloved**

**HBO** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2001 to 2003]

**Series Regular/Burr Redding- Oz**

**NBC** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2001 to 2001]

**Guest Star- Third Watch**

**CBS** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2002 to 2003]

**Recurring- Hack**

**A & E** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2002 to 2002]

**Special Guest Star- 100 Centre Street**

**NBC** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2002 to 2002]

**Guest Star- Law & Order: SVU**

**CBS** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2003 to 2003]

**Guest Star- The Handler**

**Artisan Entertainment** [EMPLOYEEOF]  
[from 2003 to 2004]

**Supporting- Bought & Sold**

**Image Entertainment** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2004 to 2006]

**Lead- Coalition**

**Sony Pictures Entertainment, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2007 to 2007]

**Supporting- Reign Over Me**

**True Life Films** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2007 to 2008]

**Supporting- Blackout**

**ABC** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2010 to 2010]

**Guest Star- Detroit 187**

**Lonette Productions** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2010 to 2010]

**Supporting- Dream Street**

**Columbia Pictures** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2012 to 2012]

**Supporting- Premium Rush**

**Independent Film** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2013 to 2013]

**Supporting- Newlyweeds**

**PBS** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2014 to 2015]

**Featured- August Wilson: The Ground on Which I Stand**

**Amazon Studios** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2015 to 2016]

**Supporting- Chiraq**

**Independent Film** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2015 to 2015]

**Supporting- Condemned**

**Independent Film** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2015 to 2015]

**Supporting- Nasty Baby**

**NBC** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2016 to 2016]

**Guest Star- Shades of Blue**

**Opera Trilogy** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 2002 to ?]

## **Member- Board of Directors**