

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Phylicia Rashad

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Rashad, Phylicia, 1948-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Phylicia Rashad,
Dates:	December 13, 2016 and February 2, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2016 and 2017
Physical Description:	12 uncompressed MOV digital video files (5:52:45).
Abstract:	Actress Phylicia Rashad (1948 -) was best known for playing Claire Huxtable on The Cosby Show from 1984 to 1992. She made her Broadway debut as a munchkin in the original production of The Wiz in 1975, and would star in the Broadway productions of A Raisin in the Sun, Gem of the Ocean, and Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. Rashad was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 13, 2016 and February 2, 2017, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2016_150
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Actress and stage director Phylicia Rashad was born on June 19, 1948 in Houston, Texas. Rashad graduated from Howard University in 1970, magna cum laude, with a B.F.A. degree.

Best known for her role of Clair Huxtable on the long-running NBC sitcom *The Cosby Show*, Rashad has enjoyed a distinguished acting career on television, stage, and film. Her theater credits include Broadway productions of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, *Gem of the Ocean*, *Into the Woods*, *Jelly's Last Jam*, *Dreamgirls*, *Ain't Supposed to Die a Natural Death*; also *Cymbeline* and *Bernada* at Lincoln Center. Rashad has appeared in films: *The Old Settler*, *For Colored Girls*, *Creed*, and *Creed II*.

A critically acclaimed stage director, Rashad has led productions at prestigious venues throughout the United States including the Mark Taper Forum, the McCarter, the Goodman, the Long Wharf, the Steppenwolf, Ebony Repertory and the Signature Theatre. Among her growing list of directorial credits are: August Wilson's *Gem of the Ocean*, *Fences*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, for which she received the 2014 NAACP Theatre Award for Best Director, and *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*; Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*; Paul Oakley Stovall's *Immediate Family* and Stephen Adly Guirgis' *Our Lady of 121st Street*.

Respected in the academic world, Rashad was the first recipient of the Denzel Washington Chair in Theatre at Fordham University, and has been bestowed with numerous honorary doctorate degrees from institutions like Providence College, Tuskegee University, Carnegie Mellon University, Fordham University, Howard University, Barber-Scotia College, Bennett College, Brown University, Clark Atlanta University, Morris Brown College, and Spelman College, presented to her by former First Lady Michelle Obama at the 2011 commencement. Together, she and her sister, Debbie Allen Nixon, established the Dr. Andrew A. Allen Scholarship Award for theater

students at Howard University. Rashad also conducts Master Classes at colleges and universities across the country, and served as a master teacher for the 2015 Lunt Fontanne Fellows at the Ten Chimneys Foundation.

Throughout her lifetime, Rashad has maintained a commitment to community service exemplified through her participation as a Director of Brainerd Institute Heritage in Chester, South Carolina. An active member of several organizations devoted to arts education and philanthropic endeavors, Rashad is honored to serve as Brand Ambassador of the National Trust for Historic Preservation African American Cultural Heritage Fund.

Inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame in 2016, Rashad counts among her many honors: People's Choice Awards, NAACP Image Awards, The Will Award from the National Shakespeare Theatre, the Spirit of Shakespeare Award from the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, the Drama Desk and Tony Awards for Best Actress in a Play for her riveting performance as Lena Younger in the Broadway revival of Lorraine Hansberry's *A Raisin in the Sun*, and the 2016 Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Leading Actress in a Play for her performance as Shelah in Tarrell Alvin McCraney's *Head of Passes* at the Public Theater.

Phylicia Rashad was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 13, 2016 and February 2, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Phylicia Rashad was conducted by Harriette Cole on December 13, 2016 and February 2, 2017, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 12 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Actress Phylicia Rashad (1948 -) was best known for playing Claire Huxtable on *The Cosby Show* from 1984 to 1992. She made her Broadway debut as a munchkin in the original production of *The Wiz* in 1975, and would star in the Broadway productions of *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Gem of the Ocean*, and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*.

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:

Rashad, Phylicia, 1948-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Rashad, Phylicia, 1948---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Actress

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 Phylicia Rashad, December 13, 2016 and February 2, 2017. 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 Phylicia Rashad, Section A2016_150_001_001, TRT: 1:28:19 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Phylicia Rashad, Section A2016_150_001_002, TRT: 2:30:53 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Phylicia Rashad, Section A2016_150_001_003, TRT: 3:30:53 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Phylicia Rashad, Section A2016_150_001_004, TRT: 4:29:11 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Phylicia Rashad, Section A2016_150_001_005, TRT: 5:30:55 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Phylicia Rashad, Section A2016_150_002_006, TRT: 6:33:01 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Phylicia Rashad, Section A2016_150_002_007, TRT: 7:27:50 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Phylicia Rashad, Section A2016_150_002_008, TRT: 8:28:40 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Phylicia Rashad, Section A2016_150_002_009, TRT: 9:28:57 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Phylicia Rashad, Section A2016_150_002_010, TRT: 10:28:03 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Phylicia Rashad, Section A2016_150_002_011, TRT: 11:28:19 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Phylicia Rashad, Section A2016_150_002_012, TRT: 12:27:44 ?