

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

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Whitaker, Bill, 1951-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker,
Dates:	April 11, 2023 and January 18, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017 and 2023
Physical Description:	17 uncompressed MOV digital video files (8:55:55).
Abstract:	Broadcast journalist Bill Whitaker (1951-) won an Emmy for his coverage of the demise of Jim and Tammy Bakker's television ministry, and covered the Tiananmen Square protests. He became a correspondent for the CBS newsmagazine 60 Minutes in 2014. Whitaker was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 11, 2023 and January 18, 2017, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_008
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Broadcast journalist Bill Whitaker was born on August 26, 1951, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Marie and William Whitaker, and raised in Media, Pennsylvania. He attended Media Elementary School and Media Junior High. Whitaker graduated from Penncrest High School in 1969. Whitaker went on to earn his B.A. degree in American history from the Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York in 1973. He then graduated with his M.A. degree in African American studies from Boston University in 1974 and enrolled in the Master of Journalism program the University of California, Berkeley.

Whitaker began his journalism career in 1979, serving as a news producer, researcher, and writer for KQED, a public television station in San Francisco. His first reporting job was with the CBS affiliate WBTV-TV in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he covered the contentious 1984 senate race between Jim Hunt and Jesse Helms. Whitaker was hired as a reporter at CBS News that same year and was based in Atlanta, Georgia, where he covered the 1988 presidential campaign of Michael Dukakis. The following year, Whitaker became the CBS News Tokyo correspondent, covering stories throughout Asia, including the 1989 Tiananmen Square protests. He was relocated to Los Angeles to serve as a regular reporter for CBS Evening News in 1992, and appeared in other CBS programs like Sunday Morning and The Early Show. He was CBS News' lead reporter covering President George W. Bush's 2000 campaign and also covered Mitt Romney's 2008 campaign. Whitaker became a correspondent for the CBS newsmagazine 60 Minutes in 2014.

Whitaker served on the board of directors for the Hobart and William Smith Colleges starting in 2002. He was a member of the National Association for Black Journalists in the Black Journalists Association of Southern California Chapter.

Whitaker has received many awards and honors, including honorary degrees from the Hobart and William Smith

College in 1997 and Knox College in 2015. He was awarded the News & Documentary Emmy Award for Outstanding Business and Economic Reporting in a News Magazine from the National Academy of Arts and Sciences, an Excellence Award from the National Association of Black Journalists, and the Leonard Zeidenberg First Amendment Award from the Radio Television Digital News Association. He also won an Emmy in 1988 for his coverage of the demise of Jim and Tammy Bakker's television ministry

Whitaker and his wife, Terry, have two children, William and Lesley.

Bill Whitaker was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on January 18, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Bill Whitaker was conducted by Harriette Cole and Julieanna L. Richardson on April 11, 2023 and January 18, 2017, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 17 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Broadcast journalist Bill Whitaker (1951-) won an Emmy for his coverage of the demise of Jim and Tammy Bakker's television ministry, and covered the Tiananmen Square protests. He became a correspondent for the CBS newsmagazine 60 Minutes in 2014.

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, Bill, 1951-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Richardson, Julieanna L. (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Whitaker, Bill, 1951- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Broadcast 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 Bill Whitaker, April 11, 2023 and January 18, 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 Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_001_001, TRT: 1:28:42 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_001_002, TRT: 2:29:12 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_001_003, TRT: 3:27:55 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_001_004, TRT: 4:33:52 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_001_005, TRT: 5:30:08 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_001_006, TRT: 6:28:50 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_001_007, TRT: 7:27:46 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_001_008, TRT: 8:43:31 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_002_009, TRT: 9:33:34 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_002_010, TRT: 10:29:14 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_002_011, TRT: 11:34:21 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_002_012, TRT: 12:34:12 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_002_013, TRT: 13:32:03 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_002_014, TRT: 14:35:44 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_002_015, TRT: 15:31:27 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_002_016, TRT: 16:30:50 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Bill Whitaker, Section A2017_008_002_017, TRT: 17:24:34 ?