

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Eric Benét

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Benét, Eric
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Eric Benét,
Dates:	July 19, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:22:32).
Abstract:	R&B singer and actor Eric Benét (1966 -) a Grammy nominated R&B singer, known for his 1996 song "Spend My Life with You" featuring Tamia, has acted in television and movies, and founded his independent record label Jordan House Records. Benét was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 19, 2017, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_118
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

R&B singer and actor Eric Benét was born on October 15, 1966 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He attended the Milwaukee Trade and Technical High School. In 1990, Benét formed a group with his sister, Lisa Jordan, called Benét. After a hiatus, Benét signed a record deal with Warner Bros. Records in 1994 and released his first studio album, *True to Myself*, in 1996. In 1999, Benét released his sophomore album, *A Day in the Life*, with the single "Spend My Life with You," featuring the Canadian artist Tamia. During this time, Benét also began his career in film when he guest starred on the sitcom *For Your Love* in 1999 and appeared in the film *Glitter* in 2001. Benét then signed a new record deal with Reprise Records and released his third studio album, *Hurricane* in 2001. In 2005, he portrayed Reece Wilcox on the series *Half & Half*. In 2007, he had a recurring role on the MTV scripted show *Kaya*. In 2008, he released the album *Love & Life*. Two years later, Benét released *Lost in Time*, which included the single "Sometimes I Cry." In 2011, his second feature film role in *Trinity Goodheart* premiered at the American Black Film Festival. Benét released his 2012 album *The One* and his 2016 album *Eric Benét* under his newly-formed independent record label, Jordan House Records. He also signed the artists Goapele and Calvin Richardson to his label, and helped produce their records. In 2016, Benét guest starred in the show, *Real Husbands of Hollywood*.

After the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, Benét performed the song "Heart of America" with Wynonna Judd, Terry Dexter, and Michael McDonald to raise money for the hurricane victims. He also co-founded Mission Save Her, a non-profit dedicated to fighting against human trafficking, slavery, and sexual abuse of women and girls around the world.

Benét received three Grammy Award nominations in the R&B category for singles released on his albums. In 2000, he was awarded the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Song for his performance of "Spend My Life with You." Benét was also nominated for the Black Reel Award for Best Actor in T.V. movie/cable for his role in the film *Trinity Goodheart*.

Benét and his wife, Manuela Testolini, have two children, Lucia Bella and Amoura Luna.

Eric Benét was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on July 19, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Eric Benét was conducted by Harriette Cole on July 19, 2017, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. R&B singer and actor Eric Benét (1966 -) a Grammy nominated R&B singer, known for his 1996 song “Spend My Life with You” featuring Tamia, has acted in television and movies, and founded his independent record label Jordan House Records.

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:

Benét, Eric

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Benét, Eric--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

R & B Singer

Actor

HistoryMakers® Category:

MusicMakers

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 Eric Benét, July 19, 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 Eric Benét, Section A2017_118_001_001, TRT: 1:29:56 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eric Benét, Section A2017_118_001_002, TRT: 2:30:04 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eric Benét, Section A2017_118_001_003, TRT: 3:28:31 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eric Benét, Section A2017_118_001_004, TRT: 4:33:31 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eric Benét, Section A2017_118_001_005, TRT: 5:30:59 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eric Benét, Section A2017_118_001_006, TRT: 6:31:20 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Eric Benét, Section A2017_118_001_007, TRT: 7:18:11 ?