

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Patricia Cosby

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Cosby, Patricia, 1944-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Cosby,
Dates:	October 17, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:27:04).
Abstract:	Music executive Patricia Cosby (1944 -) was a receptionist, tape librarian, and album coordinator for Motown Records Corporation and was married to Motown writer and producer Henry “Hank” Cosby. Cosby was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on October 17, 2017, in Detroit, Michigan. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_185
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Music executive Patricia Cosby was born on February 9, 1944 to Willie Thompson and Meomi Seay Thompson. She graduated from Northwestern High School in Detroit, Michigan in 1961 and attended Detroit Business Institute.

In 1962, Cosby began working at Motown Records in Detroit, Michigan. She began working as a switchboard receptionist and was promoted to tape librarian under the supervision of Frances Heard Maclin, the first assistant in the tape library. Cosby later became an album coordinator. At Motown, Cosby met her husband, Hank Cosby. Her husband produced hits such as “The Tears of a Clown” and “My Cherie Amour.” In 1972, Cosby and her husband, moved to Los Angeles, California when the company relocated. In 1974, Cosby earned songwriting credits for two songs on the Blood, Sweat, & Tears album, *Mirror Image*. The songs are titled “Tell Me That I’m Wrong” and “Love Looks Good On You (You’re Candy Sweet),” with the album reaching 149 on the *Billboard* Pop Album chart. Cosby left Motown Records and in 1985, she secured a position with Embassy Pictures as a procurement coordinator, working under television producer Norman Lear. After two years at Embassy Pictures, she moved back to Detroit in 1987 and later worked for the health insurance company, Cigna in 1990. Cosby served as a contracting manager and retired from her position at Cigna in 2005.

In 2002, her husband, Hank Cosby, passed away, with over 300 mourners at his funeral, Stevie Wonder, Rance Allen and Jennifer Fouche sang at his funeral. In 2006, Hank Cosby was posthumously inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Cosby was also a member of the Motown Historical Museum and the Heroes and Legends Scholarship Foundation.

Patricia Cosby had two children with and her husband, Henry Cosby: Henry Cosby, Jr., and William Cosby. Her husband Henry Cosby, also had another son, Kevin Cosby, from a previous marriage.

Patricia Cosby was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 17, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Patricia Cosby was conducted by Larry Crowe on October 17, 2017, in Detroit, Michigan, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Music executive Patricia Cosby (1944 -) was a receptionist, tape librarian, and album coordinator for Motown Records Corporation and was married to Motown writer and producer Henry “Hank” Cosby.

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:

Cosby, Patricia, 1944-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Cosby, Patricia, 1944- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Music Executive

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 Patricia Cosby, October 17, 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 Patricia Cosby, Section A2017_185_001_001, TRT: 1:27:54 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Cosby, Section A2017_185_001_002, TRT: 2:29:46 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Cosby, Section A2017_185_001_003, TRT: 3:30:00 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Cosby, Section A2017_185_001_004, TRT: 4:28:21 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Cosby, Section A2017_185_001_005, TRT: 5:28:48 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Cosby, Section A2017_185_001_006, TRT: 6:37:03 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Patricia Cosby, Section A2017_185_001_007, TRT: 7:25:12 ?