

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Lou Bellamy

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Bellamy, Lou
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Lou Bellamy,
<b>Dates:</b>	June 19, 2018
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2018
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:21:09).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Artistic director Lou Bellamy (1944- ) served as an associate professor at University of Minnesota, Twin Cities for thirty-eight years. He also founded and served as the artistic director of the Penumbra Theatre Company in Saint Paul, Minnesota from 1976 to 2014. Bellamy was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 19, 2018, in Saint Paul, Minnesota. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2018_126
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Artistic director Louis Bellamy was born on March 10, 1944 in Chicago, Illinois to ElVeeda Luckett Bellamy and James Kirk. Bellamy graduated from Saint Paul Central High School in 1962, and received his B.A. degree in psychology and sociology at Minnesota State University, Mankato in 1967. He later earned his M.A. degree in theater arts at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities in 1978.

Bellamy founded The Penumbra Theatre Company in 1976 in St. Paul, Minnesota. Under Bellamy's leadership, Penumbra produced thirty-nine world premieres, including an early production of August Wilson's *Jitney!* in 1982. Bellamy went on to work for the theater and dance department at the University of Minnesota in 1979, while continuing to direct Penumbra. Bellamy became an associate professor of theatre at the University of Minnesota in 1994. He taught classes on the history of African Americans in American theatre and contemporary Black theatre, as well as courses in acting, directing and oral communication. Bellamy advocated for the creation of the August Wilson Fellowship in dramaturgy and literary criticism at the University of Minnesota, providing graduate students with support, mentorship and practical experience. Bellamy also directed plays at Arizona Theatre Company, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, Signature Theatre, Oregon Shakespeare Festival, The Cleveland Play House, Indiana Repertory Theatre, The Guthrie Theater, The Kennedy Center, and Hartford Stage Company. After thirty-two years of teaching, Bellamy retired in 2011 from his position with the University of Minnesota. In 2014, the board of directors of Penumbra Theatre Company appointed his daughter, Sarah Bellamy, as the theater's next artistic director. Bellamy then served as emeritus artistic director.

Bellamy was honored with the IVEY Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005, and named Distinguished Artist by the McKnight Foundation in Minneapolis in 2006. Bellamy received an Obie Award for directing a 2007 New York production of August Wilson's *Two Trains Running*. In 2017, he was the recipient of the Kay Sexton Award in recognition for his career as a teacher, mentor, director and promoter of African American literature.

Bellamy and his wife, Colleen Bellamy, are the parents of two adult children, Sarah and Lucas.

Lou Bellamy was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 19, 2018.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Lou Bellamy was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 19, 2018, in Saint Paul, Minnesota, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Artistic director Lou Bellamy (1944- ) served as an associate professor at University of Minnesota, Twin Cities for thirty-eight years. He also founded and served as the artistic director of the Penumbra Theatre Company in Saint Paul, Minnesota from 1976 to 2014.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Bellamy, Lou

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Bellamy, Lou--Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Artistic Director

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers

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## 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 Lou Bellamy, June 19, 2018. 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Lou Bellamy, Section A2018\_126\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:30 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lou Bellamy, Section A2018\_126\_001\_002, TRT: 2:30:05 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lou Bellamy, Section A2018\_126\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:41 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lou Bellamy, Section A2018\_126\_001\_004, TRT: 4:29:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lou Bellamy, Section A2018\_126\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lou Bellamy, Section A2018\_126\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lou Bellamy, Section A2018\_126\_001\_007, TRT: 7:31:14 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lou Bellamy, Section A2018\_126\_001\_008, TRT: 8:29:54 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Lou Bellamy, Section A2018\_126\_001\_009, TRT: 9:22:03 ?