

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Terrence Spivey

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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>	Spivey, Terrence, 1961-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Terrence Spivey,
<b>Dates:</b>	September 27, 2018
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2018
<b>Physical Description:</b>	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:20:40).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Artistic director Terrence Spivey served as artistic director of the Karamu House Performing Arts Center and founded the Powerful Long Ladder Theatre Company. He is a member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Society. Spivey was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 27, 2018, in Cleveland, Ohio. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2018_194
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Artistic director Terrence Spivey was born in Kountze, Texas to Lillian Cole and Terry Cooper. He graduated from Lamar High School in 1979 and went on to receive his B.A. degree in theater from Prairie View A&M University in 1984. He then moved to New York City, where he studied the Meisner technique at William Esper Studio in 1988.

Spivey worked as an actor and theater director throughout the 1990s. From 2000 to 2001, Spivey served as theater workshop facilitator at the Black Writers Reunion and Conference. In 2002, Spivey became the associate director for legendary playwright J. E. Franklin of the Black Girl Ensemble in Harlem, New York; and, in 2003, he was hired as the artistic director of the historic Karamu House. While there, he directed productions of *The Little Tommy Parker Celebrated Minstrel Show*, *Bee-Luther-Hatchee*, *Dream on Monkey Mountain*, *God's Trombones* and *The Wiz*. In 2008, Spivey joined Kent State University's theatre and dance department as an adjunct professor, becoming the theatre director in residence for productions by the Pan African Studies department in 2013. Spivey was selected as the keynote speaker for the United States Institute for Theatre Technology's fifty-fifth annual conference in 2015. In 2016, Spivey left the Karamu House and began working as a freelance director, acting instructor, theater lecturer and career consultant, and speech coach. With the Powerful Long Ladder Ensemble Theater Company in Cleveland, Ohio, Spivey debuted a production of James Baldwin's *The Amen Corner*. He also directed productions of *The Bloodless Jungle*, *Radio Golf*, *Breath, Boom, Bootycandy*, and *Neighbors*. In 2016, he directed *Objectively/Reasonable: A Community Response to the Shooting of Tamir Rice* at Playwrights Local, which received national acclaim and was featured on NPR's *Going There* with Michel Martin. In 2017, Spivey worked as an artistic associate with the Shore Culture Center in Euclid, Ohio and served as an artist-in-residence at the Cleveland School of the Arts. In 2018, Spivey founded TamiReach to establish the theatre outreach program at the Tamir Rice Afrocentric Cultural Center. In 2022, Spivey served as professor and director at Allegheny College. He was commissioned to write and direct *An Ocean in My Bones*, a highlight about the *Clotilda*, the last slave ship, for the Clotilda Descendants Association in Mobile, Alabama, which premiered in 2022.

Spivey has served on the board of the Community Partnership for Arts and Culture, the Cleveland Arts Prize, the Audience Development Committee (AUDELCO), and the Cleveland Foundation's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame scholarship committee. He is a member of the Stage Directors and Choreographers Society.

In 2011, Spivey received a proclamation from Cleveland Mayor Frank Jackson and Councilwoman Mamie Mitchell for his local, regional, and national artistic contributions. Spivey also received the 2013 AUDELCO Award for Repertory Company of the Year for his work with the Karamu House. In 2016, he was honored by Ohio state representative John Barnes, Jr. for his contributions to the arts. In the same year, Spivey was voted Best Director by *The Cleveland Scene*. In 2017, he received the Best Bold Direction for a Shocking Piece Award for his premiere of *Neighbors* by Brandon Jacobs-Jenkins.

Terrence Spivey was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on September 27, 2018.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Terrence Spivey was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 27, 2018, in Cleveland, Ohio, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Artistic director Terrence Spivey served as artistic director of the Karamu House Performing Arts Center and founded the Powerful Long Ladder Theatre Company. He is a member of the Stage Directors & Choreographers Society.

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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:

Spivey, Terrence, 1961-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Spivey, Terrence, 1961- --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 Terrence Spivey, September 27, 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 Terrence Spivey, Section A2018\_194\_001\_001, TRT: 1:29:36 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Terrence Spivey, Section A2018\_194\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Terrence Spivey, Section A2018\_194\_001\_003, TRT: 3:27:21 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Terrence Spivey, Section A2018\_194\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:12 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Terrence Spivey, Section A2018\_194\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:49 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Terrence Spivey, Section A2018\_194\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:33 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Terrence Spivey, Section A2018\_194\_001\_007, TRT: 7:28:07 ?