

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Dawn Davis

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Davis, Dawn
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Dawn Davis,
Dates:	August 19, 2019
Bulk Dates:	2019
Physical Description:	7 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:26:24).
Abstract:	Publisher Dawn Davis (1965 -) was vice president and editorial director of the HarperCollins' African American imprint, Amistad, before becoming the founder, publisher, and vice president of 37 INK, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, Inc. Davis was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 19, 2019, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2019_077
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Publisher Dawn Davis was born on June 23, 1965 in Los Angeles, California to Leona Julia and Louis Davis. She graduated from Immaculate Heart High School in Los Angeles, California in 1983, and received her B.A. degree in international relations from Stanford University in Stanford, California in 1987.

In 1987, Davis entered into a two year analyst program at the investment bank First Boston in New York City. Davis was then awarded a scholarship through Rotary International to complete an independent study abroad in Nigeria. While on this trip, Davis decided to leave investment banking and returned to New York City where she became the assistant to Andre Schiffrin at his newly founded publishing house, The New Press. In 1991, Davis published her first book, *If You Can't Stand the Heat: Tales from Chefs and Restaurateurs*, which featured world renowned chefs Anthony Bourdain and Edna Louis. Davis left The New Press in 1995 and joined the Penguin Random House imprint of Vintage Books. In 2001, Davis moved to HarperCollins as the vice president and editorial director of Amistad, the company's imprint devoted to work from and about the African diaspora. While there, Davis acquired and published award-winning novels and bestselling memoirs, including Edward P. Jones' Pulitzer-Prize winning *The Known World* and Chris Gardener's *The Pursuit of Happyness*, which became a major motion picture. In 2013, Davis founded her own imprint, 37 INK, at Simon & Schuster, Inc. 37 INK has published a variety of works including *The Butler* by Wil Haygood, *The Misadventures of Awkward Black Girl* by Issa Rae, *Never Caught: The Washingtons Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave*, *Ona Judge* by Erica Armstrong Dunbar, which was nominated for the National Book Award, and Nafissa Thompson Spires's *Heads of the Colored People*, which won the Los Angeles Times Book Award for fiction. Through 37 INK, Davis also launched an online national black book club, The Inkwell Book Club.

Davis has received several awards and honors for her work. In 2019, Poets & Writers named her the Editor of the Year. She was also honored alongside Reginald Van Lee with the Visionary Award from the Metro Manhattan

Chapter of The Links, Incorporated in 2014. Davis served on the Board of Directors of the Harlem School of the Arts in New York City.

Dawn Davis was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 20, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Dawn Davis was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 19, 2019, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 7 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Publisher Dawn Davis (1965 -) was vice president and editorial director of the HarperCollins' African American imprint, Amistad, before becoming the founder, publisher, and vice president of 37 INK, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, Inc.

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:

Davis, Dawn

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Davis, Dawn--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Publisher

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 Dawn Davis, August 19, 2019. 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 Dawn Davis, Section A2019_077_001_001, TRT: 1:28:46 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Dawn Davis, Section A2019_077_001_002, TRT: 2:30:08 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Dawn Davis, Section A2019_077_001_003, TRT: 3:29:27 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Dawn Davis, Section A2019_077_001_004, TRT: 4:28:41 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Dawn Davis, Section A2019_077_001_005, TRT: 5:28:33 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Dawn Davis, Section A2019_077_001_006, TRT: 6:31:08 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Dawn Davis, Section A2019_077_001_007, TRT: 7:29:41 ?