

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jabari Asim

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Asim, Jabari, 1962-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jabari Asim,
Dates:	September 13, 2019
Bulk Dates:	2019
Physical Description:	10 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:26:35).
Abstract:	Author and magazine editor Jabari Asim (1962 -) was editor-in-chief of the NAACP's magazine, <i>The Crisis</i> , from 2007 to 2017, and became associate professor of writing literature and publishing at Emerson College in 2010. He has also authored fifteen books. Asim was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 13, 2019, in Boston, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2019_100
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Author and magazine editor Jabari Asim was born on August 11, 1962 in St. Louis, Missouri. He graduated from Southwest High School in 1980, and attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

In 1988, Asim was hired by the startup African American publication, *Take Five* magazine, as a contributing writer. By 1990, he was promoted to senior editor of the magazine where he ran the magazine's literary section until 1992, when he became a copy editor for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Here, he would take on the additional role of arts editor of the weekend section; and, in 1993, he was made book editor. In 1996, Asim moved to Washington D.C. when he was hired by the *Washington Post* to serve as an assistant editor before becoming senior editor of the newspaper's Book World in 1999. The *Washington Post* Book World was a weekly book section in which Asim wrote, assigned, and edited reviews. He remained in this role until he became editor-in-chief of the NAACP's magazine, *The Crisis*, in 2007. From 2008 to 2010, Asim served as a scholar-in-residence in African American Studies and in the Department of Journalism at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; and, in 2009, he was awarded the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation fellowship in the general nonfiction category. Emerson College in Boston, Massachusetts hired Asim in 2010 to work as an associate professor of writing, literature, and publishing. He left *The Crisis* in 2017.

Asim is the author of nonfiction, fiction, children's and adult's books, and poetry. His children's literature includes *The Road to Freedom: A story of the Reconstruction* (2001), *Whose Toes are Those?* and *Whose Knees are These?* (2006), *Daddy Goes to Work* (2006), *Girl of Mine* and *Boy of Mine* (2010), *Fifty Cents and a Dream: Young Booker T. Washington* (2012), *Preaching to the Chickens: The Story of Young John Lewis* (2016), and *A Child's Introduction to African American History: The Experiences, People, and Events That Shaped Our Country* (2018). His adult works include *Not Guilty: Twelve Black Men Speak Out on the Law, Justice and Life* (2001), *The N Word: Who Can Say It, Who Shouldn't, and Why* (2007), *What Obama Means: ...For Our Culture, Our Politics,*

Our Future (2009), *A Taste of Honey* (2010), *Only the Strong* (2015), and *We Can't Breathe* (2018). Asim's poetry has also been featured in the *Black American Literature Forum*, *The Furious Flowering of African American Poetry*, *Step Into A World: A Global Anthology of The New Black Literature*, *Role Call: A Generational Anthology of Social and Political Black Literature & Art*, *Beyond The Frontier: African-American Poetry for the 21st Century*, and *The Harlem Reader: A Celebration of New York's Most Famous Neighborhood from the Renaissance Years to the 21st Century*.

Asim lives in Massachusetts with his wife, Liana Asim, and the couple has five children.

Jabari Asim was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on September 13, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jabari Asim was conducted by Larry Crowe on September 13, 2019, in Boston, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 10 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Author and magazine editor Jabari Asim (1962 -) was editor-in-chief of the NAACP's magazine, *The Crisis*, from 2007 to 2017, and became associate professor of writing literature and publishing at Emerson College in 2010. He has also authored fifteen books.

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:

Asim, Jabari, 1962-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Asim, Jabari, 1962---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Author

Magazine Editor

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 Jabari Asim, September 13, 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 Jabari Asim, Section A2019_100_001_001, TRT: 1:29:01 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Jabari Asim, Section A2019_100_001_002, TRT: 2:29:42 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Jabari Asim, Section A2019_100_001_003, TRT: 3:28:16 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Jabari Asim, Section A2019_100_001_004, TRT: 4:29:24 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Jabari Asim, Section A2019_100_001_005, TRT: 5:28:48 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Jabari Asim, Section A2019_100_001_006, TRT: 6:29:18 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Jabari Asim, Section A2019_100_001_007, TRT: 7:29:35 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Jabari Asim, Section A2019_100_001_008, TRT: 8:28:31 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Jabari Asim, Section A2019_100_001_009, TRT: 9:26:15 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Jabari Asim, Section A2019_100_001_010, TRT: 10:07:45 ?