

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Famoudou Don Moye

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Moye, Famoudou Don
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Famoudou Don Moye,
Dates:	June 4, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	7 Betacame SP videocassettes (3:09:57).
Abstract:	Percussionist Famoudou Don Moye (1946 -) performs with the Art Ensemble of Chicago and is considered one of world's best drummers. In addition to his work with AEC, Moye has been a member of The Leaders since 1984 and has recorded with the Black Artists Group, Joseph Jarman, Don Pullen, Cecil McBee, Hamiet Bluiet, Julius Hemphill, Chico Freeman and Lester Bowie's Brass Fantasy. Moye was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on June 4, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_075
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Drummer extraordinaire Famoudou Don Moye was born on May 23, 1946 in Rochester, New York. In high school, he began playing drums, congas and bongos and went on to formally study percussion at Wayne State University in Detroit.

In 1968, Moye toured Europe with the Detroit Free Jazz Band and worked briefly in Italy for RAI (Italian Radio and Television). While abroad, Moye had the opportunity to work with Steve Lacy, Pharoah Sanders, Sonny Sharrock, Randy Weston and Art Taylor and to collaborate extensively with Moroccan musicians.

Moye joined the innovative, avant-garde quintet, the Art Ensemble of Chicago (AEC), in 1969 and he has been a permanent member ever since. Moye and the other members of AEC draw their influence from both Africa and the Caribbean, rural as well as urban spaces, from the whole spectrum of black music. Their radically experimental performances include painted faces, costumes and exotic instruments, which all contribute to their energetic improvisations. In addition to his work with AEC, Moye has been a member of The Leaders since 1984 and has recorded with the Black Artists Group, Joseph Jarman, Don Pullen, Cecil McBee, Hamiet Bluiet, Julius Hemphill, Chico Freeman and Lester Bowie's Brass Fantasy. He also leads the Sun Percussion Summit, a group dedicated to exploring the traditions of African American percussion music.

Moye's recordings have won him the praise of critics at such esteemed publications as *Rolling Stone*, *Down Beat*, *Melody Maker*, *The New York Times*, *Audio Magazine* and *Stereo Review*. He was the winner of the Downbeat International Critics Poll in 1977, 1978 and 1982; and the New York Jazz Poll in 1979 and 1980. He received performance grants from the National Endowment for the Arts in both 1974 and 1981. He lives in Chicago, with his wife Gloria and their son, Bongo.

Moye was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on June 4, 2002.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Famoudou Don Moye was conducted by Larry Crowe on June 4, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 7 Betacame SP videocassettes. Percussionist Famoudou Don Moye (1946 -) performs with the Art Ensemble of Chicago and is considered one of world's best drummers. In addition to his work with AEC, Moye has been a member of The Leaders since 1984 and has recorded with the Black Artists Group, Joseph Jarman, Don Pullen, Cecil McBee, Hamiet Bluiet, Julius Hemphill, Chico Freeman and Lester Bowie's Brass Fantasy.

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:

Moye, Famoudou Don

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Moye, Famoudou Don--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Percussionist

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 Famoudou Don Moye, June 4, 2002. 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 Famoudou Don Moye, Section A2002_075_001_001, TRT: 0:29:42 ?

Famoudou Don Moye recalls his early musical influences and artistic pursuits from his childhood through college. He also remembers his parents.

Video Oral History Interview with Famoudou Don Moye, Section A2002_075_001_002, TRT: 0:29:17 ?

Famoudou Don Moye details his travels through Europe, first with the Detroit Free Jazz, and later with the Art Ensemble of Chicago. He also discusses his mentor, Randy Weston.

Video Oral History Interview with Famoudou Don Moye, Section A2002_075_001_003, TRT: 0:30:29 ?

Famoudou Don Moye continues to detail his travels through Europe with the Art Ensemble of Chicago, including his reflections on various European cities, and European cultures' influence on his work.

Video Oral History Interview with Famoudou Don Moye, Section A2002_075_001_004, TRT: 0:30:37 ?

Famoudou Don Moye discusses in depth his thirty-five year involvement in the Art Ensemble of Chicago. He focuses on their exchange with musicians of other styles and cultures.

Video Oral History Interview with Famoudou Don Moye, Section A2002_075_001_005, TRT: 0:29:45 ?

Famoudou Don Moye reflects on his creative choices and his development as a musician. He describes the Chicago music scene during the 1970s, including the role of the Art Ensemble of Chicago. He also shares the origin of his first name.

Video Oral History Interview with Famoudou Don Moye, Section A2002_075_001_006, TRT: 0:31:07 ?

Famoudou Don Moye discusses the efforts and influence of the Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians. He considers the future of black music, and reflects on his legacy.

Video Oral History Interview with Famoudou Don Moye, Section A2002_075_001_007, TRT: 0:09:00 ?