

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Geraldine Moore

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Moore, Geraldine, 1929-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Geraldine Moore,
Dates:	September 9, 2002
Bulk Dates:	2002
Physical Description:	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:58:07).
Abstract:	Drummer Geraldine Moore (1929 -) was the leader of all female band that backed comedian Jackie "Moms" Mabley. Moore was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 9, 2002, in Chicago, Illinois. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2002_175
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Drummer Geraldine "Gerry" Moore has spent her lifetime entertaining as a drummer. Born on October 29, 1929 in Chicago, Illinois to Guy and Violet Moore, she grew up attending public schools in Chicago and New Orleans, Louisiana, after her mother died while she was a young girl.

Moore set her sights on making music. Her aunt wanted her to take piano lessons in order to play music in church, but Moore wanted to play popular, secular music.

Once in high school, Moore played the valve trombone, which her aunt also disapproved of because of the way it disjointed her jaw. She eventually began to play the drums instead with the concert and marching band at Booker T. Washington High School in New Orleans.

Since high school, Moore has played with various bands, ensembles and groups. She has done shows throughout the United States with traveling groups, such as: the Birdy (Lady Bird) Davis All Star Girl Band, the Phill Cheatum Quintet, the Teddy King Rhythm & Blues Band, the Alvin Cash Band, the Lady Bird Organ All-Girl Trio and the Lady Bird - Two Plus Two quartet with two girls and two men. She also performed with the legendary comic Moms Mabley.

In 1999, the storyline of Moore's musical career was featured in Regina Taylor's play, "Oo-Bla-Dee: Ladies in Jazz." Since 1974, Moore has played with The Organization Ensemble of Dave Anderson and Mars Catchum and, since 2001, with the KCR Lady's Jazz Ensemble.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Geraldine Moore was conducted by Adele Hodge on September 9, 2002, in

Chicago, Illinois, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Drummer Geraldine Moore (1929 -) was the leader of all female band that backed comedian Jackie "Moms" Mabley.

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:

Moore, Geraldine, 1929-

Hodge, Adele (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Moore, Geraldine, 1929---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Drummer

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 Geraldine Moore, September 9, 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 Geraldine Moore, Section A2002_175_001_001, TRT: 0:29:50 ?

Drummer Geraldine Moore begins by recalling her family background and sharing memories of her family life. Moore describes her childhood environs in New Orleans and Chicago, and talks about the schools she attended in both cities. Moore describes many of her early music teachers and explains how she got deeply involved in music during high school. Moore explains why she left high school to become a professional musician and details her early career.

Video Oral History Interview with Geraldine Moore, Section A2002_175_001_002, TRT: 0:31:15 ?

Drummer Geraldine Moore details her experiences as a musician on the road, particularly the challenges she faced as a female performer. Moore recalls her return to Chicago and lists the musicians with whom she performed and describes the importance of musicians unions. Moore also talks about non-musical jobs she took to help make ends meet, and remembers the hand injury

that she thought would end her music career.

Video Oral History Interview with Geraldine Moore, Section A2002_175_001_003, TRT: 0:30:04 ?

Drummer Geraldine Moore recalls overcoming a career-threatening injury to her hand, and discusses Regina Taylor's rendering of that period in her play, 'Oo-Bla-Dee.' Moore also recounts her experiences with sexism and racism while on tour. She then details the period of her mother's illness and reflects on her mother's death. Moore concludes by discussing her daughter and her grandchildren's musical interests.

Video Oral History Interview with Geraldine Moore, Section A2002_175_001_004, TRT: 0:26:58 ?

Drummer Geraldine Moore reflects on the course of her life and career. She also remembers the International Sweethearts of Rhythm as pioneering female performers.