

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Alexis Scott

Overview of the Collection

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| Repository: | The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com |
| Creator: | Scott, Alexis, 1949- |
| Title: | The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Alexis Scott, |
| Dates: | September 22, 2004 |
| Bulk Dates: | 2004 |
| Physical Description: | 4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:36:32). |
| Abstract: | Newspaper publishing chief executive and newspaper columnist Alexis Scott (1949 -) has had a long and celebrated career in the field of journalism, including publishing and writing for the Atlanta Daily World. Scott was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 22, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview. |
| Identification: | A2004_173 |
| Language: | The interview and records are in English. |

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist and publisher Marian Alexis Scott was born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia; her grandfather was W.A. Scott II, the founder of the *Atlanta Daily World*, which was the nation's first black-owned daily newspaper. After graduating from Booker T. Washington High School, Scott attended Barnard College in New York City and Spelman College in Atlanta; she later attended the Columbia University School of Journalism as a summer participant in the 1974 Michelle Clark Fellowship Program. Scott also graduated from the Regional Leadership Institute in 1992, and Leadership Atlanta in 1991.

After a twenty-two year career with the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and Cox Enterprises, Inc, where she worked her way up from reporter to vice president of community affairs at the and then director of diversity at Cox, Scott became involved in the inner workings of the Atlanta Daily World. Scott's duties included acting as publisher and featured commentator on The Georgia Gang, a week-in-review program on politics, which was broadcasted on FOX 5 in Atlanta. Scott was also active in nonprofit organizations such as St. Jude's Recovery Center; Kenny Leon's True Colors theater company; and serving as a board member of Atlanta History Center; the High Museum of Art; the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau; and Central Atlanta Progress.

In 2003, Scott was appointed by Mayor Shirley Franklin to the board of the Atlanta Workforce Development Agency. Scott has received many awards and honors, including the 2004 Imperial Court Daughters of Isis Hall of Fame Award; the 2004 TD Jake's Megafest Phenomenal Woman Award; an honorary doctor of humane letters from Argosy University in Atlanta in 2003; and a 2001 Citizen of the Year Award from Southwest Hospital and Medical Center. Scott also served as the president of the Atlanta Press Club.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Alexis Scott was conducted by Jodi Merriday on September 22, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Newspaper publishing chief executive and newspaper columnist Alexis Scott (1949 -) has had a long and celebrated career in the field of journalism, including publishing and writing for the Atlanta Daily World.

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:

Scott, Alexis, 1949-

Merriday, Jodi (Interviewer)

Melnick, Coy (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Scott, Alexis, 1949---Interviews

African American women journalists--Interviews

African Americans in the newspaper industry--Interviews

Publishers and publishing--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Newspaper Columnist

Newspaper Publishing Chief Executive

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 Alexis Scott, September 22, 2004. 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 Alexis Scott, Section A2004_173_001_001, TRT: 0:28:08 ?

Alexis Scott was born on February 4, 1949 in Atlanta, Georgia. Her mother, Marian Willis Scott, was born in 1923 in Atlanta where her father worked as an upholsterer for the Pullman Company and she later attended Spelman College. Scott's father, William Alexander Scott, III, also born in 1923, moved from Johnson City, Tennessee to Atlanta at a young age and met Scott's mother at Oglethorpe Elementary School. Scott's father served in World War II, where he was present for the liberation of Buchenwald concentration camp. He worked for the Atlanta Daily World, was an expert-rated chess player, and displayed his paintings at the Piedmont Park Arts Festival. Scott's paternal great-great-grandfather was a scout for the Union Army in the Civil War; his grandson, William A. Scott, II, founded the Atlanta Daily World and operated the newspaper until he was murdered in 1934. Scott shares childhood memories of her one older brother teasing her and her great-grandmother, Emmeline Southall Scott, teaching her to cook.

African American women journalists--Interviews.

African Americans in the newspaper industry--Interviews.

Publishers and publishing--Interviews.

Video Oral History Interview with Alexis Scott, Section A2004_173_001_002, TRT: 0:28:00 ?

Alexis Scott grew up in Atlanta where her parents worked at the Atlanta Daily World. She attended Oglethorpe Elementary School, then Booker T. Washington High School. In her youth, Scott dreamed of becoming a journalist. While attending Barnard College in New York City, she took part in the 1968 occupation of the campus of Columbia University to protest the Vietnam War and the university's disregard for local communities. Scott left college after her sophomore year to marry Marc Lewis and move to Milwaukee, where she had her first son, Cinque Scott. They then moved to San Francisco, where she lived among former Barnard classmates, including Thulani Davis and Ntozake Shange. Scott divorced Lewis, returned to Atlanta in 1972, and subsequently married David Reeves and had a second son. Scott recalls the impact her grandmother's membership in the First Congregational Church had upon her, and her parents' decision to send her brother to a boarding school in New Hampshire in preparation for school desegregation.

Video Oral History Interview with Alexis Scott, Section A2004_173_001_003, TRT: 0:28:20 ?

Alexis Scott returned to Atlanta, Georgia after the end of her first marriage. HistoryMaker Charles Hobson recommended her for her first job in journalism as office manager at Newsweek's Atlanta bureau. She also attended the Summer Program for Minority Journalists at Columbia University, which led to being hired as a reporter at the Atlanta Constitution. Scott was then promoted to assistant city editor, director of television projects, and director of community affairs until leaving in 1993 to become director of diversity at Cox Enterprises, Inc. In 1997, Scott left Cox Enterprises to help save the family business, the Atlanta Daily World, during a period of financial trouble. Although Scott did not have the opportunity to pursue her college degree full-time, she studied briefly at Spelman under Johnnetta Cole and HistoryMaker Beverly Guy-Sheftall and was awarded an honorary doctorate from Argosy University in Atlanta in 2003. Scott also recalls her various high school extracurricular activities.

Video Oral History Interview with Alexis Scott, Section A2004_173_001_004, TRT: 0:12:04 ?

Alexis Scott was publisher of the Atlanta Daily World during its seventy-fifth anniversary celebration in 2003, when she helped create a museum exhibit and a documentary about the paper's history along with Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters. At the celebration, she presided over a dinner honoring HistoryMaker Lerone Bennett, Mayor Shirley Franklin, and Arthur Blank.

Under Scott's leadership, the Atlanta Daily World has also received the President's Award from the Atlanta branch of the NAACP and an award from Concerned Black Clergy of Metropolitan Atlanta, Inc. Scott reflects upon her life and legacy. She describes her hopes for the African American community and how she would like to be remembered, and talks about the importance of history.