

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jocelyn Dorsey

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Dorsey, Jocelyn, 1950-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Jocelyn Dorsey,
<b>Dates:</b>	September 23, 2004
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2004
<b>Physical Description:</b>	4 Betacame SP videocassettes (1:43:20).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Television producer and television reporter Jocelyn Dorsey (1950 - ) is the director of editorials and public affairs at WSB-TV, and executive producer and host of "People 2 People." She was also the first African American inducted into the NATAS Silver Circle, and the first woman and first African American to receive the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Citizen of the Year Award. Dorsey was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on September 23, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2004_175
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist Jocelyn Dorsey was born October 10, 1950, in Boston Massachusetts. She is one of three children born to Helena and Robert S. Dorsey in Cincinnati, Ohio. As a child, she attended Rockdale Elementary School and Walnut Hills High School, both in Cincinnati. Upon graduation from high school, she attended Ohio State University where she majored in journalism.

After completing college, Dorsey took a brief summer job as a photographer and reporter at *The Cincinnati Herald* for a summer. She then made her move to television in 1972, working as a reporter at WKRC- TV for a year before she found her permanent home at WSB-TV in Atlanta in 1973. Over the last thirty years, she has held a number of positions with the station, and since 1983, she has been director of editorials and public affairs. Before that, Dorsey served as an anchor, reporter, producer and assignment editor for Channel 2 Action News for ten years. Her current responsibilities at WSB-TV include research, writing and production of editorials broadcast by WSB-TV vice president and general manager Gregory Stone.

Dorsey is also executive producer and host of "People 2 People." She has won numerous awards for her work with WSB-TV, including seven Southeast Regional Emmys for Editorial Excellence from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. She was the first African American inducted into the NATAS Silver Circle. She was also the first woman and first African American to receive the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Citizen of the Year Award. Dorsey has been inducted into the National Association of Black Journalists Region IV Hall of Fame and has been named National Media Woman of the Year by the National Association of Media Women. Her other honors include the first Georgia Chapter United Cerebral Palsy Woman of the Year and the YWCA Academy of Women Achievers. She was named a Pioneer Black Journalist, the highest award given by the Atlanta Association of Black Journalists. She was also recently recognized by Atlanta magazine as a "Woman Making Her Mark."

Dorsey is the mother of two children, one of whom was killed in January of 2003. She is also has two grandchildren.

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# Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Jocelyn Dorsey was conducted by Jodi Merriday on September 23, 2004, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 4 Betacame SP videocassettes. Television producer and television reporter Jocelyn Dorsey (1950 - ) is the director of editorials and public affairs at WSB-TV, and executive producer and host of "People 2 People." She was also the first African American inducted into the NATAS Silver Circle, and the first woman and first African American to receive the Georgia Association of Broadcasters Citizen of the Year Award.

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# 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®.

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# 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.

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# Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

## Persons:

Dorsey, Jocelyn, 1950-

Merriday, Jodi (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Dorsey, Jocelyn, 1950---Interviews

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# Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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# Occupations:

Television Reporter

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Television Producer

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# HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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# 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 Jocelyn Dorsey, September 23, 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).

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# 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.

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# Detailed Description of the Collection

## Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Jocelyn Dorsey, Section A2004\_175\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:40 ?

Jocelyn Dorsey was born on October 30, 1950 in Boston, Massachusetts to Helena Fredericka Harris Dorsey and HistoryMaker Robert Sherwood Dorsey. Dorsey's mother was born in Ecorse, Michigan and grew up on a farm in Paulding, Ohio. Her maternal family includes Josiah Chambers, a Virginian slave who escaped slavery into Canada, and a great-great-grandmother who was Blackfoot Native American and married a French fur trader. Dorsey's father was born in Lafayette, Louisiana, raised by an aunt in Texas, played football for Ohio State University, and worked as a mechanical engineer. Dorsey, the oldest of three sisters, grew up on Forest Park Drive in Cincinnati, Ohio, lived near the zoo, and spent summers tending animals on her grandparents' farm. She first attended school at a Jewish temple, then Rockdale Elementary School, and later Walnut Hills High School, a college preparatory school. She aspired to be a marine biologist until she developed an interest in journalism while studying at Ohio State University.

Video Oral History Interview with Jocelyn Dorsey, Section A2004\_175\_001\_002, TRT: 0:29:20 ?

Jocelyn Dorsey admired her African American science teacher, Miss Stanley, at Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dorsey matriculated in 1968 at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio and was on campus during the U.S. National Guard shootings at sister school Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. She studied print journalism but dropped out during her final quarter to pursue an opportunity as a television reporter at WKRC-TV in Cincinnati. While there, she experienced racial discrimination but found an ally in reporter Elaine Green. At twenty-two, Dorsey moved to Atlanta, Georgia to join WSB-TV Channel Two. She covered white supremacist J.B. Stoner's 1974 lieutenant gubernatorial bid. Dorsey encountered racial and gender discrimination from coworkers and felt isolated socially in the South. In 1983, she faced the possibility of termination from WSB-TV but was promoted to management after Coretta Scott King rallied the civil rights community, including HistoryMaker Andrew Young, in Dorsey's defense.

Video Oral History Interview with Jocelyn Dorsey, Section A2004\_175\_001\_003, TRT: 0:29:10 ?

Jocelyn Dorsey became a manager at WSB-TV in Atlanta, Georgia in 1983 and was the only non-white department head until the early 2000s. In her role as manager during that time, her opinions were often discounted but she sought to educate colleagues when possible. Since her son's murder in 2003, she has thought critically about negative portrayals of African American culture in the media and the need for more uplifting historical accounts. Dorsey talks about the different histories of racial segregation and varying types of racism that she encountered in the North and the South. She describes her pride in the young reporters at WSB-TV, why she works in television, her love of world travel, and her hopes and concerns for the African American community. She gives advice to young people interested in media careers and reflects upon her life.

Video Oral History Interview with Jocelyn Dorsey, Section A2004\_175\_001\_004, TRT: 0:15:10 ?

Jocelyn Dorsey talks about her concerns for the African American community and the role of the media in perpetuating negative images and values as well as society's response to the media. She gives advice to young people and reflects on her legacy and how she would like to be remembered.