

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with David Bodrick

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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>	Bodrick, David, 1963-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with David Bodrick,
<b>Dates:</b>	February 1, 2005
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2005
<b>Physical Description:</b>	5 Betacame SP videocassettes (2:15:40).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Photographer and photography entrepreneur David Bodrick (1963 - ) is the co-founder of DMBJ Productions, which specializes in shooting celebrity video and photographs. Bodrick has also produced a cable show highlighting fashion and music trends in New York City, and has worked as a production assistant for MTV. Bodrick was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 1, 2005, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2005_034
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Celebrity photographer David Bodrick was born on July 31, 1963 in Brooklyn, New York. His mother was a teacher, his father a contractor. Bodrick was educated in the New York City public school system. In 1980, during his sophomore year at high school, he became a teenage father. After earning his diploma from James Madison High School in 1982, he began working full time as a messenger on Wall Street.

Over the next several years, Bodrick held several temporary jobs on Wall Street until he landed a full time position at Nippon Credit Banking. While working at Nippon, Bodrick earned his B.A. degree in film in 1988 from The School of Visual Arts in New York. In 1992, he began producing a cable show highlighting fashion and music trends in New York City. He also worked as a production assistant for MTV.

In 1995, Bodrick and his younger brother, Jonathan, started DMBJ Productions, a company which photographs and videotapes celebrities. His agency, known for celebrity footage, has often been the first to publish photos of famous couples.

Bodrick lives in New York City. His son, David III, is a producer at DMBJ Productions.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with David Bodrick was conducted by Racine Tucker Hamilton on February 1, 2005, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 5 Betacame SP videocassettes. Photographer and photography entrepreneur David Bodrick (1963 - ) is the co-founder of DMBJ Productions, which specializes in shooting celebrity video and photographs. Bodrick has also produced a cable show highlighting fashion and music trends in

New York City, and has worked as a production assistant for MTV.

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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:

Bodrick, David, 1963-

Hamilton, Racine Tucker (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Bodrick, David, 1963---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:

Photographer

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Photography Entrepreneur

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers

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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 David Bodrick, February 1, 2005. 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 David Bodrick, Section A2005\_034\_001\_001, TRT: 0:29:56 ?

David Bodrick was born July 31, 1963 in Brooklyn, New York, New York. His mother, Marie Bodrick, was born in Kinston, North Carolina, attended Shaw University in Raleigh and moved to New York City to pursue her teaching career. His father, David Bodrick, Sr., grew up in Lone Star, South Carolina on a farm. His father was a headhunter. He followed his two older brothers to New York City to find a job and, after working as a laborer, became a contractor. Both of Bodrick's grandmothers were single parents. His paternal grandmother, Angie Bodrick, lived with his family in Brooklyn growing up. As a young child, he almost burnt down his house while playing with his brother, Johnathan Bodrick. On a typical day, he played with his brother and sister, Vanessa Bodrick Davis. His neighborhood was full of row houses, and children often

played in the streets. For most of his youth, his family was Jehovah's Witnesses. He attended P.S. 155 for kindergarten through third grade and P.S. 193 for fourth through sixth grade.

Video Oral History Interview with David Bodrick, Section A2005\_034\_001\_002, TRT: 0:31:21 ?

David Bodrick was bused to school starting in fourth grade as part of New York, New York's desegregation efforts. In elementary school at P.S. 193, he struggled academically and faced racism from his peers. He was shy and, although raised as a Jehova's Witness, did not feel connected to the religion. He preferred painting and playing games with his neighborhood friends. At J.H.S. 278 Marine Park, he also encountered racism and started skipping school and using drugs, though he dreamed of eventually working on Wall Street and living in Manhattan. Bodrick became more popular when he attended James Madison High School. His son, David Bodrick III, was born during Bodrick's sophomore year, which made him focus on school. Although Bodrick and his son's mother drifted apart, their families were supportive of them as young parents. After high school, he worked as a messenger at a brokerage firm. He was encouraged to work for a temporary agency to gain greater exposure to different companies where he might be hired.

Video Oral History Interview with David Bodrick, Section A2005\_034\_001\_003, TRT: 0:30:30 ?

David Bodrick wanted to work on Wall Street after graduating from James Madison High School in New York, New York, so he started working temporary jobs for a handful of firms. He eventually was hired full time at Nippon Credit Bank. Bodrick wanted to pursue his artistic interests, even though he had to remain in a corporate job to financially support his son. He enrolled in night classes at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. While in film school, he created and produced the show 'Avant Garde.' After graduating with a B.A. in film in 1988, he took a six-month leave from Nippon Credit Bank to work for MTV. When he returned to Nippon, he was wrongly fired. The settlement from his former employer enabled him to start his own company, DMBJ Productions. He began shooting b-roll, or supplemental footage, for 'Video Fashion' and 'Fashion File' at various fashion shows. After 'A Current Affair' paid him for footage of Naomi Campbell, he began to sell video and photos of celebrities to popular tabloid shows.

Video Oral History Interview with David Bodrick, Section A2005\_034\_001\_004, TRT: 0:31:23 ?

David Bodrick explains the process for photographing or capturing video footage of celebrities, the ethical dilemmas of such work and his own boundaries and principles that guide him in the business. Though he sees a growing demand for footage of celebrities of color, the number of African Americans and non-white photographers has been stagnant, which leads to black photographers being restricted or discriminated against in the industry. At the time of the interview, his favorite celebrities to shoot included Jennifer Lopez and Oprah Winfrey. Bodrick explains what makes some celebrities photogenic, even in situations where they are not made up for the camera, and the commercialization that celebrities and celebrity photographers engage in as part of their careers. Bodrick reflects upon his life, career choices, and the importance of history. He offers advice for his son and for young people interested in celebrity photograph and videography and describes how he hopes to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with David Bodrick, Section A2005\_034\_001\_005, TRT: 0:12:30 ?

David Bodrick narrates his photographs.