

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Michel du Cille

PERSON

du Cille, Michel, 1956-2014

Alternative Names: Michel du Cille;

Life Dates: January 24, 1956-December 11, 2014

Place of Birth: Kingston , Jamaica

Residence: Washington, D.C.

Work: Washington, D.C.

Occupations: Photojournalist

Biographical Note

Photojournalist Michel du Cille was born in 1956 in Kingston, Jamaica. His initial interest in photography is credited to his father, a pastor-minister, who worked as a newspaper reporter both in Jamaica and in the United States. Du Cille began his career in photojournalism while in high school working at The Gainesville (GA) Times. In 1985, he received his B.S. degree in journalism from Indiana University. Du Cille also received his M.S. degree in journalism from Ohio University in 1994.

While studying at Indiana University, du Cille was a photographer and picture editor at the Indiana Daily Student. He then worked as an intern at The Louisville Courier Journal/Times in 1979 and at The Miami Herald in 1980. Du Cille joined The Miami Herald's photography staff in 1981. In 1988, he was hired as a picture editor for The Washington Post. In 2005, du Cille became associate editor, and was named assistant managing editor of photography in 2007. Then, in 2009, when The Washington Post newsroom was re-organized and combined with washingtonpost.com, du Cille's title went from assistant managing editor of photography to director of photography. In 2012, he again became an associate editor for photography.

Du Cille has won three Pulitzer Prizes. He shared the 1986 Pulitzer Prize for Spot News Photography with fellow Miami Herald staff photographer, Carol Guzy, for their coverage of the November 1985 eruption of Colombia's Nevado del Ruiz volcano. Du Cille won the 1988 Feature Photography Pulitzer for a photo essay on crack cocaine addicts in a Miami housing project. In 2008, he shared the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service with Washington Post reporters, Dana Priest and Anne Hull, for exposing mistreatment of wounded veterans at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. In addition,

du Cille led a team of editors that assembled the photographs shot by Nikki Kahn, Carol Guzy, and Ricky Carioti into the essay that won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize for Breaking News photography for their coverage of the Haitian earthquake and its aftermath.

Du Cille has been active in the National Press Photographers Association (NPPF) in various committee and leadership roles, including serving as the executive committee board representative in 2000, as well as on the organization's finance committee in the early 2000s. Du Cille served on the Pulitzer Prize jury in the photography categories, and as a University of Missouri School of Journalism Pictures of the Year International judge.

Du Cille passed away on December 11, 2014 at the age of 58. He was married to Washington Post photojournalist Nikki Khan, also a Pulitzer Prize winner.

Michel du Cille was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 27, 2014.

Related Entries

Gainesville High School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Diploma

Valdosta State University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Indiana University Southeast [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Indiana University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

BS

Ohio University [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Master's degree

Gainesville Times [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Photojournalist

Indiana Daily Student [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from ? to ?]

Photojournalist

Louisville Courier-Journal [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1979 to 1979]

Photojournalist

Miami Herald [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1980 to 1988]

Photojournalist

The Washington Post [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1988 to 2005]

Photography Editor

The Washington Post [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2005 to 2007]

Associate Editor and Senior Photojournalist

The Washington Post [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2007 to 2012]

Assistant Managing Editor for Photography

The Washington Post [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 2012 to 2014]

Associate Editor and Senior Photojournalist

National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) [MEMBEROf]
[from 1988 to 2000]

Visual Task Force

National Press Photographers Association [MEMBEROf]
[from 2003 to 2006]

Board Member

National Press Photographers Foundation [MEMBEROf]
[from 2007 to ?]

Board of Directors