

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Clarence Waldron

PERSON

Waldron, Clarence, 1957-

Alternative Names: Clarence Waldron;

Life Dates: November 24, 1957-

Place of Birth: Union Township, New Jersey, USA

Residence: Chicago, IL

Occupations: Journalist

Biographical Note

Journalist Clarence Waldron was born in 1957 in Union Township, New Jersey. In 1973, Waldron received a full scholarship from A Better Chance to attend a college preparatory boarding school, Darrow School in New Lebanon, New York. In 1979, he graduated from the Columbia College of Columbia University with his B.A. degree in English Literature. Waldron went on to receive his M.S. degree in journalism from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism in 1980. While attending Columbia's graduate school, he received a RCA/NBC Fellowship that covered full tuition and fees.

Upon graduation, Waldron was hired as a general assignment reporter for The Press, a daily newspaper in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Then, from 1982 until 2011, he worked for the Johnson Publishing Company, where he served as senior editor and writer for JET magazine. At JET Waldron specialized in arts and entertainment, education and human rights. He conducted interviews and wrote stories on a long list of celebrities and leaders including President Barack Obama, Aretha Franklin, Maya Angelou, Tony Bennett, Minister Louis Farrakhan, Cornel West, Aaliyah, Queen Latifah, Mary J. Blige, Patti LaBelle, Al Sharpton, Nancy Wilson, Bill Cosby, Whitney Houston, Jamie Foxx, Reverend Jesse Jackson, Sr., Jennifer Hudson, Steve Harvey, Tom Joyner, Herb Kent and Dionne Warwick, among others. The legendary entertainer Eartha Kitt gave Waldron her last print interview that ran in Ebony shortly before she died in 2008. Waldron also served as contributing editor to Ebony, Ebony Man, and JET magazine.

In 1998, Waldron was hired as an adjunct lecturer at Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. He also became an adjunct lecturer at Columbia College Chicago in 2007. In 2012, Waldron founded CW Media, a multi-faceted arts and entertainment company specializing in book projects, consulting, public relations and motivational

speaking, where he serves as CEO, writer and editor. Waldron also co-authored and edited "Geoffrey Holder & Carmen DeLavallade: A Memoir in Four Movements - the Exhibition Catalogue," and was the editor for Merri Dee's book Life Lessons On Faith, Forgiveness & Grace.

Waldron has received multiple awards, including a PASS Award from the National Council on Crime Delinquency, a Legacy Award from Elektra/Atlantic Records, the Award of Excellence from Visions Blue Institute in Chicago, and the Golden Quill Award for Feature Writing. In 2010, he received the Legacy Award from the National Association of Black Journalists, and was cited as ‘the dean of arts and entertainment journalists’.

Clarence Waldron was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on January 25, 2014.

Related Entries

Nassau School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Vernon L. Davey Junior [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

East Orange Campus High School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Darrow School [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Columbia University [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

B.A.

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism [STUDENTOf]
[from ? to ?]

Master's in Journalism

The Press of Atlantic City [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1980 to 1982]

General Assignment Reporter

Johnson Publishing Company [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1982 to 2011]

Journalist, Senior Editor / Senior Writer

Northwestern University Medill School of Journalism [EMPLOYEEOf]
[from 1998 to ?]

Professor

National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) [MEMBEROf]
[from 1980 to ?]

Member

National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) [MEMBEROf]
[from 2010 to ?]

Member