

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with B Michael

PERSON

Michael, B, 1957-

Alternative Names: B Michael;

Life Dates: March 31, 1957-

Place of Birth: Connecticut, USA

Residence: New York, NY

Work: New York, NY

Occupations: Fashion Designer

Biographical Note

Fashion designer B Michael was born in 1957 and raised in Durham, Connecticut. His mother was a real estate agent and his father, a certified public accountant. B Michael found early design inspirations in his mother's creativity and keen sense of style. He attended the University of Connecticut and also studied at the New York Fashion Institute of Technology.

B Michael was first hired as an account executive for a Wall Street firm, but decided to pursue a career as a millinery designer. He started designing hats under Oscar de la Renta, Louis Feraud, and Nolan Miller for the 1980s television soap opera *Dynasty*. Following his success on the show, B Michael became creative director for the Aldo Hat Corporation. In 1989, he decided to launch his namesake millinery line and in 1999 developed and launched his first couture collection with the help of PR Guru Eleanor Lambert.

B Michael's collections have garnered appreciative fans including socialites and personalities such as Cicely Tyson, Ashley Bouder, Amy Fine Collins, Tamara Tunie, Beyoncé, Nancy Wilson, Susan Fales-Hill, President Barack Obama's poet laureate Elizabeth Alexander, and Lena Horne, among many others. He also designed Whitney Houston's costumes for the motion picture, *Sparkle*. He has shown his b michael AMERICA Couture collection in Beijing, China, Korea and Shanghai, and his ready to wear fashion line b michael AMERICA RED sells in Macy's department stores across the United States.

In 1998, B Michael was granted membership in the prestigious Council of Fashion

Designers of America (CFDA). He has served as a guest lecturer at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology. He also serves on the advisory boards of Dream Yard Project, YAGP (Youth America Grand Prix) and the Cicely Tyson School of Performing and Fine Arts. In addition to his work and community activism, B Michael is an avid collector of vintage books, artifacts and photography.

B Michael lives in New York City with his life partner Mark-Anthony Edwards and their two daughters, Saferra and Mychal.

B Michael was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on May 8, 2014.

Related Entries

University of Connecticut [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Fashion Institute of Technology [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

May V. Carrigan Intermediate School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Harry M. Bailey Middle School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Coginchaug Regional High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

West Haven High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Aldo Hat Corporation [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Creative Director

Candadian Hat Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Millinery Designer

Dynasty (Television Show) [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1980 to ?]

Millinery Designer

B Michael America [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1989 to ?]

Founder

Dream Yard Project [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board Member

YAGP (Youth America Grand Prix) [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board Member

Cicely Tyson School of Performing Arts [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Advisory Board Member

Council of Fashion Designers of America [MEMBEROF]
[from 1998 to ?]

Member