

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Joetta Clark Diggs

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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>	Diggs, Joetta Clark, 1962-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Joetta Clark Diggs,
<b>Dates:</b>	April 10, 2017
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2017
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:24:27).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Track and field athlete Joetta Clark Diggs (1962 - ) was a four-time Olympian who specialized in middle-distance running in the 800-meter and 1500-meter races. She was inducted into the USA Track & Field Hall of Fame in 2009. Diggs was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on April 10, 2017, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2017_083
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Track and field athlete Joetta Clark Diggs was born on August 1, 1962 in East Orange, New Jersey to Joseph Clark and Jetta Clark. She graduated from Columbia High School in Maplewood, New Jersey in 1980, and received her B.A. degree in public relations from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1984, where she won nine collegiate titles in track and field and was a fifteen time All-American.

In 1980, she participated in the Pan American Junior Athletics Championships and earned a gold medal in the 800 meters event. In 1988, she competed in her first Olympic Games, ranking within the top ten track athletes in the world. Diggs was a member of four U.S. Olympic teams and competed in 1992, 1996, and 2000 as well. She also participated in the World Indoor Championships in 1993 and won a bronze medal in the 800 meters event. In her final year on the Olympics team, Diggs was named captain of the women's team. During her career, she ranked among the top ten American track and field athletes for twenty-one years, as well as among the top ten track athletes in the world since 1991. In 1998, Diggs was ranked number four in the world. In 2000, Diggs was joined by her younger sister Hazel Clark, sister-in-law Jearl Miles-Clark and their coach, brother JJ to make Olympic history as the only family to comprise all three sports on the Olympic Team in the same event. In addition, she is the daughter of Jetta Clark and noted national educator and Principal Dr. Joe Clark, who was portrayed by Morgan Freeman in the popular motion picture, *Lean On Me*.

Following the end of her track and field career, she established the Joetta Clark Diggs Sports Foundation in 2002. The organization promoted physical activities for children of all ages and offered scholarships. She was also the president of Joetta Sports & Beyond, LLC, where she served as a motivational speaker.

In 1998, Diggs received the VISA Humanitarian Award. She was also chosen as *Sports Illustrated* "Hometown Hero." Diggs was inducted into the University of Tennessee Hall of Fame in 2001, the Penn Relays Hall of Fame in 2004, the U.S.A. Track & Field Hall of Fame in 2009, and the New Jersey Hall of Fame in 2013. Diggs was

selected by *The Star Ledger* as the “Woman Athlete of the Century.”

Diggs and her husband, Ronald Diggs have one child, Talitha. Joetta Clark Diggs was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on April 10, 2017.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Joetta Clark Diggs was conducted by Harriette Cole on April 10, 2017, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Track and field athlete Joetta Clark Diggs (1962 - ) was a four-time Olympian who specialized in middle-distance running in the 800-meter and 1500-meter races. She was inducted into the USA Track & Field Hall of Fame in 2009.

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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:

Diggs, Joetta Clark, 1962-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Diggs, Joetta Clark, 1962- --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:

Track and Field Athlete

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

SportsMakers

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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 Joetta Clark Diggs, April 10, 2017. 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 Joetta Clark Diggs, Section A2017\_083\_001\_001, TRT: 1:12:40  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joetta Clark Diggs, Section A2017\_083\_001\_002, TRT: 2:31:31  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joetta Clark Diggs, Section A2017\_083\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:07  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joetta Clark Diggs, Section A2017\_083\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:28  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joetta Clark Diggs, Section A2017\_083\_001\_005, TRT: 5:29:02  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joetta Clark Diggs, Section A2017\_083\_001\_006, TRT: 6:34:08  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joetta Clark Diggs, Section A2017\_083\_001\_007, TRT: 7:27:35  
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Video Oral History Interview with Joetta Clark Diggs, Section A2017\_083\_001\_008, TRT: 8:11:56  
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