

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Richard Washington

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Washington, Richard, 1940-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Richard Washington,
Dates:	August 16, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	8 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:28:36).
Abstract:	Stuntman and stunt coordinator Richard Washington (1940 -) was among the first African American stuntmen in Hollywood and was featured in a number of films including, <i>Dirty Harry</i> , <i>Die Hard with a Vengeance</i> , <i>Mississippi Burning</i> , and <i>Glory</i> . Washington was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 16, 2017, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_131
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Stuntman and stunt coordinator Richard Washington was born on February 20, 1940 in Everett, Massachusetts to Edna Ford and Edward Washington. He graduated from Christian High School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1957 and attended Los Angeles City College in Los Angeles, California.

Washington worked as a machinist and commercial diver before beginning his career in film in 1968. He earned his first film credit as a stuntman in 1971 for the film, *Dirty Harry*. By 1973, Washington secured a role as a stunt coordinator, choreographing stunts in films. He worked on a number of Blaxploitation films during the 1970s, including *Scream*, *Blacula Scream*, *Cleopatra Jones*, *Dr. Black*, *Mr. Hyde*, and *Sheba Baby*. Washington's film credits also include; *Battle for the Planet of the Apes*, *Conquest for the Planet of the Apes*, *Interspace*, *The Abyss*, *The Goonies*, *U.S. Marshalls* and *Die Hard with a Vengeance*. Washington also played KITT in *Knight Rider* and worked alongside Richard Pryor and Cecily Tyson as the stunt coordinator for *Bustin' Loose* and *Some Kind of Hero*. In 1974, Washington doubled for Richard Roundtree and later for Billy Dee Williams. Washington's other major film credits include; *Mississippi Burning* and *Glory*. Washington also served as a stunt double multiple times for Lou Gossett, most notably in *The Deep*, when he demonstrated his talent for underwater stunts. He retired in 1997.

During his career as a Hollywood stunt performer, Washington was active in the Black Stuntmen's Association, where he and other members fought against the discriminatory practice of "painting down" white stuntmen in black makeup to double for African American actors. He later joined the Stuntmen's Association of Motion Pictures in 1973, as African American stuntmen began being admitted to the organization. Washington was among the first African American stuntmen to work in Hollywood, and his accomplishments were recognized in an exhibit about the Black Stuntmen's Association in the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Washington, an avid sailor, was the first black commodore of a major Los Angeles yacht club and has participated in numerous races in Antigua, St. Lucia and over twenty-five times in the Bequia Easter Regatta.

Washington and his wife, Carol Washington, have two daughters. Their daughter, Kym Washington-Longino, also pursued a career as a stuntwoman.

Richard Washington was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 15, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Richard Washington was conducted by Harriette Cole on August 16, 2017, in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, and was recorded on 8 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Stuntman and stunt coordinator Richard Washington (1940 -) was among the first African American stuntmen in Hollywood and was featured in a number of films including, *Dirty Harry*, *Die Hard with a Vengeance*, *Mississippi Burning*, and *Glory*.

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®.

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.

Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

Persons:

Washington, Richard, 1940-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Washington, Richard, 1940- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Stuntman

Stunt Coordinator

HistoryMakers® Category:

EntertainmentMakers

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 Richard Washington, August 16, 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).

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.

Detailed Description of the Collection

Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Washington, Section A2017_131_001_001, TRT: 1:27:58 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Washington, Section A2017_131_001_002, TRT: 2:30:02 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Washington, Section A2017_131_001_003, TRT: 3:31:40 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Washington, Section A2017_131_001_004, TRT: 4:28:35 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Washington, Section A2017_131_001_005, TRT: 5:28:14 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Washington, Section A2017_131_001_006, TRT: 6:29:18 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Washington, Section A2017_131_001_007, TRT: 7:23:55 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Richard Washington, Section A2017_131_001_008, TRT: 8:08:54 ?