

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Amina Baraka

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Baraka, Amina
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Amina Baraka,
Dates:	December 7, 2017
Bulk Dates:	2017
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:26:18).
Abstract:	Poet Amina Baraka (1942 -) Baraka was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 7, 2017, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2017_217
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Poet Amina Baraka was born on December 5, 1942 in Charlotte, North Carolina. She then moved in with her grandparents in Newark, New Jersey, where she graduated from Arts High School in 1960.

In 1966, she and her husband, writer Amiri Baraka, founded the Spirit House in Newark, where she developed an African Free School the following year. Baraka was also active in the Committee for Unified Newark and the Congress of Afrikan People organizations. In 1974, she organized an African women's conference at Rutgers University, followed by the first meeting of the Black Women's United Front in Detroit, Michigan in 1995. In 1992, Baraka and her husband founded Kimako's Blues People, a community art space that featured Newark artists. As a member of the Communist Party USA, Baraka was also one of the founding members of the Black Radical Congress in Chicago, Illinois in 1998.

In 1978, Baraka authored a collection of poems entitled *Songs for the Masses*. In collaboration with her husband, Baraka also co-edited *Confirmation: An Anthology of African American Women* and *The Music: Reflections on Jazz and Blues*, which were published in 1983 and 1987, respectively. The poetry book *5 Boptrees*, also co-edited by Baraka and her husband, was released in 1992. Her works have been featured in the 1994 book *Unsettling America: An Anthology of Contemporary Multicultural Poetry* and the 2001 collection *Bum Rush the Page: A Def Poetry Jam*. In 2014, Baraka released a collection of her poetry entitled *Blues in All Hues*. Her jazz and blues album, *Amina Baraka & the Red Microphone*, was released in 2017. She also appeared in films like *Strange Fruit*, *The Pact*, and *Keep It Clean*.

Baraka was the 2015 recipient of a certification of appreciation from the Black Nia F.O.R.C.E. (Freedom Organization for Racial and Cultural Enlightenment). That same year, she was also honored as a Lifetime Achievement Honoree by the New York Friends of the *People's World* newspaper.

Baraka and her late husband, Amiri Baraka, had five children: Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, Shani Baraka, Obalaji Baraka, Ahi Baraka, and Amiri "Middy" Baraka, Jr.

Amina Baraka was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 7, 2017.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Amina Baraka was conducted by Harriette Cole on December 7, 2017, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Poet Amina Baraka (1942 -)

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:

Baraka, Amina

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Baraka, Amina--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Poet

HistoryMakers® Category:

ArtMakers

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 Amina Baraka, December 7, 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 Amina Baraka, Section A2017_217_001_001, TRT: 1:28:56 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Amina Baraka, Section A2017_217_001_002, TRT: 2:28:41 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Amina Baraka, Section A2017_217_001_003, TRT: 3:31:52 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Amina Baraka, Section A2017_217_001_004, TRT: 4:30:35 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Amina Baraka, Section A2017_217_001_005, TRT: 5:28:45 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Amina Baraka, Section A2017_217_001_006, TRT: 6:28:51 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Amina Baraka, Section A2017_217_001_007, TRT: 7:28:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Amina Baraka, Section A2017_217_001_008, TRT: 8:29:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Amina Baraka, Section A2017_217_001_009, TRT: 9:30:09 ?