

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Rickey Smiley

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Smiley, Rickey
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Rickey Smiley,
Dates:	March 8, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	4 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:03:32).
Abstract:	Entertainment host Rickey Smiley (1968-) has been on the air since 2008 with The Rickey Smiley Morning Show. Smiley was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 8, 2018, in Atlanta, Georgia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_035
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Entertainment host Rickey Smiley was born on August 10, 1968 in Birmingham, Alabama where he graduated from Woodlawn High School. Smiley then received his B.A. degree in English from Alabama State University in 1992 in Montgomery, Alabama.

Smiley's career began when he participated in an amateur comedy night at The Comedy Club. After that, Smiley began touring with jazz singer Will Downing, comedian George Wallace, gospel singer Dottie Peoples and musician, Najee. He also served as the host of Black Entertainment Television's *ComicView*. In 2000, he entered into a five-year programming deal with Home Box Office (HBO) and in 2001, he became the host of the BET variety series *The Way We Do It*. Smiley made a cameo appearance in *All About the Benjamins* starring Ice Cube and Mike Epps, had a starring role as Santa in *Friday After Next* in 2002, and appeared in the character role of Ducktape in *Sweet Hideaway* in 2003. In 2004, he became the morning show host for Dallas' KBFB-FM/97.9, won BET's Platinum Mic Viewer's Choice Award, penned an episode for his own one-hour standup special on BET's *ComicView*, and contributed to the documentary *Super Secret Movie Rules: Sports Underdogs*. In 2005, Smiley was cast in the *Diamond Life* reality TV series.

In 2006, Smiley scripted his own episode of *Comedy Central Presents* and was showcased at the 2007 Just for Laughs Festival in Montreal. In 2008, he signed a Syndicated One deal to take *The Rickey Smiley Morning Show* nationwide. In 2010, he appeared in *Stomp the Yard 2: Homecoming* in the role as Final MC. In 2011, he starred in the one-man show TV movie *Rickey Smiley: Open Casket Sharp*. In 2012, Smiley guest starred on the BET series *Let's Stay Together* as well as executive produced and starred in the TV sitcom, *The Rickey Smiley Show*, which aired on TV One. Smiley also served as host of *Dish Nation* and appeared in the character role as Calvin in *Baggage Claim*. In 2015, Smiley served as executive producer for *Rickey Smiley For Real* a reality television show; and in 2017, he was featured as MC on the television series *Star*. That same year, he released his memoir *Stand By Your Truth: And Then Run For Your Life*, (Simon & Schuster, New York).

In 2017, Smiley received the Marconi Award for syndicated personality of the year.

Smiley has five children, including, Brandon, Malik, Craig, D'essence and Aaryn.

Rickey Smiley was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 8, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Rickey Smiley was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 8, 2018, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was recorded on 4 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Entertainment host Rickey Smiley (1968-) has been on the air since 2008 with The Rickey Smiley Morning Show.

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:

Smiley, Rickey

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Smiley, Rickey--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Entertainment Host

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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 Rickey Smiley, March 8, 2018. 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 Rickey Smiley, Section A2018_035_001_001, TRT: 1:29:07 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rickey Smiley, Section A2018_035_001_002, TRT: 2:27:41 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rickey Smiley, Section A2018_035_001_003, TRT: 3:34:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rickey Smiley, Section A2018_035_001_004, TRT: 4:32:22 ?