

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Wren T. Brown

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Brown, Wren T., 1964-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Wren T. Brown,
Dates:	December 10, 2018
Bulk Dates:	2018
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:18:14).
Abstract:	Actor Wren T. Brown (1964 -) founded Ebony Repertory Theatre, the first African American professional equity theatre company in Los Angeles, and was featured in films such as, <i>The Hidden</i> , <i>I'm Gonna Git You Sucka!</i> , and <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> . Brown was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 10, 2018, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2018_223
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Actor Wren T. Brown was born on June 11, 1964 in Los Angeles, California to jazz trumpeter Troy Brown, Jr. and entrepreneur Rosalind Brown. Descended from three generations of performers, Brown graduated from Alexander Hamilton High School in Los Angeles and attended Los Angeles City College and Antioch University Los Angeles.

In 1982, Brown's first professional acting job was for McDonald's inaugural Chicken McNuggets ad campaign. Brown made his television debut on an episode of *Knight Rider*; and, in 1987, he made his film debut in Robert Townsend's *Hollywood Shuffle*. He had supporting roles in *The Hidden*, *The Taking of Flight 847*, *I'm Gonna Git You Sucka!*, *Crossfire*, and *A Different World*. He then had a leading role as Algernon Moncrieff in *The Importance of Being Earnest* in 1992, followed by features in the films, *The Second Coming* and *Heart and Souls* in 1993. Two years later, he appeared in an episode of *Seinfeld* and in the films *Under Siege 2: Dark Territory*, *The Net*, and *Waiting to Exhale*. In 1996, he played the role of Pluckie in *Rebound: The Legend of Earl 'The Goat' Manigault*, and played a reoccurring role on the CBS sitcom, *Bless This House*. He also became a series regular on the rebooted 1960's series *Flipper*. Brown appeared in several popular sitcoms and dramas including: *Murphy Brown*, *Touched by an Angel*, *Frasier*, *The West Wing*, and *Star Trek: Voyager*. He made his debut as a feature film producer in 1999, with *Boesman & Lena* starring Danny Glover and Angela Bassett, followed by Dianne Reeves' concert film of her Grammy Award winning album, *In The Moment: Live in Concert*. In 2003, he co-starred as Whoopi Goldberg's brother and comic foil in her NBC sitcom, *Whoopi*. In 2005, he acted in David Mamet's film *Edmond*. Other television credits include: *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Everybody Hates Chris*, *Grey's Anatomy* (recurring), *Being Mary Jane*, *Transparent*, and *The Orville*.

Brown has appeared in numerous commercials and voice-over and spoken word projects including the Langston Hughes poem *The Negro Speaks of Rivers* on pianist Billy Childs' Grammy Award-nominated album *I've Known Rivers* and narrated The History Channel's *U.S.S. Constellation: Battling For Freedom*, The Learning Channel

series *Scence of the Crime*, and the *E! True Hollywood Story* profile on Diana Ross, as well as voicing Virgil Simpson on *The Simpsons*. In 2017, Brown also narrated Laurence Fishburne's *Bronzeville* podcast series.

In 2007, Brown directed the performances of thirty-five actors in *Inspired By... The Bible Experience*. In 2018, his theatre directing debut was made at Colorado's Lone Tree Arts Center with August Wilson's *Fences*.

In 2007, Brown founded Ebony Repertory Theatre, the first and only African American professional (Actors Equity) theatre company in Los Angeles, and serves as its producing artistic director. The Ebony Repertory Theatre has produced award winning productions including *Two Trains Running*, *Crowns*, *A Raisin In the Sun*, *The Gospel at Colonus*, and *Five Guys Named Moe*.

Wren T. Brown was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 10, 2018.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Wren T. Brown was conducted by Harriette Cole on December 10, 2018, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Actor Wren T. Brown (1964 -) founded Ebony Repertory Theatre, the first African American professional equity theatre company in Los Angeles, and was featured in films such as, *The Hidden*, *I'm Gonna Git You Sucka!*, and *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

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:

Brown, Wren T., 1964-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Brown, Wren T., 1964- --Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Actor

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 Wren T. Brown, December 10, 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 Wren T. Brown, Section A2018_223_001_001, TRT: 1:28:44 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Wren T. Brown, Section A2018_223_001_002, TRT: 2:28:28 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Wren T. Brown, Section A2018_223_001_003, TRT: 3:29:29 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Wren T. Brown, Section A2018_223_001_004, TRT: 4:28:47 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Wren T. Brown, Section A2018_223_001_005, TRT: 5:28:37 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Wren T. Brown, Section A2018_223_001_006, TRT: 6:29:10 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Wren T. Brown, Section A2018_223_001_007, TRT: 7:29:13 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Wren T. Brown, Section A2018_223_001_008, TRT: 8:30:22 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Wren T. Brown, Section A2018_223_001_009, TRT: 9:25:24 ?