

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Cheryl Boone Isaacs

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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>	isaacs, Cheryl Boone, 1949-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Cheryl Boone Isaacs,
<b>Dates:</b>	December 13, 2018 and November 21, 2019
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2018 and 2019
<b>Physical Description:</b>	13 uncompressed MOV digital video files (5:59:49).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Entertainment executive Cheryl Boone Isaacs (1949 - ) was executive vice president of worldwide publicity at Paramount Pictures and served as the first African American president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences from 2013 to 2017. Isaacs was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on December 13, 2018 and November 21, 2019, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2018_228
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Entertainment executive Cheryl Boone Isaacs was born on August 8, 1949 in Springfield, Massachusetts. After graduating from Classical High School in 1967, she earned her B.A. degree in political science from Whittier College in Whittier, California in 1971.

After graduation, Boone Isaacs worked as a flight attendant for Pan American Airways. In 1977, she moved to Los Angeles, California and began working in publicity at Columbia Pictures, where she served on the publicity team for Steven Spielberg's *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. The following year, Boone Isaacs was hired as coordinator of marketing and publicity at Milton Goldstein's Melvin Simon Productions, where she served for five years and was eventually promoted to vice president. In 1983, Boone Isaacs was named director of advertising and publicity for The Ladd Company, where she worked on films such as *Once Upon a Time in America*, *The Right Stuff*, and the box office hit *Police Academy*. In 1984, she was named director of west coast publicity and promotion for Paramount Pictures. Later, she became executive vice president of worldwide publicity for Paramount Pictures, where she oversaw the marketing campaigns for Academy Award Best Picture winners *Forrest Gump* and *Braveheart*. In 1997, Boone Isaacs was named president of theatrical marketing for New Line Cinema, and became the first African American woman to head a studio marketing department, where she promoted *Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me*, *The Wedding Singer* and *Boogie Nights*. In 2000, she founded CBI Enterprises, Inc., and worked on publicity for *The King's Speech* and *The Artist*. In 2013, Boone Isaacs produced the multi-award-winning documentary *Tough Ain't Enough: Conversations With Albert S. Ruddy*, which highlighted the life and career of the two-time Oscar-winning producer.

From 1987, Boone Isaacs served as a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. She joined the public relations branch of the Board of Governors in 1992. In 2013, she was elected president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Boone Isaacs was re-elected in 2015, launching the initiative A2020 to increase

the number of women and minority members to the Academy by 2020. In 2017, Boone Isaacs oversaw the development of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures in partnership with the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, before stepping down as president. She was named founding director of Arizona State University's Sidney Poitier New American Film School in 2021.

Boone Isaacs received *Essence* Magazine's Trailblazer Award in 2013. In 2014, she was inducted into the NAACP Image Award Hall of Fame, received the African American Film Critics Association Horizon Award, and was named the Chapman University Dodge College of Film and Media Arts O.L. Halsell Filmmaker-in-Residence.

Cheryl Boone Isaacs was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on December 13, 2018 and November 21, 2019.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Cheryl Boone Isaacs was conducted by Harriette Cole on December 13, 2018 and November 21, 2019, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 13 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Entertainment executive Cheryl Boone Isaacs (1949 - ) was executive vice president of worldwide publicity at Paramount Pictures and served as the first African American president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences from 2013 to 2017.

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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:

isaacs, Cheryl Boone, 1949-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
isaacs, Cheryl Boone, 1949---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:

Entertainment Chief Executive

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

EntertainmentMakers

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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 Cheryl Boone Isaacs, December 13, 2018 and November 21, 2019. 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.

## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Section A2018\_228\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:51 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Section A2018\_228\_001\_002, TRT: 2:29:10 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Section A2018\_228\_001\_003, TRT: 3:29:26 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Section A2018\_228\_001\_004, TRT: 4:28:49 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Section A2018\_228\_001\_005, TRT: 5:28:24 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Section A2018\_228\_001\_006, TRT: 6:28:30 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Section A2018\_228\_001\_007, TRT: 7:28:23 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Section A2018\_228\_002\_008, TRT: 8:29:06 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Section A2018\_228\_002\_009, TRT: 9:29:34 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Section A2018\_228\_002\_010, TRT: 10:28:38 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Section A2018\_228\_002\_011, TRT: 11:27:53 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Section A2018\_228\_002\_012, TRT: 12:29:25 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Cheryl Boone Isaacs, Section A2018\_228\_002\_013, TRT: 13:13:40 ?