

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Laurence Fishburne

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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>	Fishburne, Laurence, III, 1961-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Laurence Fishburne,
<b>Dates:</b>	February 4, 2019
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2019
<b>Physical Description:</b>	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:00:58).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Actor Laurence Fishburne (1961 - ) starred in films such as <i>Apocalypse Now</i> , <i>The Color Purple</i> , <i>What's Love Got to Do with It</i> , <i>The Matrix</i> trilogy and in the television series <i>Black-ish</i> , and has received an Academy Award nomination, two Emmy Awards and a Tony Award for Best Actor. Fishburne was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on February 4, 2019, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2019_009
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Actor Laurence Fishburne was born on July 30, 1961 in Augusta, Georgia to Hattie Bell Fishburne and Laurence Fishburne, Sr. He attended Julia Richmond High School and later graduated from Lincoln Square Academy in 1979.

In 1971, at age ten, Fishburne appeared in his first play *In My Many Names and Days* at the New Federal Theater. In 1973, Fishburne made his television debut in the role of Joshua Hall on the ABC soap opera *One Life to Live*. He made his film debut two years later in *Cornbread, Earl and Me*; and, in that same year, he joined the Negro Ensemble Company. In 1976, at the age of fourteen, Fishburne was cast as Tyrone Miller in Frances Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now*, and was sent to the Philippines for location filming. Fishburne returned to the U.S. in 1979, and moved to Los Angeles, California. In 1983, he was featured in *Rumble Fish* based on the novel by S.E. Hinton, and later appeared in *The Cotton Club* as Bumpy Rhodes in 1984. The following year, he was cast as Swain in Steven Spielberg's *The Color Purple* and also starred Whoopi Goldberg and Oprah Winfrey. Fishburne later portrayed Cowboy Curtis on *Pee-wee's Playhouse* and also appeared in films such as *Quicksilver*, *School Daze*, and *Cadence*.

In 1991, Fishburne starred in John Singleton's *Boyz n the Hood* as Furious Styles. Two years later, he starred opposite Angela Bassett, portraying Ike Turner in *What's Love Got to Do with It*, for which he was nominated for an Academy Award. In 1994, Fishburne made his theatrical directorial debut and starred in *Riff Raff*. He was then cast in the title role for the film adaptation of *Othello*, and later portrayed Caleb Humphries in *Miss Evers' Boys*. In 1999, Fishburne starred in *The Matrix* as Morpheus, co-starring Keanu Reeves. The following year, he made his screenwriting and directorial debut in *Once in the Life*. He also appeared in several films including: *Mystic River*, *Biker Boyz*, *The Matrix Reloaded*, *The Matrix Revolutions*, *Akeelah and the Bee*, *Mission: Impossible III*, *Five Fingers*, *Bobby*, and voiced the role of the Silver Surfer in *Fantastic 4: Rise of the Silver Surfer*. In 2007,

Fishburne portrayed Thurgood Marshall in the Broadway production of *Thurgood*; and, in 2008, he landed a recurring role as Raymond Langston on *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*. Fishburne was later featured in films such as, *Contagion*, *Predators*, *Have a Little Faith*, *Man of Steel*, *The Colony*, and *Ride Along*. In 2014, he was cast in the role of Pops in the television series *Black-ish*; and, in 2017, he portrayed the Bowery King in *John Wick: Chapter 2*, reprising the role in 2019, in *John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum*.

Among several awards and nominations, Fishburne was nominated for an Academy Award, has won two Emmy Awards and was nominated seven times. He also received a Tony Award for Best Actor in a Featured Role in 1992.

Laurence Fishburne was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on February 4, 2019.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Laurence Fishburne was conducted by Harriette Cole on February 4, 2019, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Actor Laurence Fishburne (1961 - ) starred in films such as *Apocalypse Now*, *The Color Purple*, *What's Love Got to Do with It*, *The Matrix* trilogy and in the television series *Black-ish*, and has received an Academy Award nomination, two Emmy Awards and a Tony Award for Best Actor.

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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:

Fishburne, Laurence, III, 1961-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

## Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews  
Fishburne, Laurence, III, 1961- --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:

Film Actor

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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 Laurence Fishburne, February 4, 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Laurence Fishburne, Section A2019\_009\_001\_001, TRT: 1:28:46 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Laurence Fishburne, Section A2019\_009\_001\_002, TRT: 2:27:31 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Laurence Fishburne, Section A2019\_009\_001\_003, TRT: 3:32:33 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Laurence Fishburne, Section A2019\_009\_001\_004, TRT: 4:30:10 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Laurence Fishburne, Section A2019\_009\_001\_005, TRT: 5:30:10 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Laurence Fishburne, Section A2019\_009\_001\_006, TRT: 6:31:48 ?