

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Elgin Charles

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Charles, Elgin, 1960-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Elgin Charles,
Dates:	November 18, 2019
Bulk Dates:	2019
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (3:53:37).
Abstract:	Hairstylist Elgin Charles (1960-) has worked as a hairstylist for over thirty years and owns The Elgin Charles Hair Salon. His clientele includes Natalie Cole, Serena Williams, Gabrielle Union and Verdine White. Charles was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on November 18, 2019, in Los Angeles, California. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2019_129
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Hairstylist Elgin Charles was born Charles Elgin Williams on February 27, 1960 in San Antonio, Texas to Charles Etta and Edgar Willis Williams. After graduating from Southside High School in 1978, Charles attended St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas. He went on to attend CCC School of Ministry and Marinello Schools of Beauty in Los Angeles, California.

Charles worked at the Marathon Battery Corporation factory in Waco, Texas and EG&G Automotive Research in San Antonio, Texas, before moving to Los Angeles, California in 1981, where he worked at Crocker National Bank and Smith Barney, Inc. Upon graduating cosmetology school, he joined The Blue Salon in Inglewood as an assistant hairstylist. He was later hired by The Adrian Houghton Hair Salon in West Hollywood as an assistant hairstylist, eventually being promoted to stylist. In 1986, Charles moved to Char Salon as a stylist; and, in 1991, he opened The Elgin Charles Salon. He launched his own line of custom hair units in 1995, while serving as educational director for Elasta Hair Care Products. In 1996, The Elgin Charles Hair Salon moved to its Beverly Hills location. Charles launched his EC Classic line of hair care products in 1999, and the EC Platinum line in 2007. Charles' clients included Lala Anthony, Drew Barrymore, Joy Behar, Natalie Cole, Joan Collins, Diahann Carroll, Estelle, Jackée Harry, Star Jones, Gabrielle Union, Verdine White, Serena Williams, Baroness Monica von Neumann, and the Kardashians. His talent in the hair industry has earned him the title "Emperor of Hair."

Charles appeared in Chris Rock's critically-acclaimed documentary *Good Hair* and the Style Network's *Split Ends*. He has also appeared in countless talk shows, including *Oprah*, *The View*, *The Talk*, and *The Wendy Williams Show*. In 2011, he starred in the VH1 reality television show, *Beverly Hills Fabulous*, which aired for one season.

Charles founded the Diversity in Business Summit. His book, *Believe It, Conceive It, Achieve It* was published in 2002, and his memoir, *By The Way* was published in 2018.

Charles was married to Jackée Harry from 1996 to 2003. He resides in Los Angeles and has one son: Frank

DeVanique Brown.

Elgin Charles was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on November 18, 2019.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Elgin Charles was conducted by Harriette Cole on November 18, 2019, in Los Angeles, California, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Hairstylist Elgin Charles (1960-) has worked as a hairstylist for over thirty years and owns The Elgin Charles Hair Salon. His clientele includes Natalie Cole, Serena Williams, Gabrielle Union and Verdine White.

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:

Charles, Elgin, 1960-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Charles, Elgin, 1960---Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Hair Stylist

HistoryMakers® Category:

StyleMakers

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 Elgin Charles, November 18, 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).

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 Elgin Charles, Section A2019_129_001_001, TRT: 1:29:01 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Elgin Charles, Section A2019_129_001_002, TRT: 2:28:21 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Elgin Charles, Section A2019_129_001_003, TRT: 3:28:00 ?

- Video Oral History Interview with Elgin Charles, Section A2019_129_001_004, TRT: 4:31:50 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Elgin Charles, Section A2019_129_001_005, TRT: 5:29:35 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Elgin Charles, Section A2019_129_001_006, TRT: 6:28:15 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Elgin Charles, Section A2019_129_001_007, TRT: 7:27:37 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Elgin Charles, Section A2019_129_001_008, TRT: 8:25:29 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Elgin Charles, Section A2019_129_001_009, TRT: 9:05:29 ?