



## The HistoryMakers hosts PBS Taping 'An Evening with Sheila Johnson'

The HistoryMakers, a national non-profit that develops, preserves, and provides online access to an archival collection of African American videotaped oral histories, presented "An Evening with Sheila Johnson" on Saturday, November 14, 2015 at The Art Institute of Chicago. The celebrity interview program, "The HistoryMakers, An Evening With..." is an annual fundraiser for the organization.

The program consisted of a one-on-one interview with Johnson conducted by award-winning journalist Gwen Ifill and taped live for airing on PBS-TV. Ifill's interview led the audience through Johnson's successful life as an entrepreneur.

Johnson is co-founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET), Founder and CEO of Salamander Hotels & Resorts and the only African-American woman to have ownership in three professional sports teams: the NBA's Washington Wizards, the NHL's Washington Capitals and the WNBA's Washington Mystics.

The taping also included tribute performances by R&B artists Kindred and Family Soul, accomplished vocalists Joan Collaso and Everett Greene and violinist Susan Starrett. The evening ended with a gala reception in the Modern Wing of the Art Institute.

Julieanna Richardson, founder



**GUESTS ATTENDING THE HistoryMakers' 15th Anniversary live taping for airing on PBS enjoyed Gwen Ifill as she interviewed Sheila Johnson, successful entrepreneur and philanthropist. Ifill, who has interviewed many other popular HistoryMakers such as Diahann Carroll, Quincy Jones, Eartha Kitt, and Smokey Robinson, is the moderator and managing editor of "Washington Week" and co-anchor and managing editor for "The PBS NEWSHOUR w/Gwen Ifill and Judy Woodruff."**

and executive director of The HistoryMakers, served as executive producer. Michelle T. Boone, Commissioner of the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events served as Honorary

Chair.

As the hallmark celebrity interview program and fundraiser for The HistoryMakers, "An Evening With..." has previously honored men and women from multiple disciplines

who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields. Among those previously interviewed are Harry Belafonte, Dionne Warwick, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, BB King, Colin Powell, Della Reese, Russell Simmons, Diahann Carroll, Denyce Graves, Nikki Giovanni, Andrew Young, Earl Graves and Berry Gordy.

The HistoryMakers, the nation's largest African American video oral history archive, is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit dedicated to recording and preserving the personal histories of well-known and unsung African Americans. Recently, The HistoryMakers designated the Library of Congress to serve as the permanent repository for its collection of interviews. To date, the organization has interviewed over 2,700 HistoryMakers with the goal of creating an archive of 5,000 interviews or 20,000 hours of unique, first person testimony.

For more information contact [www.TheHistoryMakers.com](http://www.TheHistoryMakers.com)



**ONE OF THE local HistoryMakers, Thomas Burrell with his wife, Madeleine Burrell.**



**DERNARD AND MICHELLE NEWELL at the reception prior to live PBS-TV taping.**



**AWARD-WINNING JOURNALIST Gwen Ifill (right) with former Senator Carol Moseley Braun, both were previously interviewed for HistoryMakers.**



**SHEILA JOHNSON (LEFT) with Julieanna Richardson, Executive Director of HistoryMakers at the gala reception following the event.**



**THROUGHOUT THE PROGRAM at the Art Institute of Chicago Kindred Family Soul performed, which included a tribute to Sheila Johnson.**