

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Diahann Carroll

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Carroll, Diahann
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Diahann Carroll,
Dates:	May 7, 2005
Bulk Dates:	2005
Physical Description:	Betacame SP videocassettes ().
Abstract:	Film actress and singer Diahann Carroll (1935 - 2019) has been recognized with both Golden Globe and Tony awards for her work, and has been nominated for Emmy, Grammy, and Academy awards. Carroll was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on May 7, 2005, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2005_271
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Diahann Carroll is the consummate entertainer. So varied and dynamic are her gifts that she continually astounds fans and critics alike with her versatility and magnetism. She is one of America's major performing talents appearing in nightclubs, the Broadway stage, a Las Vegas headliner, motion pictures and television. Diahann Carroll is a Tony Award winner, an Emmy and Grammy nominee, a Golden Globe winner and a Best Actress Oscar nominee.

Her television nominations go back to 1963 and in 1968, Diahann Carroll became the first black actress in television history to star in her own series, *Julia* for NBC, which soared to the top of the Nielsen rating and received an Emmy nomination in its first year on the air. In 1989 she was nominated for an Emmy Award for the successful NBC TV series, *A Different World*, as outstanding actress in a comedy series. In 1984 Diahann Carroll became the first black actress to star in the award winning nighttime series *Dynasty*, which is still in syndication all around the world.

She had a recurring role in Showtime's hit series *Soul Food*, playing the outspoken "Aunt Ruthie", for which she was nominated twice for a NAACP Image Award. She guest starred in Lifetime TV's *Strong Medicine* and in NBC's TV show *Whoopi*, playing Whoopi Goldberg's mother. In 2004 she starred on stage in the musical "Bubbling Brown Sugar" receiving critical acclaim.

In October of 1995 she starred on stage as 'Norma Desmond' in the Toronto premiere of Andrew Lloyd Webber's hit musical *Sunset Boulevard*, staged by director Trevor Nunn and the show's entire original creative team. Hailed by the press as "the ultimate Norma Desmond", Diahann Carroll played to sell-out crowds and her Canadian cast recording outsold all other recordings of the show.

Diahann made her Broadway stage debut starring in Harold Arlen and Truman Capote's *House of Flowers* and after seeing her in this production, Richard Rodgers created the Broadway production *No Strings* as a starring vehicle

for Miss Carroll, for which she won the Tony Award. She also starred on Broadway in the award winning play *Agnes of God*.

Her film work includes *Claudine*, for which she received a 1974 Best Actress Academy Award nomination, *Carmen Jones*, *Paris Blues*, *Porgy & Bess*, *Hurry Sundown*, *I know Why The Caged Bird Sings* and *Eve's Bayou*. She is an award winning actress, a successful entrepreneur, a devoted humanitarian... indeed Diahann Carroll is a legend.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Diahann Carroll was conducted by Gwen Ifill on May 7, 2005, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on Betacame SP videocassettes. Film actress and singer Diahann Carroll (1935 - 2019) has been recognized with both Golden Globe and Tony awards for her work, and has been nominated for Emmy, Grammy, and Academy awards.

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:

Carroll, Diahann

Ifill, Gwen (Interviewer)

N/A (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Carroll, Diahann--Interviews

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Film Actress

Singer

HistoryMakers® Category:

EntertainmentMakers|MusicMakers

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 Diahann Carroll, May 7, 2005. 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