

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jasmine Guy

PERSON

Guy, Jasmine

Alternative Names: Jasmine Guy;

Life Dates: March 10, 1964-

Place of Birth: Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Residence: Atlanta, GA

Occupations: Actress

Biographical Note

Actress and entertainer Jasmine Guy was born on March 10, 1964, in Boston, Massachusetts to William Guy and Jaye Rudolph. Her mother is a former high school teacher, and her father, the pastor of Friendship Baptist Church of Atlanta. Guy was raised in the Collier Heights neighborhood in Atlanta, Georgia where she attended the former Northside Performing Arts School (now North Atlanta High School). After graduating from high school, Guy was awarded a scholarship to the Alvin Ailey Dance Center in New York. She practiced performing arts at Ailey Center for several years, which prepared her for roles in musicals and television shows.

Guy landed a starring role as Whitley Gilbert in the television show *A Different World*, a spin-off of *The Cosby Show*, which ran on TV for six years. This is her best-known role. Guy received the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Image Award every year that *A Different World* was on the air. One year after she began acting in *A Different World*, Guy was cast in her first film role in Spike Lee's *School Daze*. In 1989, Guy co-starred with Eddie Murphy and Richard Pryor in the film *Harlem Nights* and went on to have roles in numerous films, television shows, and stage productions. She released a self-titled R&B album in 1990, which reached number thirty-eight on the R&B charts.

Guy has been active in projects that promote and preserve African American history and culture, including the miniseries rendition of Alex Haley's *Queen*, the film recording of the 1930s WPA ex-slave narratives, entitled *Unchained Memories: Slave Narratives*, and the film version of activist-historian Howard Zinn's, "A People's History of the United States", entitled *The People Speak*. Guy also wrote the autobiography of Afeni Shakur, mother of hip-hop artist Tupac Shakur, entitled, "Afeni Shakur: The Evolution of a Revolutionary". Guy also won several awards for her work.

From 1990 to 1995, Guy was nominated for and won six consecutive NAACP Image Awards for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series.

Guy lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

Jasmine Guy was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on December 10, 2012 and October 2, 2016.

Related Entries

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

North Atlanta High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

M. Agnes Jones Elementary [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Sutton Middle Schol [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1981 to ?]

Dancer

Viacom Productions [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1972 to ?]

Actress

Columbia Pictures [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1988 to 1988]

Actress

Paramount Pictures, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1989 to 1989]

Actress

Warner Brothers [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990 to ?]

Singer

Various [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990 to ?]

Actress

Simon & Schuster [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2004 to 2005]

Author

True Colors Theatre Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2009 to 2010]

Stage Actor

Alliance Theatre Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2010 to 2010]

Director

True Colors Theatre Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2010 to ?]

Producing Director

[MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]