

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Derek McGinty

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	McGinty, Derek
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Derek McGinty,
Dates:	March 19, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014
Physical Description:	5 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:07:14).
Abstract:	Broadcast journalist Derek McGinty (1959 -) was an anchor on WUSA 9 News from 2003, and was the host of the award-winning “The Derek McGinty Show” from 1991 to 1998. McGinty was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on March 19, 2014, in Washington, District of Columbia. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_097
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Broadcast journalist Derek McGinty was born on August 17, 1959 in Washington, D.C. He attended Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, and graduated in 1977. McGinty went on to receive his B.A. degree in journalism from American University in Washington, D.C. in 1981.

McGinty was hired first as a desk assistant for ABC Radio News in the Washington bureau, and then became a reporter for United Press International's Washington Metro desk. From 1984 to 1991, McGinty worked as an anchor/reporter for WHUR-FM, where he went on to co-host “The Daily Drum,” a news and interview program covering local politics. He then hosted the radio talk show called “The Derek McGinty Show” from 1991 to 1998 on WAMU in Washington, D.C. His guests included former Washington, D.C. Mayor Marion Barry, former Secretary of State James Baker, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, jazz musician Wynton Marsalis, rapper Ice-T and author Robert Ludlum, among others. McGinty also served as an anchor for News Channel 8 in Washington, D.C. in 1994. In addition, he worked as a correspondent for the PBS series "State of the Union," as a moderator for "Straight Talk with Derek McGinty" on Washington, D.C.'s WETA-TV, and as a correspondent for the CBS News program "Coast to Coast." He has also served as host of WETA's public affairs program "Here & Now," guest host of NPR's *All Things Considered*, and host of Discovery Channel's weekly online talk show, "Live! With Derek McGinty." In 1998, McGinty left WAMU and was hired as a correspondent on the CBS News program “Public Eye with Bryant Gumbel.” He then served as a correspondent for “Real Sports” on HBO from 1999 to 2003, and worked as a reporter and anchor for WJLA from 1999 to 2001. From 2001 to 2003, he was co-anchor of ABC's “World News Now,” and anchor of “World News This Morning.” In 2003, McGinty joined WUSA, where he serves as the weekday anchor for WUSA 9 News at 7pm and weeknight co-anchor for WUSA 9 News at 5pm, 6pm and 11pm. He was also the host of “Eye on Washington.” McGinty has written articles that have appeared in *The New York Times*; *The Washington Post*; *The New York Daily News*; and *Washingtonian Magazine*.

In 1994, “The Derek McGinty Show” received the Gold Award for Public Affairs Programming from the

Corporation of Public Broadcasting, the highest programming honor in public radio.

Derek McGinty was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on March 19, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Derek McGinty was conducted by Larry Crowe on March 19, 2014, in Washington, District of Columbia, and was recorded on 5 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Broadcast journalist Derek McGinty (1959 -) was an anchor on WUSA 9 News from 2003, and was the host of the award-winning “The Derek McGinty Show” from 1991 to 1998.

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:

McGinty, Derek

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

McGinty, Derek--Interviews

African American television journalists--Interviews.

African American radio broadcasters--Interviews.

Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

Occupations:

Broadcast Journalist

HistoryMakers® Category:

MediaMakers

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 Derek McGinty, March 19, 2014. 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 Derek McGinty, Section A2014_097_001_001, TRT: 1:28:33 ?

Derek McGinty talks about the education and careers of his parents, Doris and Milton McGinty. His mother was born in 1925 in Washington, D.C., and graduated from Howard University at the age of sixteen. She obtained her Master's Degree from Radcliffe College, studied as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Oxford in England, and went on to work as a professor of musicology at Howard University. McGinty's father was born in 1927 in Hannibal, Missouri, and traveled throughout the Midwest as the child of a traveling preacher. He completed his undergraduate studies at Howard University, and later met and married McGinty's mother in the 1950s. Milton McGinty took on multiple careers, and worked for the CIA, owned a construction business, and owned and operated a theatre at various points. Derek McGinty describes his parents' personalities, and talks about his mother's career legacy and his father's dream of becoming a playwright, as well.

African American mothers.

African American fathers.

African Americans--Education.

Howard University.

United States. Central Intelligence Agency.

Musicology--Study and teaching.

Video Oral History Interview with Derek McGinty, Section A2014_097_001_002, TRT: 2:27:58 ?

Derek McGinty reflects upon the sights, smells, and sounds of his childhood in Washington, D.C. and his experiences in school. McGinty's parents enrolled him in Archbishop Carroll High School to protect him from the bullying he experienced in junior high school. McGinty transferred to Woodrow Wilson High School, and graduated in 1977. McGinty describes growing up with his younger siblings Dana McGinty and Lisa McGinty Toppin. McGinty's early memories include pushing his younger brother down the stairs, playing in his neighborhood, and the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A Boy Scout with interest in sports and music, McGinty was uncertain about his career path until news anchor Jim Vance spoke at his high school in 1976. This pivotal moment, along with the rising number of African American television personalities at the time, influenced him to become a journalist. After graduating from high school, McGinty enrolled at American University in Washington, D.C. in 1977 to pursue a journalism degree.

Childhood and youth--Washington (D.C.).

African Americans--Education.

African American television journalists.

African American families--Washington (D.C.).

American University (Washington, D.C.).

Vance, Jim.

Journalism--Study and teaching.

Video Oral History Interview with Derek McGinty, Section A2014_097_001_003, TRT: 3:30:37 ?

Derek McGinty describes his experiences as a student at American University in Washington, D.C., which he began attending in 1977. McGinty pledged Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity in 1980, and held several editorial positions at his school's newspaper. The mentorship McGinty received as a journalism student shaped his desire to become a broadcast journalist. However, after graduating in 1981,

an internship experience led to his first job as a desk assistant for a local ABC radio affiliate. McGinty talks about his career in detail, from his first on-air job at Howard University Radio to the start of his radio show "The Derek McGinty Show," which ran from 1991 to 1998. McGinty reflects upon segregation in radio, and concludes by sharing his favorite memories of "The Derek McGinty Show."

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity.

Journalism--Study and teaching.

American University (Washington, D.C.).

Howard University.

Mentoring in education--United States.

Radio broadcasting--Segregation.

Video Oral History Interview with Derek McGinty, Section A2014_097_001_004, TRT: 4:29:58 ?

Derek McGinty talks about his favorite episodes of "The Derek McGinty Show," the Mother's Day and Father's Day shows. McGinty left "The Derek McGinty Show" in 1998 to become a correspondent on CBS's newsmagazine, "Public Eye with Bryant Gumbel." After the show was cancelled, Gumbel offered McGinty a position as a correspondent for HBO's "Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel," which he held from 1999-2003. McGinty describes his most memorable HBO "Real Sports" stories. In 2001, Derek McGinty was offered a position co-anchoring ABC World News Now in New York City, which he held until 2003. McGinty reflects upon the ups and downs of this experience, including breaking his contract to return to Washington, D.C. to anchor for WUSA9 News in 2003. McGinty offers words of encouragement for aspiring television reporters and comments on his philosophy on journalism, as well as his hopes and concerns for the African American community.

HBO Sports.

Magazine (Television program).

WUSA-TV (Television station : Washington, D.C.).

African American television personalities.

Journalism--Mentoring--United States.

Video Oral History Interview with Derek McGinty, Section A2014_097_001_005, TRT: 5:10:08 ?

Derek McGinty reflects upon his career, and considers what he would have done differently in life. McGinty compares television and radio, and shares some insight into dealing with difficult guests on his television and radio shows. McGinty talks about his family, loved ones, and his civic involvement. McGinty considers his legacy and how he wishes to be remembered.

African American families--Washington (D.C.).

Journalism--Mentoring.