

# Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Keith Clinkscales

PERSON

Clinkscales, Keith T., 1964-

**Alternative Names:** Keith Clinkscales;

**Life Dates:** January 7, 1964-

**Place of Birth:** Bridgeport, Connecticut, USA

**Residence:** Hartsdale, NY

**Occupations:** Magazine Publishing Entrepreneur; Media Executive

## Biographical Note

Media executive and magazine publishing entrepreneur Keith T. Clinkscales was born on January 7, 1964 in Bridgeport, Connecticut. He received his B.S. degree in accounting and finance from Florida A&M University in 1986, and his M.B.A. degree from Harvard Business School in 1990.

In 1988, Clinkscales co-founded Urban Profile magazine and served as publisher and editor-in-chief until 1992, when he sold the publication to Career Communications Group. He then helped Quincy Jones establish Vibe magazine in 1993 and was named president and chief executive officer. He also founded the publication's digital counterpart, Vibe.com, in 1994, and helped launch Vibe's Blaze magazine in 1998. From 1999 to 2003, Clinkscales co-founded and served as chairman and chief executive officer of Vanguard Media, publisher of Honey, Heart & Soul and Savoy magazines.

In 2005, Clinkscales was hired to work for ESPN as senior vice president and general manager of ESPN Publishing. In 2007, he was named ESPN's senior vice president of content development and enterprises, where he served as executive producer for ESPN Films' documentaries, and scripted and unscripted projects including the 2011 launched Year of the Quarter Back; the acclaimed and Emmy-nominated 30 for 30 documentary series, Black Magic; Ali Rap; Kobe Doin' Work; Renee; Catching Hell; A Race Story: Wendell Scott; The Tribeca Sports Film Festival; Elite 24; and the highest rated documentary in ESPN's history, The Fab Five. Clinkscales was co-creator of ESPN's award-winning TV magazine show E:60, the Homecoming with Rick Reilly show, and the adapted SportsNation show. He also oversaw the ESPN Classic network, ESPN Books, the ESPYs, and the X Games.

In 2011, Clinkscales founded and became chief executive officer of Shadow League

Digital, a multi-platform sports news organization in partnership with ESPN. Under Shadow League Digital, he developed Shadow League Films and co-produced the 2012 Muhammad Ali 70 Special which aired on ESPN, as well as executive produced the ESPN documentary Benji. In 2013, Clinkscales was named chief executive officer of Sean “Diddy” Combs’ REVOLT Media.

His honors include two National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) Excellence in Journalism Awards, two Peabody Awards, the National Magazine Award, and an Emmy nomination. In 2008, he was named one of Diversity MBA Magazine’s “Top 100 under 50 Diverse Corporate Executives.” In 2007 and 2009, Clinkscales was listed among the “Top 50 Minorities in Cable” by Cableworld Magazine; in 2014, he appeared on the CableFax Magazine “Top 100 Executives in Cable” list. Clinkscales has served as treasurer of the Apollo Theater Foundation Board of Trustees, as a member of PepsiCo’s Multicultural Advisory Board, and a member of the Advisory Board at UrbanWorld Media, Inc. Since 2012, he has served on the Board of Directors for Florida A&M University (FAMU) Foundation and the Board of Visitors for Howard University’s School of Communications.

Keith Clinkscales was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 18, 2014.

## Related Entries

**Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Bachelor of Science**

**Harvard Business School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**M.B.A.**

**Hillcrest Middle School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Center School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**St Joseph High School** [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

**Urban Profile** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1988 to 1992]

**Co-Founder, Publisher, Editor-in-Chief**

**Vibe Magazine** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1993 to 1999]

**President and CEO**

**Vanguard Media, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1999 to 2003]

**Chairman and CEO**

**KTC Ventures** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2004 to ?]

**President and CEO**

**ESPN, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2005 to 2007]

**Senior Vice President and General Manager, ESPN Publishing**

**ESPN, Inc.** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2007 to 2012]

**Senior Vice President of Content Development and Enterprises**

**The Shadow League** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2012 to ?]

**Founder and CEO**

**Revolt TV** [EMPLOYEEOf]  
[from 2013 to ?]

**CEO**

**Apollo Theater** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Treasurer**

**PepsiCo, Inc. Multicultural Advisory Board** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**Yale Professional Publishing** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Academic Director**

**Howard University School of Communications Advisory Board** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**Miller Coors Multicultural Advisory Board** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**Prince Hall Free & Accepted Masons** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Member**

**Florida A&M University Foundation Board** [MEMBEROf]  
[from ? to ?]

**Board Member**

**Florida A&M University School of Business** [MEMBEROf]

[from 1985 to 1986]

**President**

**Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity** [MEMBEROf]  
[from 1985 to 1986]

**Junior Vice Polemarch of the Southern Province; Polemarch of the Alpha Z  
Chapter**