

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Sandra Hughes

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Hughes, Sandra, 1946-
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Sandra Hughes,
Dates:	August 13, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014
Physical Description:	6 uncompressed MOV digital video files (2:42:30).
Abstract:	Broadcast journalist Sandra Hughes (1946 -) was the first African American female talk show host in the Piedmont region and the first African American woman to host PM Magazine in the Southeast. Hughes was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 13, 2014, in Greensboro, North Carolina. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_181
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Journalist Sandra Hughes was born on October 18, 1946 in Durham, North Carolina. While her biological father was Alexander Cotton, she was raised by her mother Alice Marie Amis Daye, a housekeeper, and her stepfather Charlie Alfred Daye, an auto mechanic. Hughes graduated from Notre Dame High School in 1964 and went on to attend North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, where she earned her B.S. degree in English education in 1969.

Hughes worked briefly as a technical publications editor for Western Electric upon graduating, but was hired in 1972 as a general assignment reporter by WFMY-TV in 1972. She became the first African American woman to host her own daily talk show in the Piedmont, in 1974, with *Sandra and Friends*. In 1976, she was the first female broadcaster invited to participate in the European Communities' Visitors Program. Hughes was the first African American woman in the Southeast to host the nationally syndicated *PM Magazine*, in 1978. She joined Lee Kinard in hosting the *Good Morning Show* in 1985. That same year, Hughes was appointed manager of WFMY-TV's community affairs department, where she started the "2 Those Who Care" initiative in 1989. In 1990, Hughes returned to the newsroom as the 6 p.m. evening news anchor. She spearheaded the Minority Broadcast Development Program in 1992. Hughes retired from WFMY-TV in 2010, and began teaching at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University the following year as an adjunct professor of journalism.

Hughes received the Edward R. Murrow award for news reporting from the Greensboro Chamber of Commerce in 1981, and was the first African American in the Piedmont to receive the award. She was recognized by North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in 1995 as a Distinguished Alumnus. In 2002, she received the North Carolina Governor's Order of the Long Leaf Pine, and July 24th of that year was proclaimed "Sandra Daye Hughes" Day by the Guilford County Commissioners. She has won multiple "Best of Gannett" awards for news anchoring and specific programs, and was named an "Unsung Hero" by the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in 2006. Hughes was given the Sojourner Truth Award by the National Association of Negro

Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. in 2009, and the newsroom at WFMY-TV was renamed "The Sandra Daye Hughes Information Center" the following year. Also, in 2010, The National Academy of Television Art & Sciences inducted Hughes into the Silver Circle, the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters inducted her into the Broadcaster's Hall of Fame, and she received an honorary doctorate of humanities from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, her alma mater. Hughes received the Chuck Stone Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Black Journalists in 2014.

Hughes lives in Greensboro, North Carolina with her husband. She has two children and two grandchildren. Hughes had a third child who passed away in 1984.

Sandra Hughes was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 13, 2014.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Sandra Hughes was conducted by Larry Crowe on August 13, 2014, in Greensboro, North Carolina, and was recorded on 6 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Broadcast journalist Sandra Hughes (1946 -) was the first African American female talk show host in the Piedmont region and the first African American woman to host PM Magazine in the Southeast.

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:

Hughes, Sandra, 1946-

Crowe, Larry (Interviewer)

Stearns, Scott (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Hughes, Sandra, 1946---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 Sandra Hughes, August 13, 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 Sandra Hughes, Section A2014_181_001_001, TRT: 1:29:12 ?

Sandra Hughes was born on October 18, 1946 in Durham, North Carolina to Alice Amis Daye and Alexander Cotton. Her maternal grandmother, Evaline Woods Pulley, was born in Granville County, North Carolina to Alice Woods and Clem Woods. She married Charlie Amis and became a tobacco sharecropper near Durham. Hughes' paternal grandparents, Hannah Cotton and Paul Cotton, were farmers in Stovall, North Carolina. After the death of his mother, Hughes' father moved to Durham, where he attended Little River High School with Hughes' mother and stepfather, Charlie Daye. Hughes was born while Daye was serving overseas in World War II. After his return, Hughes' mother decided to marry him instead of Hughes' father, who nevertheless remained involved in Hughes' life. As a child, Hughes lived in Durham County with her maternal grandmother and her second husband, Poshia Pulley, while her stepfather earned a degree in Greensboro, North Carolina. At five years old, Hughes joined her parents and half-siblings in Greensboro.

Video Oral History Interview with Sandra Hughes, Section A2014_181_001_002, TRT: 2:33:00 ?

Sandra Hughes began her education in the early 1950s at the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal School, an all-black Catholic school in Greensboro, North Carolina. She also attended Mass at the affiliated Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church. Hughes' family lived in the Morningside Homes housing project in Greensboro, where they were one of the few African American families to attend private school. As a result, Hughes and her half-sister, Faye Daye Kahn, were bullied by the other children. From an early age, Hughes excelled in English. Her interest in storytelling was fostered by television shows like 'Winky Dink and You' and her involvement in school plays. Hughes witnessed the start of the Civil Rights Movement in Greensboro, and took part in the demonstrations against F.W. Woolworth and Company's segregated lunch counters in 1960. Hughes went on to attend the private and predominately white Notre Dame High School in Greensboro, where she continued to participate in the drama club.

Video Oral History Interview with Sandra Hughes, Section A2014_181_001_003, TRT: 3:22:10 ?

Sandra Hughes graduated from Notre Dame High School in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1964. She then enrolled at Greensboro's North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, where she studied English education and joined the Richard B. Harrison Players under director John Marshall Kilimanjaro. She also married Larry Hughes, Sr., whom she met in high school. Hughes received her degree in 1969, shortly before the Greensboro uprising. That year, she joined Kilimanjaro's repertory theatre, and her husband was drafted into the Vietnam War. During his deployment, Hughes was unable to find a teaching position, and worked as a technical editor at the Western Electric Company instead. After her husband returned in 1971, Hughes gave birth to their daughter, Tiffany Hughes Harris, and went on maternity leave. When she returned to work, her position at the Western Electric Company was no longer available, so she approached the local WFMY-TV station to inquire about a writing position.

Video Oral History Interview with Sandra Hughes, Section A2014_181_001_004, TRT: 4:29:54 ?

Sandra Hughes was hired as a reporter for WFMY-TV in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1972, despite having no formal training in broadcasting. She was one of a few African Americans on the local news, and frequently received death

threats from viewers. In 1974, Hughes began hosting 'Sandra and Friends,' a talk show that she wrote and produced for WFMY-TV. On the show, Hughes interviewed celebrity guests, including stars from CBS soap operas and musical groups like The Manhattans. During this time, racist viewers continued to try to intimidate Hughes, and threats were made against her newborn daughter, Tiffany Hughes Harris, in an attempt to take 'Sandra and Friends' off the air. In 1976, Hughes was invited by Ambassador J. Robert Schaetzel to visit Europe through the European Community Visitors Program. In 1978, Hughes became the co-anchor of 'PM Magazine,' where she covered local news and national stories like the Greensboro massacre of 1979. In 1984, Hughes' son, Larry Hughes, Jr., drowned at their home.

Video Oral History Interview with Sandra Hughes, Section A2014_181_001_005, TRT: 5:25:55 ?

Sandra Hughes' youngest son, Larry Hughes, Jr., drowned in the family pool in 1984, when he was three years old. After his death, Hughes fell into a depression and left her anchor position on 'PM Magazine' at WFMY-TV in Greensboro, North Carolina. She later joined the 'Good Morning Show' as a co-anchor alongside the show's creator, Lee W. Kinard, Jr. Hughes also created the popular program '2 Those Who Care,' which recognized contributions to the community. In 1990, Hughes became an anchor on WFMY-TV's evening news show, and created the Minority Broadcast Development Program. She also taught courses at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. In recognition of her work, Hughes received numerous awards and was named the ambassador of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum in Greensboro. At this point, Hughes reflects upon her career, legacy and hopes for the African American community in Greensboro. She also describes how she would like to be remembered.

Video Oral History Interview with Sandra Hughes, Section A2014_181_001_006, TRT: 6:22:19 ?

Sandra Hughes narrates her photographs.