

Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Byron Pitts

Overview of the Collection

Repository:	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
Creator:	Pitts, Byron
Title:	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Byron Pitts,
Dates:	July 14, 2016 and October 6, 2014
Bulk Dates:	2014 and 2016
Physical Description:	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:39:23).
Abstract:	Broadcast journalist Byron Pitts (1960 -) was a chief national correspondent and anchor for ABC News, and earned multiple national Emmy Awards for his work as a CBS News correspondent. He was the author of <i>Step Out on Nothing: How Faith and Family Helped Me Conquer Life's Challenges</i> . Pitts was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on July 14, 2016 and October 6, 2014, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
Identification:	A2014_210
Language:	The interview and records are in English.

Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Broadcast journalist Byron A. Pitts was born on October 21, 1960 in Baltimore, Maryland to William and Clarice Pitts. He grew up in a working-class neighborhood and was raised by a single mother. Pitts graduated from Archbishop Curley High School in Baltimore in 1978 and went on to attend Ohio Wesleyan University, where he received his B.A. degree in journalism and speech communication in 1982.

Pitts first interned at WTVD in Durham, North Carolina. From 1983 to 1984, he reported and served as the weekend sports anchor at WNCT-TV in Greenville, North Carolina. He worked as a military reporter for WAVY-TV in Portsmouth, Virginia from 1984 to 1986, and as a reporter for WESH-TV in Orlando, Florida from 1986 to 1988. Pitts then moved to Tampa in 1988, where he became a reporter and substitute anchor for WFLA-TV until 1989. He then joined WCVB-TV in Boston, Massachusetts as a special assignment reporter. His final local job was as a general assignment reporter for WSB-TV in Atlanta, Georgia from 1994 to 1996. In 1997, Pitts moved to Washington, D.C., where he was hired as a correspondent for *CBS Newspath*, the 24-hour affiliate news service of CBS News. He was made a CBS News correspondent in May 1998, and was based in the Miami, Florida and Atlanta, Georgia bureaus before moving to New York City in January of 2001. Pitts later became a chief national correspondent for *CBS Evening News* and a contributor to the newsmagazine *60 Minutes*. As a CBS News reporter, Pitts covered the September 11th attacks, the Iraq War, Hurricane Katrina, the war in Afghanistan, the military buildup in Kuwait, the Florida fires, the Elian Gonzalez story, the Florida Presidential recount, the mudslides in Central America, and the refugee crisis in Kosovo. In 2013, Pitts left CBS News and was named chief national correspondent and anchor for ABC News, where he covers national news stories and in-depth features for the network, reporting for all broadcasts and platforms including *Good Morning America*, *World News with Diane Sawyer*, *Nightline*, *This Week* and *20/20*.

Pitts received national Emmy Awards for his coverage of the September 11th terrorist attacks and the Chicago train

wreck of 1999. His other honors include the 2001 Journalist of the Year Award from the National Association of Black Journalists, as well as four Associated Press Awards and six regional Emmy Awards. His book, *Step Out on Nothing: How Faith and Family Helped Me Conquer Life's Challenges*, was published in 2009.

Pitts lives in New York, New York.

Byron Pitts was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on October 6, 2014 and July 14, 2016.

Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Byron Pitts was conducted by Harriette Cole on July 14, 2016 and October 6, 2014, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Broadcast journalist Byron Pitts (1960 -) was a chief national correspondent and anchor for ABC News, and earned multiple national Emmy Awards for his work as a CBS News correspondent. He was the author of *Step Out on Nothing: How Faith and Family Helped Me Conquer Life's Challenges*.

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:

Pitts, Byron

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews
Pitts, Byron--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 Byron Pitts, July 14, 2016 and October 6, 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 Byron Pitts, Section A2014_210_001_001, TRT: 1:28:51 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Byron Pitts, Section A2014_210_001_002, TRT: 2:29:00 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Byron Pitts, Section A2014_210_001_003, TRT: 3:32:31 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Byron Pitts, Section A2014_210_001_004, TRT: 4:30:16 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Byron Pitts, Section A2014_210_001_005, TRT: 5:28:16 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Byron Pitts, Section A2014_210_001_006, TRT: 6:29:17 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Byron Pitts, Section A2014_210_001_007, TRT: 7:35:21 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Byron Pitts, Section A2014_210_002_008, TRT: 8:30:04 ?
Video Oral History Interview with Byron Pitts, Section A2014_210_002_009, TRT: 9:35:47 ?