

# Finding Aid to The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Rashid Silvera

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## Overview of the Collection

<b>Repository:</b>	The HistoryMakers®1900 S. Michigan Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60616 info@thehistorymakers.com www.thehistorymakers.com
<b>Creator:</b>	Silvera, Rashid Keith Dilworth, 1947-
<b>Title:</b>	The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History Interview with Rashid Silvera,
<b>Dates:</b>	August 13, 2014
<b>Bulk Dates:</b>	2014
<b>Physical Description:</b>	9 uncompressed MOV digital video files (4:55:18).
<b>Abstract:</b>	Model and educator Rashid Silvera (1947 - ) was the last African American male model on the cover of <i>GQ</i> magazine, as well as the first African American to model for a Polo Ralph Lauren advertisement campaign. He also taught history at Scarsdale High School in Scarsdale, New York, starting in 1981. Silvera was interviewed by The HistoryMakers® on August 13, 2014, in New York, New York. This collection is comprised of the original video footage of the interview.
<b>Identification:</b>	A2014_247
<b>Language:</b>	The interview and records are in English.

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## Biographical Note by The HistoryMakers®

Model and educator Rashid Keith Dilworth Silvera was born on December 8, 1947 in Boston, Massachusetts to Don Hector and Phyllis Matilda Silvera. Silvera is the nephew of film actor, director and producer, Frank Silvera and second cousin of Albert Silvera, international car collector and Renaissance man. Silvera was raised in Roxbury, Massachusetts and graduated from Williston Academy in Easthampton, Massachusetts in 1967. He then enrolled at Colgate University, but, in 1969, transferred to Bennington College, where he received his B.A. degree in political science and anthropology in 1972. Silvera went on to obtain his M.T.S. degree from Harvard Divinity School in 1974 and his Ed. M. degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education in 1976.

In 1975, Silvera was hired as a teacher in the history department of the Buckingham Browne & Nichols School in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He taught at Gill St. Bernard's School in Gladstone, New Jersey from 1976 to 1977, and then at San Francisco University High School in San Francisco, California from 1977 to 1979. Silvera returned to the East Coast in 1979, when he was hired as a social studies teacher at Rye Country Day School in Rye, New York. In 1981, he began teaching at Scarsdale High School in Scarsdale, New York.

Aside from teaching, Silvera worked as a fashion model for a number of years. While staying at the house of a friend in the early 1980's, Silvera was noticed by owners of a modeling agency, who then launched his career as a model. He first modeled for fashion photographer Rico Puhmann. In April of 1983, Silvera became the fourth black male model to appear on the cover of *GQ* magazine. His appearance would mark the last time an African American male model would appear on a *GQ* cover. Silvera also appeared on the covers of *Essence* magazine and *CODE* magazine, and was the first African American male to model for a Polo Ralph Lauren advertisement campaign.

Silvera was profiled in Marci Alboher's 2007 book, *One Person/Multiple Careers: A New Model for Work/Life*

*Success*, as well as by Black Enterprise in 2011.

Rashid Silvera was interviewed by *The HistoryMakers* on August 13, 2014.

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## Scope and Content

This life oral history interview with Rashid Silvera was conducted by Harriette Cole on August 13, 2014, in New York, New York, and was recorded on 9 uncompressed MOV digital video files. Model and educator Rashid Silvera (1947 - ) was the last African American male model on the cover of GQ magazine, as well as the first African American to model for a Polo Ralph Lauren advertisement campaign. He also taught history at Scarsdale High School in Scarsdale, New York, starting in 1981.

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## 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®.

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## 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.

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## Controlled Access Terms

This interview collection is indexed under the following controlled access subject terms.

### Persons:

Silvera, Rashid Keith Dilworth, 1947-

Cole, Harriette (Interviewer)

Hickey, Matthew (Videographer)

### Subjects:

African Americans--Interviews

Silvera, Rashid Keith Dilworth, 1947---Interviews

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## Organizations:

HistoryMakers® (Video oral history collection)

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The HistoryMakers® African American Video Oral History Collection

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## Occupations:

Model

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## HistoryMakers® Category:

StyleMakers

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## 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 Rashid Silvera, 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).

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## 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.

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## Detailed Description of the Collection

### Series I: Original Interview Footage

Video Oral History Interview with Rashid Silvera, Section A2014\_247\_001\_001, TRT: 1:30:42 ?

Video Oral History Interview with Rashid Silvera, Section A2014\_247\_001\_002, TRT: 2:32:10 ?

- Video Oral History Interview with Rashid Silvera, Section A2014\_247\_001\_003, TRT: 3:30:21 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Rashid Silvera, Section A2014\_247\_001\_004, TRT: 4:33:06 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Rashid Silvera, Section A2014\_247\_001\_005, TRT: 5:36:51 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Rashid Silvera, Section A2014\_247\_001\_006, TRT: 6:29:53 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Rashid Silvera, Section A2014\_247\_001\_007, TRT: 7:30:57 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Rashid Silvera, Section A2014\_247\_001\_008, TRT: 8:31:03 ?
- Video Oral History Interview with Rashid Silvera, Section A2014\_247\_001\_009, TRT: 9:40:15 ?