

American Archive

OF PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Honoring Black History Month, An Invitation to ‘Come On And Zoom!’ and Celebrating Jean Walkinshaw’s Career

Explore AAPB's new special collections, exhibit, and podcast episode!

Honoring Black History Month

In honor of Black History Month, the American Archive of Public Broadcasting has launched two new special collections, the [WHUT Collection](#) and [The Soul of Black Identity: Artist Interviews of the Post-Soul Era](#).

[WHUT Collection](#)

The WHUT Collection includes nearly 250 programs and segments from the Emmy Award winning WHUT-TV public television station, located in Washington, D.C., on the campus of Howard University. WHUT, earlier known as WHMM-TV, was the first public broadcasting station to be licensed and operated by a historically Black college or university. The collection, dating from 1981 to 2008, documents Black politics, history, life, and culture, in addition to D.C.-area affairs, national issues and concerns, and international news. The collection includes broadcast programs, oral histories, and recordings of campus events, such as lectures, speeches, and commencement ceremonies. More than 100 episodes of the series [Evening Exchange](#), hosted after 1985 by Kojo Nnamdi, address topics such as [the Black vote](#), [childhood literacy](#), [Ebonics](#), and [mental health in minorities](#). The collection includes many programs on the civil rights movement, including a series of [Civil Rights Oral Histories](#).



Prominent figures featured in the collection include [Marion Barry](#), [Harry Belafonte](#), [Mary Frances Berry](#), [Julian Bond](#), [Taylor Branch](#), [Bill Clinton](#), [Ossie Davis](#), [Marian Wright Edelman](#), [Minister Louis Farrakhan](#), [John Hope Franklin](#), [Dorothy Gilliam](#), [Danny Glover](#), [Dick Gregory](#), [Dorothy Height](#), [Cathy Hughes](#), [Lyndon Johnson](#), [Lois Mailou Jones](#), [Vernon Jordan](#), [Justice Anthony Kennedy](#), [John Lewis](#), [Nelson Mandela](#), [Eleanor Holmes Norton](#), [Bobby Seale](#), [Archbishop Desmond Tutu](#), and [Cornell West](#).

[Visit the Collection](#)



[The Soul of Black Identity: Artist Interviews of the Post-Soul Era](#)

The Soul of Black Identity: Artist Interviews of the Post-Soul Era collection presents more than 75 interviews in which leading figures in music, theater, film and television, dance, literature, comedy, and the visual arts discuss their careers and identities as Black artists. The interviews were originally broadcast over public radio and television between the mid-1960s and recent times. Beginning in the 1980s, a number of critics and scholars, including [Nelson George](#), began to use the term “post-soul” to designate an overarching shift in Black culture that followed the Civil Rights Movement. Although these writers disagreed about the contours of a “post-soul aesthetic,” most of the analysts distinguished the post-soul era in terms of post-integration experiences, intra-racial class divides, and expanded opportunities for middle-class Black Americans. This collection includes interviews with artists who came of age during the post-soul era, especially in film ([Spike Lee and Monty Ross](#); [Danny Glover](#); [Mario Van Peebles](#), [Warrington Hudlin](#), [Reginald Hudlin](#), [Neema Barnette](#), and [John Singleton](#)), literature ([Terry McMillan](#) and [Colson Whitehead](#)), theater ([Woodie King Jr.](#)), and comedy ([Jamie Foxx](#), [Haywood Nelson](#), and [Franklyn Ajaye](#)). Older artists who continued their work during the new era, such as [James Brown](#), [McCoy Tyner](#), [Dick Gregory](#), [Melvin Van Peebles](#), and [James Baldwin](#), many of whom influenced later generations, also are represented.

[Visit the Collection](#)

These special collections were curated in 2021 by Brittany Jones, a graduate of Howard University’s Theatre Arts Administration program, as part of the Library of Congress/Howard University Archives, History, and Heritage Advanced Internship (AHHA) program.

[ZOOM \(1972-1978\): Children’s Community and Public Television in the 1970s](#)

"Come on and zoom, zoom, zoom-a zoom." Remember that song? Produced at public television station WGBH in Boston, *ZOOM* was one of the most successful non-commercial children's series of the 1970s. Over the course of six seasons, millions of American children watched *ZOOM*, and they responded to its exhortation to participate by sending in an average of 10,000 letters every week. To coincide with the series' 50th anniversary, AAPB has made 125 episodes of the series available online via a new *ZOOM* [special collection](#). An accompanying behind-the-scenes [exhibit](#) curated by Dr. Leslie Paris of The University of British Columbia explores the making of *ZOOM* and features letters sent in by viewers.

[Visit the Exhibit](#)



[Presenting the Past: Documentary Filmmaking with Jean Walkinshaw](#)

The seventh episode of AAPB & Aca-Media's podcast "[Presenting the Past](#): Exploring the American Archive of Public Broadcasting" features Jean Walkinshaw, an award-winning documentarian and producer in the Pacific Northwest for over 50 years. In 2021, Walkinshaw contributed 44 public television documentaries and full interviews conducted for the documentaries to the AAPB. The [Jean Walkinshaw Collection](#), accessible online, covers much of Walkinshaw's lengthy career spanning the years 1972-2008. Her documentaries focused primarily on notable artists, writers, and social, cultural and ecological themes of the Pacific Northwest region. In this episode, Jean guides listeners through her career and filmmaking process, highlighting titles in her collection available in the AAPB.

[Listen to the podcast](#)



The [American Archive of Public Broadcasting](#), a collaboration between the Library of Congress and GBH Archives, coordinates a national effort to digitally preserve and make accessible significant historical content created by public media over the past seven decades.



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