



Smithsonian

*National Museum of African American History and Culture*

## Pearl Bowser Audiovisual Collection

National Museum of African American History and Culture  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
NMAAHC-Archives@si.edu  
<https://nmaahc.si.edu>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	National Museum of African American History and Culture
<b>Title:</b>	Pearl Bowser Audiovisual Collection
<b>Date:</b>	(bulk 1920-2001)
<b>Identifier:</b>	NMAAHC.A2012.79.AV
<b>Source:</b>	Bowser, Pearl, 1931- (Donor)
<b>Extent:</b>	approximately 100 Motion picture films 213 Sound cassettes (7 boxes)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Acquired as a donation from Pearl Bowser in 2012.

### Preferred Citation

Pearl Bowser Collection, National Museum of African American History and Culture

### Restrictions

Collection is open for research. Access to collection materials requires an appointment.

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## Biographical / Historical

Pearl Bowser is a filmmaker, producer, author, lecturer, and highly acclaimed scholar of African American film who is recognized as an authority on the works of Oscar Micheaux, a noted writer, director, and producer of race films from 1919 to 1948.

Born Pearl Johnson on June 25, 1931, in Sugar Hill, Harlem, New York, she was named after her mother (also Pearl Johnson), a domestic worker who had been raised in a Catholic nunnery. On occasional Saturdays, the younger Pearl would accompany her mother to work in apartments in lower Manhattan, where she would assist her by folding handkerchiefs for a small allowance. After moving to a lower part of Harlem when she was about four years old, she met Harlem entrepreneur "Bumpy" Johnson, for whom she and other children in the neighborhood did odd jobs such as counting coins or attending to his ice-cream stand. Johnson, who would sometimes give the children joy rides in his Cadillac, occasionally allowed Pearl and the other children to borrow books from his extensive library, provided that they read them and submitted to a quiz.

As a child, Bowser had several racist encounters. For example, one of her white kindergarten teachers at her elementary school wore gloves in the classroom as to not touch Black pupils. She was also occasionally teased for having a gap between her teeth but felt insulated from sustained bullying because she had several older brothers who sometimes protected her. On a separate occasion, when she was about nine years old, her mother sent her on a trip from New York to the South to visit relatives. Although her mother had purchased tickets for her to be in a Pullman car, when she changed trains in Washington, DC., she was forced to ride in the car behind the engine, which left her covered in soot.

An avid reader, Pearl excelled in elementary and high school and received a scholarship to attend Brooklyn College, where she majored in biology. She supplemented her income by recording the numbers in one of Bumpy Johnson's shops. Disappointed with the quality of the education she was receiving, Bowser withdrew from Brooklyn College, eventually landing a job at CBS where she worked on a team that analyzed Nielsen ratings.

In 1955, Pearl married fellow New Yorker LeRoy Bowser. By the mid-1960s, although Pearl and LeRoy Bowser had separate interests, they both were working simultaneously in the civil rights movement. While LeRoy was active in Brooklyn CORE (Congress of Racial Equality) and went to the South in the summer to teach for what was the beginning of HeadStart, Pearl, along with other production activists, took to the streets documenting African American culture and issues—working to bring these films to schools. Additionally, Bowser wanted to write a cookbook to earn funds for Brooklyn's CORE organization. She was approached by David Davis, the editor of *Tuesday Magazine*. *Tuesday* had distribution in the *Herald Tribune* across the country as a Sunday supplement. As the urban-world magazine exploded in Black communities, "Joan" Bowser's two-page pictorials on Southern cooking with a set of recipes became very popular in the five years she wrote them. Bowser retained copyrights to the articles, and easily completed her cookbook a short time later.

Bowser's colleague at ABC, Charles Hobson, found a used book written by Peter Noble about Black films and Oscar Micheaux. The volume was slim and contained what little information contained in the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) files. Hobson and his colleagues wanted to write a book about the topic, and they assigned Bowser to begin the research. As part of the project, Bowser went to California to interview actors who may have been in early Black films or may have worked with Micheaux. What she learned began her intensive scholarship into Micheaux and his fellow filmmakers.

In 1971, she organized her first film festival, the Black Film History Series. In 1979, she organized the nation's first American women's film festival in New York City. She also presented a major retrospective, *Independent Black American Cinema 1920-1980*, which toured the country during 1981 and 1982. She also directed the Journey Across Three Continents film and lecture series, which toured the country from 1983-1985. Bowser also served as president of the prestigious Flaherty Film Seminar in 1987. In 1989, she, alongside Grant Munro, programmed the 35th Flaherty Film Seminar, which featured films such as *Finzan*, *Zajota and the Boogie Spirit*, *Daughters of the Dust*, and many more. She has also been a judge at the world-renown Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) in Burkina Faso (formerly known as Upper Volta).

In the 1980s Bowser was awarded an independent artists grant by the Ford Foundation to travel west and collect oral histories from individuals in Oscar Micheaux's orbit, loosely following the route he would have travelled decades earlier. Stopping in cities such as Roanoke, Virginia; Memphis, Tennessee; and Jackson, Mississippi, she collected dozens of oral histories from actors, actresses etc. that knew Oscar Micheaux. Through this research she became an eminent figure in the Black independent film industry. Working as a programmer, she travelled around the United States and the world showing films by domestic and Black filmmakers within the Diaspora.

Despite her wealth of experience working as a programmer, it wasn't until the 1990s that Bowser made her directorial debut with the documentary film *Midnight Ramble*. Funded by *American Experience*, the film looks at African Americans and Hollywood movies from 1910 through the 1950s. In 2000, she, along with Louise Spence, co-authored *Writing Himself into History: Oscar Micheaux, His Silent Films and His Audiences*, a book about the pioneering filmmaker. Additionally, she is founder and director of Chamba Educational Film Services, a film distribution company that specialized in distributing films by African American filmmakers. In the early 1980s, she renamed her company/collection as African Diaspora Images, a collection of historical and contemporary films documenting Black film history. She subsequently joined Third World Newsreel, where she was director of their theater department.

In 2012, Pearl Bowser donated her extensive collection of books, sound cassettes, films, film memorabilia, and papers to the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

Sources:

1940 United States Federal Census; New York, New York, New York, population schedule, p. 61B, house number 1486, family 195, Pearl Bowser; *Ancestry.com*. 1940 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012 accessed: 10 Sept 2022); citing National Archives and Records Administration microfilm: m-t0627-02665

Bowser, Pearl. Pearl Bowser Oral History. Interview by Tuliza Fleming and Jennifer Lyon, July 21, 2011.

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

### Subjects:

- African American actors
- African American actresses
- African American motion picture producers and directors
- African American women authors
- African diaspora
- Amateur films
- Conferences
- Documentary films
- Film festivals
- Lectures and lecturing
- Meetings
- Motion picture soundtracks
- Oral history
- Race films
- Radio broadcasts

### Types of Materials:

- 16mm motion picture film
- Oral histories (document genres)
- Sound cassette
- VHS (videotape format)

### Names:

- Andrade-Watkins, Claire
- Bambara, Toni Cade
- Bowser, Pearl, 1931-
- Dash, Julie
- Gerima, Haile
- Gunn, Bill, 1934-1989
- Jafa, Arthur
- Jones, Robert Earl, 1904-2006
- Massiah, Louis
- Micheaux, Oscar, 1884-1951
- Moses, Ethel
- Robeson, Paul, 1898-1976
- Sanchez, Sonia, 1934- (poet, reader)
- Snead, James A., 1953-1989
- Spence, Louise, 1945-
- Tucker, Lorenzo

Occupations:

Actors -- Interviews  
Filmmakers

Places:

England  
Harlem (New York, N.Y.)  
Memphis (Tenn.)  
Roanoke (Va.)

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## Container Listing

### Series 1: Motion Picture Film

"A People's Convention", 1948

1 Film reel (black-and-white, sound; 16mm)

Notes: Produced by Union Films and covers the 1948 Progressive Party Convention in Philadelphia, PA.

2012.79.1.1.1a

"Hands of Inge", circa 1952

1 Film reel (release print: black-and-white, sound; 16mm)

1 Film reel (workprint: black-and-white, sound; 16mm)

Notes: Short introduction to the work and methodology of acclaimed African American sculptor Inge Hardison. The film, made relatively early in her career, details her working processes with clay, bronze, and wire.

2012.79.1.9.1ac

Swing!, 1938

2 Film reels (black-and-white, sound; 16mm)

Notes: Race film written and directed by Oscar Micheaux.

2012.79.1.20.1ab

Kukurantumi - Road to Accra, 1983

3 Film reels (color, sound; 16mm)

Notes: Feature film written and directed by King Ampaw.

2012.79.1.23.1abc

Broken Strings, 1940

2 Film reels (black-and-white, sound; 16mm)

Notes: Race film directed by Bernard B. Ray.

2012.79.1.46.1ab

Go Down, Death!, circa 1946

2 Film reels (black-and-white, sound; 16mm)

Notes: Race film directed by Spencer Willams.

2012.79.1.48.1ab

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## Series 2: Video Tape

*[Return to Table of Contents](#)*



## Series 3: Audio Tape

## 3.1: Interviews

Scope and Contents: Contains interviews with individuals such as A.J. Felder, Toni Cade Bambara, Louis Massiah, Sonia Sanchez and several others. Some were conducted by Pearl Bowser herself, others conducted by William Greaves, Wanda Coleman and Nancy Shiffrin.

Box 1, Cassette 28	2012.79.3.28.1a: Interview of Eileen Bowser, conducted by Pearl Bowser, 1992 October 20 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Cassette 30	Interview of Pete Beveridge about his wife, Tee Beveridge; conducted by Pearl Bowser, 1995 June 25 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Cassette 3; Box 3, Cassette 35	Interview of Toni Cade Bambara and Louis Massiah, conducted by Pearl Bowser, 1992 August 28 2 Sound cassettes <a href="#">Audio: Interview of Toni Cade Bambara and Louis Massiah, conducted by Pearl Bowser, 1992 August 28, tape 1, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Interview of Toni Cade Bambara and Louis Massiah, conducted by Pearl Bowser, 1992 August 28, tape 1, side 2</a> <a href="#">Audio: Interview of Toni Cade Bambara and Louis Massiah, conducted by Pearl Bowser, 1992 August 28, tape 2, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Interview of Toni Cade Bambara and Louis Massiah, conducted by Pearl Bowser, 1992 August 28, tape 2, side 2</a> Notes: Interview on first 20 minutes of side a only; remainder of the recording occurs at an unidentified conference 2012.79.3.72.1a, 2012.79.3.104.1a
Box 3, Cassette 37; Box 2, Cassette 32; Box 3, Cassette 29	Interview of A.J. Fielder (Arthur Jafa), undated 3 Sound cassettes (master tape and copies) <a href="#">Audio: Interview of A.J. Fielder (Arthur Jafa), tape 3, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Interview of A.J. Fielder (Arthur Jafa), tape 3, side 2</a> Notes: Each sound cassette is accompanied by a paper note. 2012.79.3.106.1a, 2012.79.3.101.1a, 2012.79.3.98.1a
Box 4, Cassette 3	Interview of Myriam Nyang, conducted by Pearl Bowser, undated 1 Sound cassette <a href="#">Audio: Interview of Myriam Nyang, conducted by Pearl Bowser, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Interview of Myriam Nyang, conducted by Pearl Bowser, side 2</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.109.1a
Box 4, Cassette 7	Interview of Pearl Bowser, conducted by Loretta Campbell, 1986 January 26 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Cassette 31	Interview of William Greaves, conducted by Pearl Bowser, undated 1 Sound cassette Notes: Interview on side a only

Box 4, Cassette 32 Interview of unidentified Senegalese filmmaker, undated  
1 Sound cassette

Box 6, Cassette 8 Interview of Sonia Sanchez, conducted by Wanda Coleman & Nancy Shiffrin at the Los Angeles Theatre Center, 1986 November 17  
1 Sound cassette  
[Audio: Interview of Sonia Sanchez, conducted by Wanda Coleman & Nancy Shiffrin at the Los Angeles Theatre Center, 1986 November 17, side 1](#)  
[Audio: Interview of Sonia Sanchez, conducted by Wanda Coleman & Nancy Shiffrin at the Los Angeles Theatre Center, 1986 November 17, side 2](#)  
Notes: 2012.79.3.186.1a

#### Interviews of Shingzie Howard, 1971-1975

Box 3, Cassette 7;  
Box 2, Cassette 33 Interview of Shingzie Howard, conducted by Pearl Bowser, 1971  
September  
2 Sound cassettes  
[Audio: Interview of Shingzie Howard, conducted by Pearl Bowser, 1971 September, tape 1, side 1](#)  
[Audio: Interview of Shingzie Howard, conducted by Pearl Bowser, 1971 September, tape 1, side 2](#)  
[Audio: Interview of Shingzie Howard, conducted by Pearl Bowser, 1971 September, tape 2, side 1](#)  
Notes: 2012.79.3.76.1a, 2012.79.3.68.1a

Box 3, Cassette 19 Interview of Shingzie Howard, conducted by Pearl Bowser, 1975  
September 11  
1 Sound cassette  
[Audio: Interview of Shingzie Howard, conducted by Pearl Bowser, 1975 September 11, side 1](#)  
[Audio: Interview of Shingzie Howard, conducted by Pearl Bowser, 1975 September 11, side 2](#)  
Notes: 2012.79.3.88.1a

### 3.2: Oral Histories

Scope and Contents: Contains roughly fifty (50) oral history interviews, organized into four (4) subseries based on project, year, and location.

#### Museum of the Moving Image Oral History Project, 1987-1989

Box 6, Cassette 1;  
Box 6, Cassette 2 Campbell, Dick, 1988 March 12  
2 Sound cassettes  
Notes: 2012.79.3.179.1a, 2012.79.3.180.1a

Box 3, Cassette 6;  
Box 6, Cassette 19 Everette, Francienne, 1987 December 30  
2 Sound cassettes  
[Audio: Everette, Francienne, 1987 December 30, tape 1, side 1](#)  
[Audio: Everette, Francienne, 1987 December 30, tape 1, side 2](#)  
[Audio: Everette, Francienne, 1987 December 30, tape 2, side 1](#)  
Notes: 2012.79.3.75.1a, 2012.79.3.197.1a

Box 3, Cassette 4	Fax, Francis , 1988 October 06 1 Sound cassette Notes: 2012.79.3.73.1a
Box 4, Cassette 1	Fluellen, Francis , 1988 June 04 1 Sound cassette Notes: 2012.79.3.107.1a
Box 3, Cassette 5; Box 3, Cassette 8	Harris, Edna Mae, 1988 June 16 2 Sound cassettes <a href="#">Audio: Harris, Edna Mae, 1988 June 16, tape 1, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Harris, Edna Mae, 1988 June 16, tape 1, side 2</a> <a href="#">Audio: Harris, Edna Mae, 1988 June 16, tape 2, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Harris, Edna Mae, 1988 June 16, tape 2, side 2</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.74.1a, 2012.79.3.77.1a
Box 4, Cassette 4	Howard, Shingzie, undated 1 Sound cassette <a href="#">Audio: Howard, Shingzie, undated, side 1, part 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Howard, Shingzie, undated, side 1, part 2</a> <a href="#">Audio: Howard, Shingzie, undated, side 2</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.110.1a
Box 6, Cassette 20; Box 3, Cassette 2	Jefferies, Herb, 1988 March 19 2 Sound cassettes Notes: 2012.79.3.198.1a, 2012.79.3.71.1a
Box 3, Cassette 18	Moss, Carlton , 1988 June 03 1 Sound cassette Notes: 2012.79.3.87.1a
Box 3, Cassette 9	O'Neal, Fred, 1988 February 01 1 Sound cassette Notes: 2012.79.3.78.1a
Box 4, Cassette 37; Box 4, Cassette 11	Wallace, Emmett "Babe", 1988 June 11 2 Sound cassettes Notes: 2012.79.3.143.1a, 2012.79.3.117.1a
Box 2, Cassette 1	White, Liz, 1988 April 3 1 Sound cassette <a href="#">Audio: White, Liz, 1988 April 3, side 1, part 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: White, Liz, 1988 April 3, side 1, part 2</a> <a href="#">Audio: White, Liz, 1988 April 3, side 2, part 1</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.36.1a
Box 2, Cassette 18	Williams, Frances , 1988 June 02 1 Sound cassette Notes: 2012.79.3.53.1a
Box 4, Cassette 5	Recorded broadcast about the AMMI Oral History Project, 1989 February

1 Sound cassette (label from original container reads: "Crossroads segment: Pearl Bowser AMMI Oral History Project -Feb '89")  
Notes: One side only.  
2012.79.3.111.1a

## Jackson, Mississippi, 1993 June 15-18

Box 2, Cassette 19 Farish, Minnie Eileen, 1993 June 17  
1 Sound cassette  
Notes: 2012.79.3.54.1a

Box 2, Cassette 6 Harvey, Claire Collins , 1993 June 15  
1 Sound cassette  
[Audio: Harvey, Claire Collins, 1993 June 15, side 1](#)  
Notes: 2012.79.3.41.1a

Box 2, Cassette 2 Henry, Howard, 1993 June 18  
1 Sound cassette

Box 2, Cassette 8 McDavid, Marella Mayberry, 1993 June 16  
1 Sound cassette  
[Audio: McDavid, Marella Mayberry, 1993 June 16, side 1](#)  
Notes: 2012.79.3.43.1a

Box 2, Cassette 14 Rundles, James, 1993 June 16  
1 Sound cassette

Box 2, Cassette 9;  
Box 2, Cassette 12;  
Box 5, Cassette 26 Rundles, James and Scott, Anita , 1993 June 15  
3 Sound cassettes  
[Audio: Rundles, James and Scott, Anita , 1993 June 15, tape 3, side 1](#)  
[Audio: Rundles, James and Scott, Anita , 1993 June 15, tape 3, side 2](#)  
Notes: 2012.79.3.44.1a, 2012.79.3.47.1a, 2012.79.3.169.1a

Box 2, Cassette 11;  
Box 2, Cassette 13 Scott, Mrs. Anita Beadle , 1993 June 15  
2 Sound cassettes  
[Audio: Scott, Mrs. Anita Beadle , 1993 June 15, tape 1, side 1](#)  
[Audio: Scott, Mrs. Anita Beadle , 1993 June 15, tape 2, side 1](#)  
Notes: 2012.79.3.46.1a, 2012.79.3.48.1a

Box 2, Cassette 16 White, David W. , 1993 June 16  
1 Sound cassette

## Memphis, Tennessee, 1993 June 20-22

Box 2, Cassette 10;  
Box 2, Cassette 22 Adams, Lula, 1993 June 22  
2 Sound cassettes  
[Audio: Adams, Lula, 1993 June 22, tape 1, side 1](#)  
[Audio: Adams, Lula, 1993 June 22, tape 1, side 2](#)  
[Audio: Adams, Lula, 1993 June 22, tape 2, side 1](#)

[Audio: Adams, Lula, 1993 June 22, tape 2, side 2](#)

Box 2, Cassette 15; Box 2, Cassette 20	Chaplin, Andrew S., 1993 June 21 2 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Cassette 17; Box 2, Cassette 23	Holman, William, 1993 June 22 2 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Cassette 3; Box 2, Cassette 21	Morris, Robert, 1993 June 22 2 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Cassette 4; Box 2, Cassette 24	Rossie, J. Richard, 1993 June 20 2 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Cassette 27	Thomas, Rufus, 1993 June 21 1 Sound cassette
Roanoke, Virginia, 1994 June 21-22	
Box 2, Cassette 26; Box 2, Cassette 29	Heller, George, 1994 June 22 2 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Cassette 28; Box 3, Cassette 12	Holmes, Theresa, 1993 June 21 2 Sound cassettes <a href="#">Audio: Holmes, Theresa, 1993 June 21, tape 1, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Holmes, Theresa, 1993 June 21, tape 1, side 2</a> <a href="#">Audio: Holmes, Theresa, 1993 June 21, tape 2, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Holmes, Theresa, 1993 June 21, tape 2, side 2</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.63.1a, 2012.79.3.81.1a
Box 3, Cassette 16	Barton, Harryette Miller , 1988 August 08 1 Sound cassette <a href="#">Audio: Barton, Harryette Miller , 1988 August 08, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Barton, Harryette Miller , 1988 August 08, side 2</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.85.1a
Box 3, Cassette 22	Bush, Anita, 1972 October 1 Sound cassette <a href="#">Audio: Bush, Anita, 1972 October, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Bush, Anita, 1972 October, side 2</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.91.1a
Box 3, Cassette 13	Catlett, Elizabeth , undated 1 Sound cassette <a href="#">Audio: Catlett, Elizabeth, undated, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Catlett, Elizabeth, undated, side 2</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.82.1a

Box 6, Cassette 2012.79.3.203.1a;	Crayton, Blanche , 1976 April 2 3 Sound cassettes
Box 6, Cassette 28;	<a href="#">Audio: Crayton, Blanche, 1976 April 2, side 1</a>
Box 1, Cassette 9	<a href="#">Audio: Crayton, Blanche, 1976 April 2, side 2</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.9.1a, 2012.79.3.203.1a, 2012.79.3.206.1a
Box 2, Cassette 5	Greaves, William, 1988 January 1 Sound cassette
Box 2, Cassette 25	Gunn, Bill, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Cassette 1	Jones, Robert Earl, 1988 August 09 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Cassette 19; Box 4, Cassette 20	Tucker, Lorenzo, 1971 December 04 2 Sound cassettes
Box 4, Cassette 18	West, Victoria , 1993 April 11 1 Sound cassette <a href="#">Audio: West, Victoria , 1993 April 11, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: West, Victoria , 1993 April 11, side 2</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.124.1a
Box 1, Cassette 1; Box 1, Cassette 2	White, Liz , 1986 July 16 2 Sound cassettes <a href="#">Audio: White, Liz, 1986 July 16, tape 1, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: White, Liz, 1986 July 16, tape 1, side 2</a> <a href="#">Audio: White, Liz, 1986 July 16, tape 2, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: White, Liz, 1986 July 16, tape 2, side 2</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.1.1a, 2012.79.3.2.1a

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### 3.3: Conferences, Lectures and Panel Discussions

Scope and Contents: Contains recordings of conferences, presentations, and panel discussions, many of which Bowser herself was either a presenter or organizer. Most of the conferences focus on African Americans or women in film during the 20th century.

35th Flaherty Film Seminar, 1989 August 12-18

Notes: Contains recordings of presentations at the 35th Flaherty Film Seminar held at Wells College in Aurora, New York. Pearl Bowser and Grant Munro were the conference's programmers that year.

Box 1, Cassette 30	Day 1, 1989 August 12 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Cassette 31	Day 2, 1989 August 14

1 Sound cassette

Notes: Sessions 2 and 3; panelists include Willy Rameau, Lynne Sachs and Orlando Bagwell.

Box 1, Cassette 32;

Box 1, Cassette 25;

Box 1, Cassette 27

Day 3, 1989 August 15

3 Sound cassettes

Notes: Sessions 1-3; panelists include Doug Harris, Lynne Sachs, Teshome Gabriel, Louis Massiah, Jac Avila, and John Akomfrah.

Box 1, Cassette 27;

Box 1, Cassette 23

Day 4, 1989 August 16

2 Sound cassettes

Notes: Panelists include Raquel Gerber, William Greaves, Lourdes Portillo, and Phil Mallory Jones.

Box 1, Cassette 23;

Box 1, Cassette 29;

Box 1, Cassette 22;

Box 3, Cassette 27

Day 5, 1989 August 17

3 Sound cassettes

Notes: Panelists include Grant Munro, Veronika Soul, Toni Cade Bambara, Ayoka Chenzira and Cheick Oumar Sissoko.

Box 1, Cassette 24;

Box 1, Cassette 26

Day 6, 1989 August 18

2 Sound cassettes

#### Alternative Cinema Conference (Third World and Black Caucuses), unknown

Box 5, Cassette 1

Recording of conference presentations/discussions, undated  
1 Sound cassette (label from original container reads: "Conference: Alternative Cinema Black Caucus")

Box 5, Cassette 5

Recording of conference presentations/discussions, undated  
1 Sound cassette (paper insert with original container reads: "Alternative Cinema Conference Black Caucus" )

Box 4, Cassette 2

Recording of meeting, undated  
1 Sound cassette (label on original container: "Thurs evening - Caucus meeting third world etc")

Box 5, Cassette 14

Dr. Mybe Cham presenting at Alternative Cinema film festival, 1993  
October 03  
1 Sound cassette (label from original container reads: "Alternative Cinema Mybe Cham Metropolitan Museum Oct 30, 1983")

#### Athens, Ohio

Box 4, Cassette 14

Recording of conference presentation on women in film, 1981  
1 Sound cassette (label on original containers read: "Athens Film fest 81 Women's from Third World")  
[Audio: Recording of conference presentation on women in film, 1981, side 1](#)

	<p>Audio: Recording of conference presentation on women in film, 1981, side 2</p> <p>Notes: Part of the recording includes Pearl Bowser privately studying French.</p> <p>2012.79.3.120.1a</p>
Box 5, Cassette 32	Recording of a panel discussion and a question-and-answer segment 1 Sound cassette (label on original container reads: "Athens Ohio A. Ct Claire - Questions and Answer")
Box 4, Cassette 33	Recordings of conference presentations, undated 1 Sound cassette (label on original container reads: "Athens Ohio - Black Aesthetics")
Birmingham, England	
Box 5, Cassette 29	Pearl Bowser dictating notes on film exhibition and distribution , undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Cassette 21	Pearl Bowser dictating notes , 1987 October 23 1 Sound cassette (note on accompanying leaflet reads: "PB.20.005 -Film conference -Birmingham, England -1987 (October 23) -(Black Brits Film Festival?)")
Box 1, Cassette 10	Panel discussion with Haile Gerima and Safi Faye, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Cassette 34	Panel discussion about censorship, 1987 October 25 1 Sound cassette (labels on original container read: "Birmingham censorship Film Festival Third World Conference Birmingham" [side A] - Panel 10/25/87 Censorship London, England" [side B])
	<p>Black Bibliophiles and Collectors Symposium, 1983</p> <p>Notes: Contains audio recordings of the Black Bibliophiles and Collectors Symposium, which was held at Howard University on November 29-30, 1983.</p>
Box 6, Cassette 26	Black Bibliophiles & Collectors Symposium Session I: The Historical Perspective , 1983 November 29 1 Sound cassette (label on original container: "BLACK BIBLIOPHILES & COLLECTORS SYMPOSIUM SESSION I: THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE SIDE I 11/29/83 TAPE # 3")
Box 6, Cassette 12	Black Bibliophiles & Collectors Symposium Session II: The Development Of Early Black Private Collections, 1983 November 29 1 Sound cassette (label on original container: "BLACK BIBLIOPHILES & COLLECTORS SYMPOSIUM SESSION II: THE DEVELOPMENT OF EARLY BLACK PRIVATE COLLECTIONS SIDE I 11/29/83 TAPE # 3")
Box 6, Cassette 13	Black Bibliophiles & Collectors Symposium Session V: Black Related Memorabilia , 1983 November 30



1 Sound cassette (label on original container "BLACK BIBLIOPHILES & COLLECTORS SYMPOSIUM SESSION V: BLACK RELATED MEMORABILIA SIDE I 11/30/83 TAPE # 8")

Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus Weekend, 1990 Conference

Box 6, Cassette 17;  
Box 6, Cassette 18

Presentation on "Black Activist/Politicians", 1990  
2 Sound cassettes (duplicates; label on original containers: "Blk. And Puerto Rican CAU Weekend '90 Conference Black Activist/Politicians Tape # 25 CONF NO 122")

Box 6, Cassette 30

Presentation on the "Endangered Black Male", 1990  
1 Sound cassette (label on original container: "Blk. And Puerto Rican CAU Weekend '90 Conference Endangered Black Male Tape # 19 CONF NO 122" )

Brooklyn Museum

Box 5, Cassette 30

Beth Turner, Paul Robeson Jr., and Charles Dutton presenting on Paul Robeson, 1998  
1 Sound cassette (label on original container reads: "NBAF '98 Robeson Paul")

Box 5, Cassette 27

Black American Cinema: Images of a Culture series , 1988 January 03  
1 Sound cassette  
[Audio: Black American Cinema: Images of a Culture series , 1988 January 03, side 1](#)  
[Audio: Black American Cinema: Images of a Culture series , 1988 January 03, side 2](#)  
Notes: 2012.79.3.170.1a

Box 5, Cassette 12

Black American Cinema: Images of a Culture series, 1988  
1 Sound cassette

Box 6, Cassette 35

Clayton Riley lecturing at a screening of Ganja and Hess, undated  
1 Sound cassette

Box 3, Cassette 20

Panel discussion at Brooklyn Museum, 1988 January 24  
1 Sound cassette

Carpenter Center, Harvard University

Box 3, Cassette 32

Clyde Taylor presenting on "Black Girl" and "Illusions" at Neighborhood Film Project in Philadelphia, PA, 1984 September 26  
1 Sound cassette

Box 4, Cassette 21

Eric Davis presenting on "Teaching Mid-East Politics Through Film"  
1 Sound cassette

Box 1, Cassette 3;

James Snead Gallery Talk, Whitney Museum, 1985

Box 1, Cassette 21	2 Sound cassettes
	Journey Across Three Continents Film and Lecture Series Notes: Contains audio recordings of the Journey Across Three Continents Film and Lecture series 1983-1988, which was coordinated by Pearl Bowser. The recordings include Journey Across Three Continents: Images of Women of the Black Diaspora; Toni Cade Baraka delivering the keynote at the 1988 festival; and a presentation by Haile Gerima.
Box 5, Cassette 20	Conversation between Pearl Bowser and francophone interlocutors, 1983 November 06 1 Sound cassette (cassette labeled: "1983 Journey... Nov 6 - Oliver Franklin Metropolitan Museum of Art") Language: English, French.
Box 5, Cassette 15	Recording of seminar/workshop discussions 1 Sound cassette (Label from original container: "Journey Across 3 Continents Film Fest Nov 25")
Box 4, Cassette 36	Recording of seminar/workshop discussions 1 Sound cassette (label from original container: "JA3C - Images of A. Gilliam") <a href="#">Audio: Recording of seminar/workshop discussions, side 1</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.142.1a
	Oscar Micheaux Film Festival, South Dakota
Box 4, Cassette 17	Oscar Micheaux film Festival '97, 1997 August 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Cassette 33; Box 3, Cassette 36	Oscar Micheaux Film Festival, undated 2 Sound cassettes (duplicates)
Box 3, Cassette 14	Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO), 1985 February 24 1 Sound cassette <a href="#">Audio: Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO), 1985 February 24, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Pan-African Film and Television Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO), 1985 February 24, side 2</a> Notes: Much of the recording is inaudible; cassette possibly mislabeled. 2012.79.3.83.1a
Box 3, Cassette 17	Panel discussion at Celebration of Black Cinema conference, Boston, 1988 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Cassette 6	Panel discussion at Celebration of Black Cinema, Boston, after 1984 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Cassette 30	Panel discussion about Paul Robeson, 1998

1 Sound cassette

Box 1, Cassette 18; Box 5, Cassette 25	Panel discussion about race films, MoMA , 1997 2 Sound cassettes
Box 2, Cassette 31	Panel discussion with Gordon Parks, 1972 1 Sound cassette (Paper accompanying cassette reads "Black Expo - 1972 Gordon Parks -Important event that happened every year in Los Angeles *Expo for film and music -Gordon Parks was being criticized for having women with straight hair in his film") <a href="#">Audio: Panel discussion with Gordon Parks, 1972, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Panel discussion with Gordon Parks, 1972, side 2</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.66.1a
Box 3, Cassette 25	Panel discussion with Steve Cannon, 1990 October 06
Box 4, Cassette 9	Pearl Bowser presenting on the "status of women" in film at an unidentified conference 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Cassette 8	Pearl Bowser presenting on the history of independent black cinema at Columbia College, Chicago, IL, 1989 April 12 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Cassette 19	Recording of conference presentations, 1981 April 03 1 Sound cassette (label on original container reads: "Tape 3 Side 1 April 3-1981 -Conferences in Park -Sat Afternoon")
Third World Cinema Conference, undated	
Box 4, Cassette 23	Recording of seminar/workshop discussions 1 Sound cassette (Label from original container: "Third-World Cinema Conf. Sat. Education Seminar CTD. 14")
Box 4, Cassette 25	Recording of seminar/workshop discussions 1 Sound cassette (Label on original container: "Workshop Sat 30 April 250 - 3:35 Third World Film in Comm. To Educ. 12 TD")
Box 4, Cassette 26	Recording of seminar/workshop discussions 1 Sound cassette (Label on original container: "Third World Cinema Edu Seminar 17 CTD")
Box 4, Cassette 27	Recording of seminar/workshop discussions 1 Sound cassette (Label on original container: "Third World Edu Seminar 18 CTD")
Box 4, Cassette 28	Recording of seminar/workshop discussions 1 Sound cassette (Label on original container: "Sat Workshop Third World Cinema - Education. 13 CTD")
Box 4, Cassette 21	Recording of seminar/workshop discussions

	1 Sound cassette (Label on original container: "Teaching Mid-East Politics Through Film -Eric Davis")
Box 4, Cassette 22	Recording of seminar/workshop discussions 1 Sound cassette (Label on original container: "Copy 2 Copy 15")
Box 4, Cassette 24	Recording of seminar/workshop discussions 1 Sound cassette (Label on original container: "Edu Workshop 16")
Box 5, Cassette 13; Box 5, Cassette 10; Box 5, Cassette 8	Women's roundtable conference, Luanda, People's Republic of Angola, 1978 April 29-30 3 Sound cassettes <a href="#">Audio: Women's roundtable conference, Luanda, People's Republic of Angola, 1978 April 29-30, tape 1, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Women's roundtable conference, Luanda, People's Republic of Angola, 1978 April 29-30, tape 1, side 2</a> <a href="#">Audio: Women's roundtable conference, Luanda, People's Republic of Angola, 1978 April 29-30, tape 2, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Women's roundtable conference, Luanda, People's Republic of Angola, 1978 April 29-30, tape 3, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Women's roundtable conference, Luanda, People's Republic of Angola, 1978 April 29-30, tape 3, side 2</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.151.1a, 2012.79.3.154.1a, 2012.79.3.156.1a

### 3.4: Meetings

Scope and Contents: Contains recordings of meetings with members of various domestic and foreign organizations as well as recordings of her meetings with Louise Spence, with whom she co-authored a book.

Meetings with members of the British workshop industry, 1987 January  
Notes: Consists of recordings of Pearl Bowser and Dr. Claire Andrade Watkins speaking with representatives of various organizations in the British workshop industry.  
Organized chronologically.

Box 1, Cassette 16	Ceddo Film and Video Workshop, 1987 January 12 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Cassette 15	Social Film and Video (Sankofa side b), 1987 January 14 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Cassette 21	Retake Film and Video Collective, 1987 January 19 1 Sound cassettes (DAT)
Box 1, Cassette 8	Jayne Pilling, British Film Institute, 1987 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Cassette 17	British Film Institute, 1987

	1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Cassette 22	Black Audio Film and Video Collective, 1987 January 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Cassette 29	Sankofa Film and Video Collective, 1987 1 Sound cassette
	International Flaherty Seminar Board Meeting, 1987 June 06 Notes: Consists of recordings of a meeting of the Flaherty Film Seminar board of trustees that took place in June 1987. The discussion includes plans for an upcoming seminar.
Box 5, Cassette 33	Recording of board meeting, 1987 June 6 1 Sound cassette (Label on original container: "Flaherty Bd. Sat. 6/6/87")
Box 5, Cassette 35	Recording of board meeting, 1987 June 6 1 Sound cassette (Label from original container: "Dreams for the Seminar")
Box 5, Cassette 24	Recording of board meeting, 1987 June 6 1 Sound cassette (Label on accompanying paper insert: "Sat 6, 1987 Trust Discussions after lunch")
Box 1, Cassette 7; Box 3, Cassette 31	Recording of board meeting, 1987 June 6 2 Sound cassettes (likely duplicates)
	Midnight Ramble script discussion and meetings, 1991
Box 4, Cassette 15; Box 4, Cassette 16	Script meeting, 1991 May 01 2 Sound cassettes
Box 3, Cassette 23	Production meeting, (circa 1991) September 16 1 Sound cassette
	Co-authoring sessions with Louise Spence, (bulk 1992 November 12-27) Notes: Consists of Pearl Bowser and Louise Spence outlining chapters for their co-authored book. Bowser can be heard dictating notes to Spence who is heard typing and responding to her comments.
Box 1, Cassette 33	Book co-authoring session, 1992 November 12 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Cassette 34	Book co-authoring session, 1992 November 24-25 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Cassette 35	Book co-authoring session, 1992 November 25 1 Sound cassette
Box 1, Cassette 35	Book co-authoring session, 1992 November 27

1 Sound cassette

Box 4, Cassette 10	Book co-authoring session, circa 1992 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Cassette 2	Recording of a meeting, undated 1 Sound cassette (Label from accompanying paper insert: "Philadelphia Third World Film & Video")
Box 5, Cassette 7	Recording of a Third World Filmmakers Conference regional meeting 1 Sound cassette
Box 4, Cassette 34	Recording of a group discussion, undated 1 Sound cassette (Label from original container reads "Philadelphia TWF&V Assoc))
Box 4, Cassette 13	Recording of a Federation of Film and Videographers of the African Diaspora meeting, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Cassette 4	Recording of a group discussion, 1979 March 24 1 Sound cassette

### 3.5: Notes

General: Contains sound recordings of Pearl Bowser dictating presentation/conference papers and her thoughts on various topics related to early African American film and filmmakers.

Box 3, Cassette 28	Pearl Bowser dictating notes on the Moses sisters, undated 1 Sound cassette (paper accompanying original container reads: "music from the 1920s; Pearl Bowser talking about the Moses sisters.") Notes: Dictation is on side 1 only, beginning around 00:11:30 and ending around 00:14:15.
Box 4, Cassette 6	Pearl Bowser dictating notes on women in black film, undated 1 Sound cassette (label from original container reads: "P. Bowser - Notes on BL Film - women")
Box 5, Cassette 11	Pearl Bowser dictating notes on black films , undated 1 Sound cassette (label on original container reads: "Black Films, Ruby Dee, Alice Childress ") Notes: Dictation on side a only and ends at 00:14:30. 2012.79.3.154.1a
Box 5, Cassette 17	Pearl Bowser dictating notes on Oscar Micheaux, undated 1 Sound cassette (label on original container reads: "Early Indies / Micheaux - Body & Soul / Spencer Williams")
Box 5, Cassette 18	Pearl Bowser dictating notes on Oscar Micheaux, undated

1 Sound cassette (label with original container reads: "Notes: Early Independent Black Production Companies Synopsis/stories")

Box 6, Cassette 32	Peal Bowser dictating notes on the film Hallelujah, 1972 November 1 Sound cassette (label from original container reads: "Black Films - Channel 4 Nov '72") Notes: Dictation on side 2 only. Side 1 has a recorded broadcast.
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### 3.6: Broadcast Material & Commercial Releases

Scope and Contents: Contains recorded broadcasts and commercially released sound recordings.

Box 3, Cassette 10	Recording of an episode of Free Time, 1971 November 18 1 Sound cassette <a href="#">Audio: Recording of an episode of Free Time, 1971 November 18, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Recording of an episode of Free Time, 1971 November 18, side 2</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.79.1a
Box 3, Cassette 15	"Charlie Parker Birthday Broadcast" aired on WKCR NY , undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 3, Cassette 24	James Baldwin interview at a National Press Club luncheon, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Cassette 3	Recordings of a trailer for Veiled Aristocrats and an excerpt from The Very Last Laugh, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 5, Cassette 31	Readings of "Menagerie," "Meditations on History" and "Roselily", circa 1992 1 Sound cassette <a href="#">Audio: Readings of "Menagerie," "Meditations on History" and "Roselily", circa 1992, side 1</a> <a href="#">Audio: Readings of "Menagerie," "Meditations on History" and "Roselily", circa 1992, side 2</a> Notes: 2012.79.3.174.1a
Box 6, Cassette 3	Recording of Birthright, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 6, Cassette 7	Featurette about Oscar Micheaux, aired on KANU-FM, 2001 March 23 1 Sound cassette
Box 6, Cassette 9-11	Recording of "WBAI Special Premium: Black Film Special", undated 3 Sound cassettes
Box 6, Cassette 14	Recording of "I've Been to the Mountaintop," by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 6, Cassette 15	Folk Tales of the Tribes of Africa, read by Eartha Kitt, undated

1 Sound cassette

Box 6, Cassette 16	The Emperor Jones Vol. I. by Eugene O'Neill, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 6, Cassette 33	The Tallest Tree in Our Forrest, undated 1 Sound cassette
Box 6, Cassette 34; Box 6, Cassette 6	Passages to India: Programs 1-2, 1988 2 Sound cassettes

### 3.7: Recorded Music

Scope and Contents: Contains recordings of soundtracks from several early race and silent films; mostly instrumental music.

#### Scar of Shame

Box 6, Cassette 5	Recorded instrumental music, undated 1 Sound cassette (label on original container reads: "Piano music, Scar of Shame")
Box 6, Cassette 24	Recorded instrumental music, undated 1 Sound cassette (label on original container reads: "Scar of Shame")

#### Within Our Gates

Box 6, Cassette 21	Recorded instrumental music, undated 1 Sound cassette (label on original container reads: "Within Our Gates - Cooke/Watkins")
Box 6, Cassette 22	Recorded instrumental music, undated 1 Sound cassette (label on original container reads: "Within Our Gates Live Musical Accompaniment by India Cooke violin Mary Watkins Piano")
Box 6, Cassette 4	Recorded Instrumental music, undated 1 Sound cassette (Label on original container reads: "1. Blues Overture 2. Luna Nueva 3. Violins w/ Voice 4. Delta Stories Melody Within our Gates")
Box 3, Cassette 34	Recorded music, undated 1 Sound cassette (accompanying leaflet reads: "Music from Zimbabwe used as research for Pearl / Not sure if this was used in 'Namibia: Independence Now!'")
Box 6, Cassette 23	Recorded instrumental music, undated 1 Sound cassette (label on original container reads: "Body and Soul")
Box 6, Cassette 27	Recorded instrumental music, undated



1 Sound cassette (label on original container reads: "Harlem renaissance  
Black Images 1920s")

Box 6, Cassette 29	Recorded music and program about Bert Williams, undated 1 Sound cassette (label on original container reads: "Natural Born Gambler - Bert Williams")
Box 6, Cassette 31	Recorded music, undated 1 Sound cassette (label on original container reads: "1. Sweet Back - Melvin Van Peebles second track" [recto]; "2. Jazz music Good Oldies - Part of Amazing Grace" [verso].)
Box 4, Cassette 12	Recorded music on unlabeled sound cassette, undated 1 Sound cassette

### 3.8: Unidentified and Unrelated AV Material

Scope and Contents: Contains AV material that is either unlabeled and/or unplayable due to format or condition. Media that is unrelated to other records in the collection can also be found here.

Box 1, Cassette 6	Black Memorex sound cassette 1 Sound cassette
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