



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Guide to the Nathaniel Mathis Collection
of Barbering and Beauty Culture

NMAH.AC.0641

Mimi Minnick

1998

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Nathaniel Mathis Collection of Barbering and Beauty Culture
Date:	1946-2004 (bulk 1970-2004)
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0641
Creator:	Mathis, Nathaniel, 1946- (barber, motivational speaker) (Creator)
Extent:	5.5 Cubic feet (18 boxes, 1 oversize folder)
Language:	English .
Summary:	Nathaniel Mathis is a Washington, D.C., hairstylist, inventor, motivational speaker, and entrepreneur. His papers document his business life and community involvement.

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Collection donated to the Archives Center, National Museum of American History by Nathaniel Mathis on April 9, 1998.

Separated Materials

Mr. Mathis donated three of his patented barbering vests (See Accession # 1998.0114) to the Division of Home and Community Life (now Division of Cultural and Community Life).

Processing Information

Processed by Mimi Minnick, archivist, 1998.

Preferred Citation

Nathaniel Mathis Collection of Barbering and Beauty Culture, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Physical Access: Researchers must handle unprotected photographs with gloves.

Technical Access: Series 8, Video materials and Series 9, Audiotapes may not be used by researchers unless reference and viewing copies are made available.

Conditions Governing Use

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Archives Center: fees for commercial use. The Archives Center does not own rights to the patent, trademark or any related interest in the artifacts.

Accruals

An additional .3 cubic feet was donated to the Archives Center in 2004; 3 audio cassettes, 1 DVD and 2 mini discs were added in 2006.

Biographical / Historical

"Nat Mathis (b. 1946) is a native Washingtonian. He is a man of many talents and measures his success in many ways: innovative hairstylist, entrepreneur, inventor, community activist, motivational speaker and distance runner. Mathis opened his first barber shop in 1969. He is the winner of many national and international hairstyling awards and competitions and was the first African American to win the International Hair Styling competition in Cairo, Egypt in 1981. Mathis was among the first African American hairstylists to embrace and popularize the Afro and, later, cornrows -- hairstyles which many view as expressions of black empowerment. Mathis himself seldom expresses a political ideology of hair, but by 1970, Nat was known among his many satisfied clients and peers as "the Bush Doctor" for his expertise in Afro style and maintenance. He has styled hair for many celebrities; made numerous television appearances; and has been a stylist for several productions at the Kennedy Center, and for two major motion pictures, including Nixon, for which he re-created period hairstyles. He is active in community affairs, gives motivational speeches throughout the Washington, D.C., area, and is particularly interested in mentoring young people. He currently operates a barber shop adjacent to his home in Capitol Heights, Maryland."

*Biographical information provided by Nat Mathis's Official Website, "A Man of Many Talents." <http://www.natmathis.com> (accessed 02 August, 2006).

Scope and Contents

The collection documents the work of a hairstylist, inventor, entrepreneur, and public figure whose career reflects significant changes in the African American community in the later 20th century. It is rich in visual imagery created by and for this community. Business papers, correspondence, publicity, photographs, awards and certificates documenting Mathis's work as a highly regarded barber and hairstylist in Washington, D.C., and as member of the D.C. Board of Barbering and Cosmetology are included. Business papers offer insight into the workings of a small privately-owned business. Numerous publicity items and photographs offer evidence of African American style and fashion in New York and Washington, D.C., from the late 1960s through today. Additional material documents Mathis's activities as a community activist, motivational speaker and distance runner. The collection also includes photographs, oral history interviews, and audio-visual materials.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into ten series.

Series 1: Biographical Information and Activities, 1946-2001, undated

Series 2: Beauty Business Documents and Advertising, 1969-2002, undated

Series 3: Publicity, 1963-2002

Series 4: Washington, D.C. Barbering and Cosmetology Boards, 1966-1997, undated

Series 5: Correspondence, 1967-2002, undated

Series 6: Awards and Certificates, 1969-2001, undated

Series 7: Photographs, 1966-1989, undated

Series 8: Video Materials, 1983-2002, undated

Series 9: Audio Tapes, 1998-2004, undated

Series 10: Memorabilia, 1992-1998, undated

Names and Subject Terms

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

Subjects:

- African American barbers
- African American beauty operators
- Barbering
- Barbers
- Barbershops -- Equipment and supplies -- 1970-2000 -- Washington (D.C.)
- Beauty culture
- Hair
- Hairdressing of African Americans -- 1970-2000 -- Washington (D.C.)
- Inventors
- Motivation -- Public speaking -- 1970-2000
- Public speaking -- 1970-2000

Types of Materials:

- Awards
- Black-and-white photographic prints -- Silver gelatin -- 1950-2000
- Certificates
- Correspondence -- 1970-2000
- Interviews -- 1980-2000
- Interviews -- 2000-2010
- Oral history -- 1990-2000
- Videotapes

Names:

- Ruffins, Fath Davis

Places:

- Washington (D.C.) -- Small business -- 20th century

Container Listing

Series 1: Biographical Information and Activities, 1946-2001, undated

Scope and Contents: This series includes all biographical statements, Mathis's autobiography, high school and college diplomas (including his GED), and other school and religious papers. Also included are advertising and programs for his various community events and motivational speaking engagements. Mathis participated in and sponsored many athletic, religious, community and children's events, which are documented here. Of note is his autobiography, *Portrait of a professional: The Nat the Bush Doctor story as told to Jim Link*, published in 1986.

Box 1, Folder 1	Biographical Materials, 1971-2001, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Personal Identification Materials, 1946-1999
Box 1, Folder 3	Education -- high school, college, graduation speeches, 1980-2001
Box 1, Folder 4	Prince George's Community College course catalogue and registration papers, 1996-1998
Box 1, Folder 5	Budweiser "Jammin' for Education," November 2001
Box 1, Folder 6	Religious Life, 1992-2000, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	Community Demonstrations and Motivational Speaking, 1970-2001
Box 16, Folder 1	Motivational Speaking -- Oversize, 1982
Box 1, Folder 8	Motivational Speaking Booklets, 1998-2001
Box 1, Folder 9	Congressional Black Caucus, 1971
Box 1, Folder 10	Marine Corp Marathon, 1978-1993, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	Other Road Races, 1978-1980, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	"Kiddie" Events and other children's events, 1972-2001
Box 1, Folder 13	Theater & Performance, 1979-2002, undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Toastmasters, 1980-1993, undated
Box 2, Folder 1	Portrait of a Professional: The Nat the Bush Doctor story as told to Jim Link, manuscripts, 1986, undated

Box 2, Folder 2	Portrait of a Professional: The Nat the Bush Doctor story as told to Jim Link, alternate manuscript
Box 2, Folder 3	Portrait of a Professional: The Nat the Bush Doctor story as told to Jim Link, book and publisher information, 1986-2001, undated
Box 2, Folder 4	Feeling Good about Yourself, 1986-2001, undated

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Series 2: Beauty Documents and Advertising, 1969-2002, undated

Scope and Contents: Included in this series are papers related to Mathis's hair salon and clinic, his patent (United States Design Patent No. 237,022) for a Barber's Apron, associated marketing materials, and Bush Doctor advertising. Many of the materials are self-produced; both promotional items for customers and advertisements placed in publications such as phone books and newspapers. Documents for his School of Beauty, which ran from 1980 to 1992, include course material, the salon philosophy and the curriculum. His appointment books show the day-to-day life of the Bush Doctor. Also included are events where he appeared as the Bush Doctor.

Box 2, Folder 5	Documents pertaining to leases, taxes and occupancy, 1969-2000
Box 2, Folder 6	Business Papers, 2001-2002, undated
Box 2, Folder 7	Licensing & Certifications, 1966-1997, undated
Box 9, Folder 3	Business Papers -- Oversize, 1975-1993
Box 3, Folder 1	Appointment Books, 1998, 2001
Box 3, Folder 2	Barber's Apron: patent, manufacturing and marketing, 1974-1980, undated
Box 3, Folder 3	Trade Mark Registration, 1976
Box 3, Folder 4	Advertising and Promotional Items, 1971-2001
Box 3, Folder 5	Nat's Hair Care Clinic and School of Beauty, statement of capability, 1980
Box 3, Folder 6	Hair Care Newsletter, 1991-1992
Box 3, Folder 7	Nat the Bush Doctor's School of Beauty: curriculum
Box 3, Folder 8	Nat the Bush Doctor's Beauty Center: salon philosophy
Box 17, Folder 3	Oversize Advertising, undated

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Series 3: Publicity, 1963-2002

Scope and Contents: Clippings from newspapers and magazines, as well as entire magazines and newspapers where Mathis was mentioned on the front page. Several magazine covers and fashion spreads were collected because he was responsible for doing the hair of one or more of the models in the photo shoot. He also appeared at many education, trade, fashion, and hair shows, both as a competitor and as a speaker or panel member. Many of the newspapers showcase his inclusion in the Smithsonian collections in 1999 and from his graduation from Prince George's Community College, Maryland, 2001.

Box 9, Folder 1	News clippings re: Athletics, 1963-1992, undated
Box 3, Folder 9	Articles, 1969-1984
Map-folder 1	Explosion of Beauty, February 1982
Box 3, Folder 10	Articles, 1985-2001, undated
Box 3, Folder 11	Educational & Trade Shows, 1970-1995, undated
Box 3, Folder 12	Hair Story, Untangling the Roots of Black Hair in America (Anyana D. Byrd and Lori L Tharps), 2001
Box 4, Folder 1	Hair and Fashion Shows, 1971-1991, undated
Box 9, Folder 2	News clippings re: The Bush Doctor, 1970-2000, undated
Box 4, Folder 2	MsTique Magazine, 1974
Box 4, Folder 3	Examples of Work, 1974-1985, undated
Box 17, Folder 1	Oversize Clippings, 1977-1996, undated
Box 16, Folder 2	Shampoo Magazine, 1981
Box 9, Folder 4	News clippings re: Politics and Community, 1987, undated
Box 18, Folder 1	Prince George's Journal, 3/24/99, "Barber Cut His Way Into History"
Box 16, Folder 3	Prince George's Sentinel, 4/1/99, "Bush Doctor Honored by Smithsonian"
Box 16, Folder 4	Prince George's County Times, 5/7/99, "Smithsonian Honors Local Hair Guru"
Box 16, Folder 5	The Annapolis Times, 5/14/99, "Smithsonian Honors Maryland Hair Guru"
Box 16, Folder 6	Metro Connection, 5/14/99, "Nathaniel Mathis, The Cut Creator is Added to Smithsonian Collection," p. 5

Box 16, Folder 7	The Shore Times, 5/14/99, "Smithsonian Honors Maryland Hair Guru"
Box 16, Folder 8	The Gazette (Landover edition), 5/27/99, "Bush Doctor's Hair-Raising Trend"
Box 4, Folder 4	Shades of Beauty, June 1999, "A Natural History," p. 54
Box 18, Folder 2	Prince George's Post, 6/15/99, "Smithsonian Exhibit Honors Local Barber"
Box 4, Folder 5	Emerge, July/August 1999, "The Bush Doctor is Still In," p. 16
Box 4, Folder 6	Where Washington, November 1999, "They Said Eureka," p. 18
Box 4, Folder 7	Natural Hairstyles, 2000
Box 16, Folder 9	Bowie Star, 2/10/00, "Renowned Creator of Afro Hairstyle Offers a Check Up from the Neck Up" p. A5
Box 4, Folder 8	Shades of Beauty, March/April 2000
Box 18, Folder 3	The Prince George's Sentinel, May 24, 2001
Box 16, Folder 10	The Gazette, May 31, 2001
Box 16, Folder 11	The Prince George's Sentinel, August 21, 2001
Box 4, Folder 9	Shades of Beauty, December 2001
Box 4, Folder 10	Cut and Color, Volume 4, 2001
Box 4, Folder 11	News Release, 2002

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Series 4: Washington, D.C. Barbering and Cosmetology Boards, 1966 - 1997

Scope and Contents: Mathis was appointed to the Examiner's Board as the chairperson in 1987 by Mayor Marion Barry of Washington, D.C., and to the Barbering and Cosmetology Board in 1994, after delivering a personal statement as to why he should be selected. The Board was significant because it was the first to license hair braiders in the country.

Box 4, Folder 12	Appointment to Washington, D.C. Barber Examiners Board, 1987
Box 4, Folder 13	Correspondence, Washington, D.C. Board of Barber Examiners, 1987-1997
Box 4, Folder 14	Washington DC Barber & Cosmetology Act of 1990
Box 4, Folder 15	Statement on Bill 9-290, 1992
Box 4, Folder 16	Barber & Cosmetology Board Meeting, August 10, 1992
Box 4, Folder 17	Barber & Cosmetology Board Meeting, November 25, 1992
Box 4, Folder 18	Barber & Cosmetology Board Meeting, May 10, 1993
Box 4, Folder 19	Barber & Cosmetology Board Meeting, September 13, 1993
Box 5, Folder 1	Appointment to Washington D.C. Barber & Cosmetology Board, 1993
Box 5, Folder 2	Barber & Cosmetology Board Meeting, May 2, 1994
Box 5, Folder 3	Statement on Barber & Beauty Act, undated

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Series 5: Correspondence, 1967-2002, undated

Scope and Contents: Mathis maintained correspondence from many areas of his life. Topics covered include personal and professional matters, motivational speaking, and applications to appear in hair and trade shows as a competitor and panelist. Correspondents include the International Guest Artist Men's Hairstylist Association, the Red Cross, the Girl Scout Council, Shoptalk Trade publication, children at the Young School, and many beauty supply companies. He also promoted Soft Sheen beauty products and was a spokesperson for them at various events.

Box 5, Folder 4 Correspondence, 1967-1979

Box 5, Folder 5 Correspondence, Young School, 1977

Box 5, Folder 6 Correspondence, 1980-1986

Box 5, Folder 7 Correspondence, Soft Sheen, 1980-1997

Box 5, Folder 8 Correspondence, 1987-1989

Box 5, Folder 9 Correspondence, 1990-2002

Box 6, Folder 1 Correspondence, undated

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Series 6: Awards and Certificates, 1969-2001, undated

Scope and Contents: Mathis also received many awards, not only for his barbering skills, but for athletic events and for mentoring and providing support to various community organizations. Included are diplomas and certificates of completion for classes that he took related to barbering. He received medals at competitions such as the Coupe de la Paix in Egypt and the Coupe de l'Europe de le Coiffure in Paris, among others.

Box 6, Folder 2	Athletics Awards, 1960 - 1977
Box 6, Folder 3	Barbering Awards, 1969-1979
Box 6, Folder 4	Barbering Awards, 1980-1989
Box 6, Folder 5	Barbering Awards, 1990-2000, Undated
Box 6, Folder 6	Education Awards, 1978-1996
Box 17, Folder 4	Miscellaneous Oversize Awards, 1971-2001, Undated
Box 15, Folder 1	Medals, Undated

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Series 7: Photographs, 1966-1989, undated

Scope and Contents: Photographs are comprised of modern color prints and gelatin developing-out paper (modern black and whites). The photographs document both Mathis's public and private life, from family snapshots to publicity photographs for his book and his television appearances. Of note are photographs with celebrities, including Muhammed Ali, Danny Glover, Robin Williams, Morgan Freeman, Whoopi Goldberg, George Foreman, Chris Rock, Bill Cosby, and Don King.

Box 11 [Stereophonics, 1966](#)

Box 11 [Fantasy Competition, 1969](#)

Box 11 [Deane Avenue shop, Washington, D.C., 1969-1970](#)

Box 11 [Mathis for Afro-Sheen products, 1970s](#)

[\[Nat Mathis spraying hair of woman with Afro-Sheen : photoprint\], Ca. 1970s](#)

1 Item (photoprint, unmounted; 10" x 8")

Photographer: Harris & Ewing

Language: English.

Notes: 00064104.tif (AC Scan No.; originally 00064103)

Silver gelatin on paper.

In Box 6, Folder 12.

Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.

"Harris & Ewing" in negative. Stamped Harris & Ewing, Washington, D.C. on verso.

Tear at top edge; many creases, both large and small.

Names: Mathis, Nathaniel, 1946- (barber, motivational speaker)

Topic: Afro-Sheen (product name)

Hair

African American beauty operators

Hairdressing of African Americans -- 1970-2000 -- Washington (D.C.)

Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1970-1980 -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin

Box 11 [Nat the Bush Doctor and the Hands, ca. 1970s](#)

Box 11 [Baltimore TV show, early 1970s](#)

[Nat the Bush Doctor and the Hands \[black and white photoprint\], \[ca. 1970-1980.\]](#)

1 Item (10" x 8".)

Photographer: Harris & Ewing

Language: English.

Notes: 04064112.tif (AC Scan)

Silver gelatin on paper.

	In Box 5. Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.
Names:	Mathis, Nathaniel, 1946- (barber, motivational speaker)
Topic:	Hair -- Care and hygiene Beauty culture Barbers Hairdressing of African Americans -- Washington (D.C.)
Genre/Form:	Photographs -- 1970-1980 -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin
Culture:	African Americans
Box 11	The C Thing, January 1970
Box 11	The Carole Henson Show, February 1970
Box 11	NBC, February, 1970
Box 11	The Dancing Barbers, April 1970
Box 11	Harambee Show, August 1970
Box 11	Sammy J. Show, 1973
Box 11	National Men's Hairstyling Show, New York City, 1974
Box 11	Barber's vest, 1976-1984
Box 12	Petey Greene Show, late 1970s
Box 12	Harambee Show, late 1970s
Box 12	Competition, NYC, 1981
Box 12	Crowd Scene, 1981
Box 12	Festival Internationale de la Coiffure, Cairo, Egypt, 1981
Box 12	Festival Mondial de la Coiffure, Paris, 1981
Box 12	London, 1981
Box 12	National Conference of Negro Women Black Family Reunion, 1981
Box 12	Officials, 1981
Box 12	Soft Sheen retreat, Bahamas, 1981

Box 12	Afro-American Hair Festival, Senegal, 1983
Box 13	Big Beautiful Show, 1983
Box 13	Black Hair Olympics, 1984
Box 13	Cameroon, 1985
Box 13	The Fred Thomas Show, NBC, 1985
Box 13	Soft Sheen demonstrations in Nigeria, 1985
Box 13	San Francisco, 1987
Box 13	Construction on Vine Street shop, Capitol Heights, MD, 1988
Box 13	Mathis Hair Care Team, Vine Street, 1989
Box 13	Airplane, Undated
Box 13	Awards and Ceremonies, undated
Box 13	Bush Doctor products, undated
Box 13	Celebrities, undated
Box 13	Demonstrations, undated
Box 14	Family and personal photographs, undated
Box 14	Miss Black D.C., undated
Box 14	Motivational seminar, undated
Box 14	Nat's Beauty Center, Washington, D.C., undated
Box 14	Portrait of a Professional publicity shots, undated
Box 14	Professional portraits, undated
Box 14	Road races and sporting events, undated
Box 14	Soft Sheen demonstrations, undated

[Nat the Bush Doctor \[photoprint\], Ca. 1970s](#)
1 Item (photoprint; 10" x 8".)
Photographer: Harris & Ewing

Language: English.
 Notes: 00064101.tif (AC Scan No.)
 Silver gelatin on paper, unmounted.
 In Box 6, Folder 12.
 Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.
 Title and "Demonstrator for Johnson Products Co. Inc. / Afro-Sheen Specialists" in negative. Nathaniel Mathis displaying young woman's large "Afro" hairstyle. Single weight paper.
 Reproduction restricted due to copyright. "Harris & Ewing" credit in negative, lower right, but not stamped on verso.
 Small tear in bottom edge; corners creased.

Names: Mathis, Nathaniel, 1946- (barber, motivational speaker)
 Topic: Afro-Sheen (product name)
 Hair
 African American beauty operators
 Hairdressing of African Americans -- 1970-2000 -- Washington (D.C.)

Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1970-1980 -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin

Box 14	Teaching and demonstrations, undated
Box 14	Television appearances, undated
Box 9, Folder 5	Television appearances - Oversize
Box 14	Unidentified people and places, undated

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Series 8: Video Materials, 1983-2002, undated

Scope and Contents: Video materials include ½" VHS, DVD and Minidisc formats and document Mathis's motivational speaking, athletic events, and barber training tapes. He made a promotional tape about his life entitled "From Hair to the Throne," which is undated but in DVD format. Much of his motivational speaking took place at high schools and colleges in the Washington, D.C. area. There are also interviews by local television stations. Included are notes about the tapes taken by Fath Davis Ruffins, a curator at the National Museum of American History.

Box 7, Folder OV 641.1 Unforgettable Fashion Festival: Part 1, November 27, 1983

Box 7, Folder OV 641.2 Nat the Bush Doctor, County Council, February 28, 1984. Mathis recognized for achievements as inventor of Barber's Apron and as a leading hairstylist in metropolitan Washington.

Box 7, Folder OV 641.3 Unforgettable Fashion Festival Featuring Women Over Forty, May 13, 1984. Endorses Soft Sheen products.

Box 7, Folder OV 641.4 Job Opportunities, November 18, 1986

Box 7, Folder OV 641.5 Motivational speaking: Jefferson Junior High School, December 3, 1986

Box 7, Folder OV 641.6 Motivational speaking: Woodson Junior High School, February 18, 1987

Box 7, Folder OV 641.7 Motivational speaking: Thompson Elementary (2 classes; 5th & 6th graders), March 11, 1986

Box 7, Folder OV 641.8 The Eagles; The Bush Doctor, September 5, 1987

Box 7, Folder OV 641.9 The Eagles; The Bush Doctor; Mikal Huda Bath, October 29, 1987

Box 7, Folder OV 641.10 Motivational speaking: Prince George's Community College, The Dynamics of Feeling Good About Yourself, November 18, 1987

Box 7, Folder OV 641.11 Black History, Woodbridge Library, February 24, 1988

Box 7, Folder OV 641.12 Marine Corps Marathon, 1993

Box 8, Folder OV 641.13 Color Me Poetry, 1999. Bowie State University Television. Host Danny Queen interviews hair stylist/entrepreneurs James and Arnita Wyse, Alfred Dudley and

Nat Mathis about changes they have seen during their long careers in the hair care business. 60 minutes.

Box 8, Folder OV 641.14	Making a Difference, April 24, 1999. UPN 20 WDCA Washington. Host Lisa Weir interviews Nat Mathis about his career as a trendsetter in the hair care industry.
Box 8, Folder OV 641.15	Ethnic Hair Care Training Video, tape 1, July 1999. Created for the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) at the Navsea Shipyard Instructional Design Center. Includes an introduction and instructions on creating the Quo Vadis cut and the Standard High and Tight. 32 minutes.
Box 8, Folder OV 641.16	Ethnic Hair Care Training Video, tape 2, July 1999 Created for the Navy Exchange Service Command (NEXCOM) at the Navsea Shipyard Instructional Design Center. Includes an introduction and instructions on creating the Medium Regular, the High and Tight and the Light Trim hairstyle. 35 minutes.
Box 8, Folder OV 641.17	Nat's Graduation, May 31, 2001
Box 8, Folder OV 641.18	CTV News, May 31, 2001
Box 8, Folder OV 641.19	CTV News, February 20, 2002
Box 8, Folder 641.20-21	Booking Advertisements, undated [Mini discs]
Box 8, Folder OV 641.22	"From Hair to the Throne: The Nat The Bush Doctor Story," undated [DVD]
Box 8, Folder OV 641.23	Jasper: Ethnic Hair Care Procedures for the U.S. Fleet in Sasebo, Japan, undated
Box 8, Folder OV 641.24	Kenilworth Junior High, undated
Box 8, Folder OV 641.25	Motivational speaking: Bladensburg Junior High School, Part II, undated
Box 8, Folder OV 641.26	Nat's Run, Jane Fonda's Workout, Karate Kid, undated
Box 8, Folder OV 641.27	Partners in Communication Junior Speakers Program, undated

Box 7, Folder 1

Notes on Videotapes, 1999-2000

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Series 9: Audio Tapes, 1998-2004, undated

Scope and Contents: Fath Davis Ruffins, a curator at the National Museum of American History, recorded several oral history interviews with Mathis around the time the collection was acquired in 1998. These make up the bulk of the audio tape series and range from 1998 to 2004. Also included are tapes from radio appearances, as well as a motivational business tape which showcases Mathis's vocal talents.

Box 10, Folder OTC 641.1-4 Interview with Fath Davis Ruffins, 31 July 1998- 4 August 1998 [4 tapes]

Box 10, Folder OTC 641.5-6 Interview with Fath Davis Ruffins, 15 September 1998 [2 tapes]

Box 10, Folder OTC 641.7-9 Interview with Fath Davis Ruffins, 13 October 1998 [3 tapes]

Box 10, Folder OTC 641.10 The Bev Smith Show, Radio One Interview with Nat Mathis, April 6, 1999

Box 10, Folder OTC 641.11-13 Nat Mathis Collection Interview, August 9, 2004 [3 tapes]

Box 10, Folder OTC 641.14-16 The Dynamics of Feeling Good About Yourself, undated [3 copies]

Box 10, Folder OTC 641.17 Feeling the Spirit, undated

Box 10, Folder OTC 641.18 Masters: A Personal Journey to Success, undated

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Series 10: Memorabilia, 1992-1998, undated

Scope and Contents: Included in this collection is the Game of Life (playing pieces, cards, dice) and bags with the Bush Doctor logo on them. Mathis gave gift bags at the 2002 Black History Month convention, which included information about him and his salon, as well as a pick and a hair comb. He also collected political pins and kept many of his name badges and pins from shows and events he attended.

Box 17, Folder 2	Black History Month 2002: Gift Bag and Contents
Box 9, Folder 5	Goodie Bags, undated
Box 9	Miscellaneous Pins, Name Badges, 1992-1998, undated
Box 15	"Nat Mathis Game of Life" playing pieces, undated
Box 15, Folder 2	Political and other pins, undated

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