

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Fernando Jones

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Jazz & Blues Oral History project

Interview # JB-A-L-2012-011

Fernando Jones, a blues musician from Chicago, Illinois, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Jazz & Blues* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: April 12, 2012 Location: Columbia College Center for Black Music
Research, Chicago, IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Robert C. Sharpe, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: Patty Maynor, ALPL volunteer

Edited by: Betty Workman and Jan Culp, ALPL volunteers

Total Pages: 65 pgs. Total Time: 3:23 / 3.38 hrs.

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The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield,
Illinois.

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Abstract

Fernando Jones, *Jazz & Blues*, JB-A-L-2012-011

Biographical Information: Fernando Jones is a musician, artist and educator who grew up immersed in the Chicago blues culture. Born February 7, 1964 in Chicago, Illinois, Fernando Jones grew up with three brothers and two sisters, many of whom were involved in the blues music scene. Jones discusses his family's history with the U.S. military, his father who served in World War II, and his older brother who served in the Vietnam War. Growing up in Chicago, Jones was surrounded by influential musicians in the blues genre, including Buddy Guy, Junior Wells, Muddy Waters, and Koko Taylor. As a child, he often went with his family to Theresa's Lounge, a club famous for its blues acts, where he watched the many performers who came to play. He had also taught himself to play the guitar by the age of four. Jones attended college at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and put on the university's first blues concert on February 11, 1985. As an artist, Fernando Jones was not only a blues musician, but also a visual artist, an actor and a writer. In 2005, he was recruited to teach at Columbia College in Chicago at the Center for Black Music Research.

Jones also discusses the programs that he has established for the continuation of the Chicago blues tradition, including Blues Kids of America, where he travels to different schools and gives lectures on blues music. He also operates a Blues Camp where children from around the country come together to learn new musical techniques and interact with their peers who share a passion for blues music.

Subject Headings/Key Words: Chicago blues scene; Brookhaven, Mississippi; Aberdeen, Mississippi; Chicago (south side neighborhood); Blues Kids of America; Blues Camp in Chicago, Illinois; Vietnam War; guitar in blues music; University of Illinois at Chicago; Buddy Guy; Junior Wells; Muddy Waters; Koko Taylor; Robert Johnson; Theresa's Lounge; Columbia College; Center for Black Music Research

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