

# Guide to the D. Michael Cheers Papers and Photographs

JWJ MSS 205



by Jessica Tai

July 2019

P. O. Box 208330  
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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** JWJ MSS 205

**CREATOR:** Cheers, D. Michael

**TITLE:** D. Michael Cheers papers and photographs

**DATES:** 1975–2004

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 26.58 linear feet (33 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** This collection contains photographic prints, slides and negatives by photojournalist D. Michael Cheers. The bulk of the photographs contain images used for articles in *Ebony South Africa*, of which Cheers was managing editor from 1995-2000. Other material includes Cheers' photojournalism work, including his coverage of Jesse Jackson's presidential campaigns, the Rainbow Coalition, Jackson's meetings with Nelson Mandela, and photographs of Hugh Masekela.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.cheersdm>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.cheersdm>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.        box  
    item barcode

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from the William Reese Co. on the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection of Negro Arts & Letters Fund, 2011.

## Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Box 32 (CDs): Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Box 32 (3.5 inch disks): Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Box 33 (audiocassettes): Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The D. Michael Cheers Papers and Photographs is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

D. Michael Cheers Papers and Photographs. James Weldon Johnson Collection in the Yale Collection of American Literature, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization.

This finding aid may be updated periodically to account for new acquisitions to the collection and/or revisions in arrangement and description.

Information included in the Content Description note and Collection Contents section is drawn from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Folder titles appearing in the contents list below are often based on those provided by the creator or previous custodian. Titles have not been verified against the contents of the folders in all cases. Otherwise, folder titles are supplied by staff during initial processing.

Folder titles enclosed in quotation marks indicate transcribed writing from original enclosures.

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## D. Michael Cheers

D. Michael Cheers is a photojournalist, writer, documentary filmmaker and educator. He received a B.A. and M.S. in Journalism, and an M.A. in African Studies from Boston University. He received his Ph.D. in African Studies and Research from Howard University. Cheers was a co-editor of *Songs of My People*, a book and touring exhibition that featured the work of fifty African American photographers. From 1995 to 2000, Cheers was the managing editor of *Ebony South Africa* magazine, which was developed for the citizens of post-apartheid South Africa. Since 2006, Cheers has been an Associate Professor of Photojournalism in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications at San Jose State University.

## Scope and Contents

This collection contains photographic prints, slides and negatives by photojournalist D. Michael Cheers. The bulk of the photographs contain images used for articles in *Ebony South Africa*, of which Cheers was managing editor from 1995-2000. Other material includes Cheers' photojournalism work, including his coverage of Jesse Jackson's presidential campaigns, the Rainbow Coalition, Jackson's meetings with Nelson Mandela, and photographs of Hugh Masekela.

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## Arrangement

Organized into six series: I. Ebony South Africa photographs and records, circa 1980s-2003. II. Jesse Jackson photographs, 1983, 2003. III. Boston Globe photographs, circa 1975-1976. IV. Personal and professional papers, 1988-2004. V. Electronic media, 1998. VI. Audiovisual material, 1999.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Ebony South Africa photographs and records, circa 1980s-2003

14.67 linear feet (18 boxes)

The South African edition of *Ebony* magazine was published between 1995-2000. D. Michael Cheers was the managing editor of the magazine for the duration of its publication. Material in this series includes negatives, transparencies, photographic prints, articles, and other material related to *Ebony South Africa*. Subjects documented include South African writers, artists, musicians, and politicians, including Nelson Mandela and Hugh Masekela. The series also includes the magazine's business records such as correspondence, memos, story ideas, and article drafts.

Photographic film in this series include negatives as well as transparencies.

Material is primarily arranged by project or magazine article. Business records are arranged at the end of the series.

b. 1	Photographs (prints) 7 Folders	circa 1980s-1990s
b. 2	Photographs (prints) 6 Folders	circa 1980s-1990s
b. 3	"Chicco Twala and Mike Mangena" (negatives and prints)	1996 November
b. 3	"Date With a Dish" (negatives and prints)	1996 November
b. 3	"Linda Xapha" (print)	1996 November
b. 3	"Cyril Ramaphosa" (print)	1996 November
b. 3	"Mark Mamgema" (negatives and prints)	1996 November
b. 3	"A Tribute to Mahlathini Nkabinde" (article and prints)	1996 September
b. 3	"Date With a Dish" (article and negatives)	1996 September
b. 3	"The Police Brutality Debate" (articles, negatives, and prints)	1996 June
b. 3	"Miss Universe SA Imbali Gasa" (negatives)	1997
b. 3	"Book Shelf" (article)	1998
b. 3, 7	"Hugh Masekela" (article, negatives, and prints)	1998 May, 1999 September
b. 3	"Super Single Brothers" (articles, negatives, and prints)	1999 September
b. 3	"Arthur Mafokate" (articles, negatives, and prints)	circa 1990s
b. 3	"Shilowa The Man and His Vision" (article and negatives)	1999 June
b. 3	"Are These the Love Affair of the Century" (article and negatives)	1999 June
b. 3	"Robyn Bohdal" (articles, negatives, and prints)	1999 June
b. 3	"SA On the Move" (negatives and prints)	1998 December, 1999 January

b. 3	"Secret to Ringo's Success" (article and negatives)	1998 December, 1999 January
b. 3	"Holiday Eating" (negative and prints)	1999
b. 3	"Parenting in the 90's" (article)	1999 June
b. 3	"Single and Satisfied" (article and prints)	1999 September
b. 3	"Zimbabwe" (article and prints)	1999 September
b. 3	"Advisor" (article)	1999 September
b. 3	"Kirk Franklin Advertorial" (article and prints)	1999 September
b. 4	Photographs (negatives and prints)	circa 1990s
b. 4	Article and photographs (negatives)	circa 1990s
b. 4	"Ria Ledwaba" (negatives and prints)	1999 September
b. 4	"10 Ways to Turn Your Partner On" (article)	1998 December, 1999 January
b. 4	"7th All Africa Games" (articles, negatives, and prints)	1999 June
b. 4	"Year in Review" (article, negatives, and prints)	1998 January
b. 4	"Fashion Fair" (clipping and negatives)	1999 September
b. 4	"Lindi Shangase Woman Leader" (article and negatives)	1999 January, 1998 December
b. 4	"Date With a Dish" (negatives)	1997 April
b. 4	"KZN Women" (prints)	1997 May
b. 5	Photographs (negatives)	circa 1990s
b. 5	Photographs (prints) <i>2 Folders</i>	circa 1990s
b. 5	Photographs (negatives and prints)	circa 1990s
b. 5	"Relationship Story" (negatives and prints)	1996 November
b. 5	"S.A. On the Move" (negatives and prints)	1996 November
b. 5	"Nomsa Manaka" (negatives and prints)	1996 November
b. 5	"Hemming" (negatives and prints)	1996 November
b. 5	"Paulina Phaho" (negatives and prints)	1996 November
b. 5	"Speaking of People" (articles, negatives, and prints)	1996 November
b. 5	"Sipho 'Hotstix' Mabuse" (negatives and prints)	1996 November
b. 6	"Most Beautiful Women" (negatives and prints)	1997 May

b. 6	"How to Make Your Money Work" (negatives and prints)	1997 May
b. 6	"Sporting Fathers and Sons" (negatives and prints)	1997 May
b. 6	"Battered Women" (negatives and prints)	1997 May
b. 6	"Lessons I Learnt From Mommy" (negatives and prints)	1997 May
b. 6	"Black Scientist" (negatives and prints)	April 1997
b. 6	"Speaking of People" (negatives and prints)	May 1997
b. 6	"Super Teachers" (negatives and prints)	May 1997
b. 6	"Stimela" (negatives and prints)	May 1997
b. 6	"Sex Appeal" (negatives and prints)	May 1997
b. 6	"SA On the Move" (negatives and prints)	May 1997
b. 6	"Perks and Pitfalls" (negatives and prints)	March 1997
b. 6	"Speaking of People" (negatives and prints)	March 1997
b. 6	"Dali Tambo" (negatives and prints)	November 1996
b. 6	"Preacher Couples" (negatives and prints)	1997 April
b. 6	"SA On the Move" (article)	1997 April
b. 6	"Speaking of People" (articles, negatives, and prints)	1997 April
b. 6	"A Salute to Sports Heroes" (article and prints)	1999 September
b. 7	"Makkie Setshedi: Mmabatho's Top Black Businesswoman" (articles, negatives, and prints)	1999 August
b. 7	"Beauty and Style" (articles, negatives, and prints)	December 1998- January 1999
b. 8	Negatives	circa 1990s
b. 8	Terry McMillan article material (clippings, negatives, and prints)	1996-1997
b. 8	Nelson Mandela Presidential campaign photographs (negatives and prints) and Ebony publication	1994
b. 8	Nelson Mandela and Jesse Jackson photographs	circa 1990s
b. 9	"Beauty and Style" (clipping)	June 1997
b. 9	"Date With a Dish" (article, negatives, and prints)	May 1997
b. 9	"Sporting Journalists Women" (negatives and prints)	April 1997
b. 9	"Producers Entertainment" (prints)	April 1997
b. 9	"S.A. Trendsetters" (prints)	November 1996
b. 9	"Date With a Dish" (prints)	circa 1990s



b. 9	"Money Talks" (article)	1999 June
b. 9	"Celebrities and their Unusual Hobbies" (article, negatives, and prints)	1999 June
b. 9	"House Call" (article)	1998 December -1999 January
b. 9	"30 Young Achievers" (article and negatives)	1998 December -1999 January
b. 9	"Fashion" (articles and negatives)	1999 June
b. 9	"Date With a Dish" (article, negatives, and prints)	1997 March
b. 9	"Paul Adams" (print)	1997 March
b. 9	"S.A. Beat/Bookshelf" (article and prints)	1997 March
b. 9	"A Salute to the Diversity of Today's Black Women" (article and negatives)	1999 August
b. 9	"S.A. On the Move" (prints)	1999 August
b. 9	"Bachelorettes" (article, negatives and prints)	1999 August
b. 9	"Thabo Letsebe: SA's Basketball Sensation" (article and negatives)	1999 September
b. 9	"House Call" (article)	1999 September
b. 9	"Just Between Sisters" (article)	1999 September
b. 9	"Speaking of People" (article, negatives, and prints)	1999 September
b. 9	"SA Beats" (article)	1999 September
b. 9	"Advisor" (article)	1999 August
b. 9	"Felicity Shiba" (article and negatives)	1999 August
b. 9	"Motoring" (article and prints)	1999 August
b. 10	"Fashion" (negatives and prints) <i>2 Folders</i>	1997 May
b. 10	"Speaking of People" (article and negatives)	1999 May
b. 10	"Money Talks" (article)	1999 August
b. 10	"How I Made A Million" (article and prints)	1999 August
b. 10	"Samantha Adams" (negatives and prints)	1999
b. 10	"Celebrities Blackstreet" (article, negatives, and prints)	1999 June
b. 10	"100 Years of African Beauty, Hairstyles and Fashion" (article and prints)	1999 August
b. 10	"25 Most Fascinating Black South African Women of the 20th Century" (article and prints)	1999 August
b. 10	"Health Update: Create Your Own Diet" (article and print)	1999 September

b. 10	"Money Talk" (article)	1999 September
b. 10	"House Call" (article)	1999 August
b. 10	"S.A. Beats" (article)	1999 August
b. 10	"Date With a Dish" (article and negatives)	1999 August
b. 10	"Relation" (article)	1999 August
b. 10	"Just Between Sisters" (article)	1999 August
b. 10	"Health Update: Eyecare" (article)	1999 August
b. 10	"Speaking of People" (article, negatives, and prints)	1998 December-1999 January
b. 10	"SA Beat" (article)	1998 December-1999 January
b. 10	"Date With a Dish" (article and negatives)	1998 December-1999 January
b. 10	"Rothmans July" (article)	1999 June
b. 10	"Beauty and Style" (articles and negatives) <i>4 Folders</i>	1999 June, 1999 July, 1999 September
b. 10	"Nomaindia Mfeketo" (article and prints)	1998 December - 1999 January
b. 10	"Owen Nkumane" (article and negatives)	1998 December - 1999 January
b. 10	"Fashion" (article)	1998 December - 1999 January
b. 10	"Advisor" (article)	1998 December - 1999 January
b. 10	"Speaking of People" (negatives and prints)	1998 June
b. 10	"Graceland Competition" (negatives and prints)	1999 August
b. 10	"Brandy Cover Story" (article and negatives)	1998 December - 1999 January
b. 11	Negatives	circa 1990s
b. 12	Negatives	circa 1990s
b. 13	Negatives and prints	circa 1990s
b. 14	Negatives	circa 1990s

b. 15	Negatives and prints	circa 1990s
b. 18	Photographs (prints) <i>5 Folders</i> Includes mounted and loose black and white and color prints, ranging from 11" x 14" to 13" x 19."	undated
b. 17	Black and white editorial photographs (prints)	undated
b. 17	Ebony South Africa cover design material	1996 November
b. 16	Correspondence	1995 May
b. 16	Ebony South Africa business records: correspondence, story ideas, clippings, and article drafts	1995-1999
b. 16	Ebony South Africa business records: correspondence, memos, story ideas, and clippings	1996-2003
b. 16	Ebony South Africa business records: article drafts, and memos	1998-1999
b. 16	Ebony South Africa business records: correspondence, memos, story ideas, and clippings	1998-2001
b. 16	Ebony South Africa business records: story ideas, clippings, correspondence, and memos	1999
b. 18	"Ebony South Africa: Black by Popular Demand" poster	circa 1990s

**Series II: Jesse Jackson photographs, 1983-1992***4.75 linear feet (7 boxes)*

This series includes photographic prints and negatives of the Jesse Jackson presidential campaigns of 1984 and 1988, and the activities of the National Rainbow Coalition, which Cheers was assigned to cover while working as a staff reporter for Johnson publications.

Material in this series is arranged by project.

b. 17	Presidential campaign photographs (negatives)	circa 1983-1988
b. 19	<a href="#">Presidential campaign photographs (negatives)</a>	circa 1983-1988
b. 20	Presidential campaign photographs (negatives) <i>4 Folders</i>	circa 1983-1988
b. 21	Presidential campaign photographs (prints) <i>7 Folders</i> Includes mounted black and white and color photographic prints	circa 1983-1988
b. 21	Rainbow Coalition photographs (prints) <i>2 Folders</i>	1984
b. 22	<a href="#">Rainbow Coalition photographs (prints)</a> <i>6 Folders</i> Includes loose and mounted black and white and color photographic prints	1984
b. 22	<a href="#">Rainbow Coalition memo and photographs</a>	1990, 1992
b. 23	<a href="#">Rainbow Coalition photographs (negatives and prints)</a> <i>7 Folders</i>	1984
b. 17	Rainbow Coalition contact sheets	1984
b. 24	<a href="#">Rainbow Coalition photographs (negatives)</a>	1984
b. 23	<a href="#">Jesse Jackson's Africa Trip</a>	1986

**Series III: Boston Globe photographs, circa 1975-1976**

*2.17 linear feet (2 boxes)*

This series includes photographic negatives that Cheers shot while working as a photographer for the Boston Globe from 1975-1976. Images include coverage of campus events, sports games, festivals, and other Boston area events.

Material in this series is arranged in its received order.

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b. 25	Photographs (negatives)	circa 1975-1976
b. 26	Photographs (negatives)	circa 1975-1976

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**Series IV: Personal and professional papers, 1988–2004***5.83 linear feet (6 boxes)*

Material in this series includes slides and papers relating to Cheers' work as a photojournalist, and as Editor for *Ebony South Africa*. Also included is correspondence and a book jacket for *Songs of My People*.

Material in this series is arranged chronologically.

b. 28–31	Slides Content included in the slides may overlap with the Jesse Jackson and Ebony South Africa series.	circa 1980s-1990s
b. 27	Press passes	1988
b. 17	Songs of My People book jacket	1992
b. 27	Songs of My People correspondence	1994–1995
b. 27	Personal papers: photographs, business card, and workshop flier	1995, undated
b. 27	Drum Magazine	1997
b. 27	Still Grazing by Hugh Maskela and Michael Cheers	2004

**Series V: Computer media, 1998, undated***0.42 linear feet (1 box)*

This series includes floppy disks and CDs.

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies of electronic files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

Material in this series is arranged by format.

	Cece Winans Ebony photographs 1 CD-R	1998
b. 32	Ebony 81790 #2 2011-genam-42355-0009 1 CD-R  Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	
	Lauryn Hill Ebony photographs 1 CD-R	1998
b. 32	81790 #8 2011-genam-42355-0010 1 CD-R  Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	
	Ebony 2 CD-Rs	1998
b. 32	81790 EBY #14 2011-genam-42355-0011 1 CD-R  Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	
b. 32	81790 #6 2011-genam-42355-0012 1 CD-R  Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	
b. 32	Dorah Fifmoles? Disk 2011-genam-42355-0003 1 3.5_floppy_disk  Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	
b. 32	Brother Multi-Function Link for Microsoft Windows Disk 1 2011-genam-42355-0004 1 3.5_floppy_disk  Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	

- b. 32            Brother Multi-Function Link for Microsoft Windows Disk 2  
2011-genam-42355-0005  
*13.5\_floppy\_disk*  
Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.
- 
- b. 32            [no label information]  
2011-genam-42355-0006  
*13.5\_floppy\_disk*  
Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.
- 
- b. 32            ScanMan Software Disk 1 of 2  
2011-genam-42355-0007  
*13.5\_floppy\_disk*  
Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.
- 
- b. 32            HP DeskJet Printer Software  
2011-genam-42355-0008  
*13.5\_floppy\_disk*  
Restricted fragile material. Access copies of digital files may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.
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**Series VI: Audiovisual material, 1999***0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

This series consists of an audiocassette, microcassette and Hi8 videocassette.

Restricted fragile material. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.

b. 33, IIIII 39002099229925	Untitled <i>1 Microcassette 01:26:24 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> The program is distorted at times. High background noise is present. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 33, IIIII 39002099229917	South Africa <i>1 Videocassette (Hi8) 00:56:13 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> There is a drop out in the video at 00:53:55 <a href="#">[Aviary] jwjms020539002099229917.u.mp4</a> Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	undated
b. 33, IIIII 39002099229909	<i>"Talk at Nine", Monitoring South Africa, Tape 2</i> <i>1 Audiocassette 01:08:16 Duration (HH:MM:SS.mmm)</i> Audio, at times, sounds hollow or unclear. The program is distorted at times. Speed fluctuations are present. Dropouts in the audio are present. High amounts of buzz can be heard. Audiovisual material. Restricted fragile. Reference copies may be requested. Consult Access Services for further information.	1999 February 18

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

African American photographers  
African Americans -- 20th Century -- Portraits  
Journalism -- South Africa  
Photojournalism  
Photojournalists

### **Genres / Formats**

Audiovisual materials  
Born digital  
Photographs

### **Occupations**

Photojournalists -- United States -- 20th  
Century

### **Geographic Names**

South Africa -- Pictorial works

### **Names**

Cheers, D. Michael  
Jackson, Jesse, 1941-  
Mandela, Nelson, 1918-2013  
Masekela, Hugh, 1939-2018