

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Susan Fales-Hill

PERSON

Fales-Hill, Susan, 1962-

Alternative Names: Susan Fales-Hill;

Life Dates: August 15, 1962-

Place of Birth: Rome, Italy

Residence: New York, NY

Occupations: Television Producer

Biographical Note

Author, television writer and producer Susan Fales-Hill was born on August 15, 1962 in Rome, Italy to Timothy Fales and Haitian-American actress, Josephine Premice. Fales-Hill was raised in New York City, and graduated from the Lycee Francais de New York in 1980. In 1985, she graduated with her B.A. degree in history and literature from Harvard University.

Upon graduation, Fales-Hill began an apprenticeship as a writer on The Cosby Show. In 1987, she transferred to the show's spin-off, A Different World, where she worked as a story editor. In 1990, Fales-Hill was promoted to co-executive producer and head writer. Then, in 1995, she became executive producer of the CBS sitcom, Can't Hurry Love. In 1996, Fales-Hill served first as executive producer of the family-oriented situation comedy, Kirk, then as a consulting producer on the television series Suddenly Susan. In 1998, she co-created with Tim Reid the Showtime original series Linc's, and served for two seasons as its executive producer and head writer.

In 2003, Fales-Hill published Always Wear Joy: My Mother Bold and Beautiful, a critically acclaimed memoir about her mother. The book was a finalist for the NAACP Image Award and the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Legacy Award for Nonfiction. It was an Atlanta Daily Choice Awards winner, and received a starred review from Kirkus. Fales-Hill has authored two other books: 2010's novel, One Flight Up, and 2013's Imperfect Bliss. She has also written several magazine articles that have appeared in Town & Country, Vogue, Glamour, American Heritage, Ebony, Essence, Avenue, and Travel and Leisure. From 2003 to 2006, Fales-Hill served as an elected director of the Harvard Alumni Association, and from 2003 to 2010 as a member of Harvard University's Committee on University Resources. She also served on the boards of the Studio Museum of Harlem and the American Ballet Theatre. From 2004

to 2007, Fales-Hill co-chaired the American Ballet Theatre Spring Gala.

Fales-Hill has also received many honors and awards. Under her leadership, A Different World was nominated for the prestigious Humanitas Award. The episode she wrote on AIDS, "If I Should Die Before I Wake," received the 1991 Maggie Award from Planned Parenthood, the 13th Annual Media Access Award from the California Governor's Committee for Employment of Disabled Persons, and the Nancy Susan Reynolds Award. Fales-Hill has also received the the Producer's Guild of America's Nova award, a "Special Recognition Award" from the Friends of the Black Emmys, and the Excellence and Heritage Award from Dillard University. In 2001, she was named to the International Best Dressed List Hall of Fame.

Susan Fales-Hill was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on December 13, 2013.

Related Entries

Lycee Francais de New York [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Harvard University [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

NBC [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1985 to 1987]

Writer

NBC [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1975 to ?]

Story Editor and Co-Executive Producer/Head Writer

CBS [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1961 to ?]

Executive Producer

Warner Brothers [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1996 to 1998]

Executive Producer

NBC [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1998 to 1998]

Consulting Producer

Showtime [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1998 to 2000]

Co-Creater and Executive Producer/Head Writer

Studio Museum in Harlem [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

American Ballet Theatre [MEMBEROF]
[from ? to ?]

Board Member

Harvard Alumni Association [MEMBEROF]
[from 2003 to 2006]

Elected Director

Committee on University Resources, Harvard University [MEMBEROF]
[from 2003 to 2010]

Member

American Ballet Theatre [MEMBEROF]
[from 2004 to 2007]

Co-Chair of Spring Gala