



Cinnamontography
www.cinnamontography.com

**VIDEO BIOGRAPHIES
OF OUR LIVING LEGENDS**

Errol Webber
Documentary Cinematographer/Photographer
Cinnamontography (Baltimore, MD)
Phone: (443) 632-7141
Email: errol@cinnamontography.com
Website: www.cinnamontography.com

VIDEO BIOGRAPHIES

In their quest to preserve our patrimony, historians, archivists, and civic activists have been capturing oral histories for centuries, first on paper, then on audio tape and, more recently, on film or video . Unfortunately, in doing so, few are taking full advantage of today's technology. Rather, they tend to set up a camera on a tripod, point it toward the subject and conduct the same sort of interview they might have a century ago.

As a documentary cinematographer who has spent countless days capturing stories told by intriguing characters, I propose that we use the techniques of documentary filmmakers in order to capture today's living legends – not just by recording their faces and their words, but also by filming them in the context of their environment and daily activities so that their essence is captured, and by editing their interviews together with old footage, stock footage, music and photographs to create video biographies.

Imagine, then, the video biography of the oldest living waterman. It would include not only a serious interview with him about how life on the water has changed, but it would also include video of him on his boat, old photographs of him working, video of tools he treasures, all edited together with music of the relevant era behind him. The video would not only become part of the historical record; it could be used in exhibitions and promotional materials as well.

ABOUT CINNAMONTOGRAPHY

Cinnamontography is a Baltimore-based photography & video service featuring the work of Documentary Cinematographer, Errol Webber, Jr.

Errol's experience in film and photography started in 2003 when he began shooting for various TV Broadcasts around the Baltimore area. In 2004, he went to the Maryland Institute College of Art, where he graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Video. Immediately following college, he was hired to shoot the documentary, *Music by Prudence* in Zimbabwe. *Music by Prudence* went on to win an Academy Award for Best Documentary Short in 2010. He currently has 3 other documentary projects in production.

In addition to Errol's documentary work, he does high-end commercial photography and video for restaurants, colleges, artists and museums, and in 2011, will begin producing Video Biographies for national archives and galleries.

HOW IT WORKS

Finding the story:

Once the relevant institution selected an individual or individuals to be interviewed, Errol will meet first with the interviewer selected by the institution and then with the subject to discuss some of the historically important stories to be told in the video, in addition to looking at old photographs and any other archival footage.

The Interviewing Process:

The interview will be conducted by a journalist or historian selected by Errol or by the institution. The interview may go for a few hours, depending on how extensive or detailed the subject's story is.

Collection of Artifacts/Memorabilia:

Errol will scan in and restore photographs (retouching & color-correcting) provided by the subject and/or institution and will digitize film footage as desired. He will either locate the relevant music himself, with the guidance of the subject and institution or digitize music provided to him.

Video Editing:

In the editing process, we will cut the footage into a cohesive story, using the archival footage and photographs to illustrate people, places and events where necessary.

A rough cut will be then made available to the institution and, if desired, to the subject, to ensure accuracy.

The finished video edit will go through the mastering process where the video and sound is fine-tuned for best results.

The Finished Product:

The length of the resulting video can range from a couple minutes to two or three hours, and is dependent on the amount of stories being told, the amount of detail in each story, and the intended purpose of the film. The finished product will be a video on DVD and a High Definition Quicktime on a Portable Hard drive for archiving purposes. Cinnamontography will archive a copy of the finished video and all the original footage for up to 5 years from the start of their project.