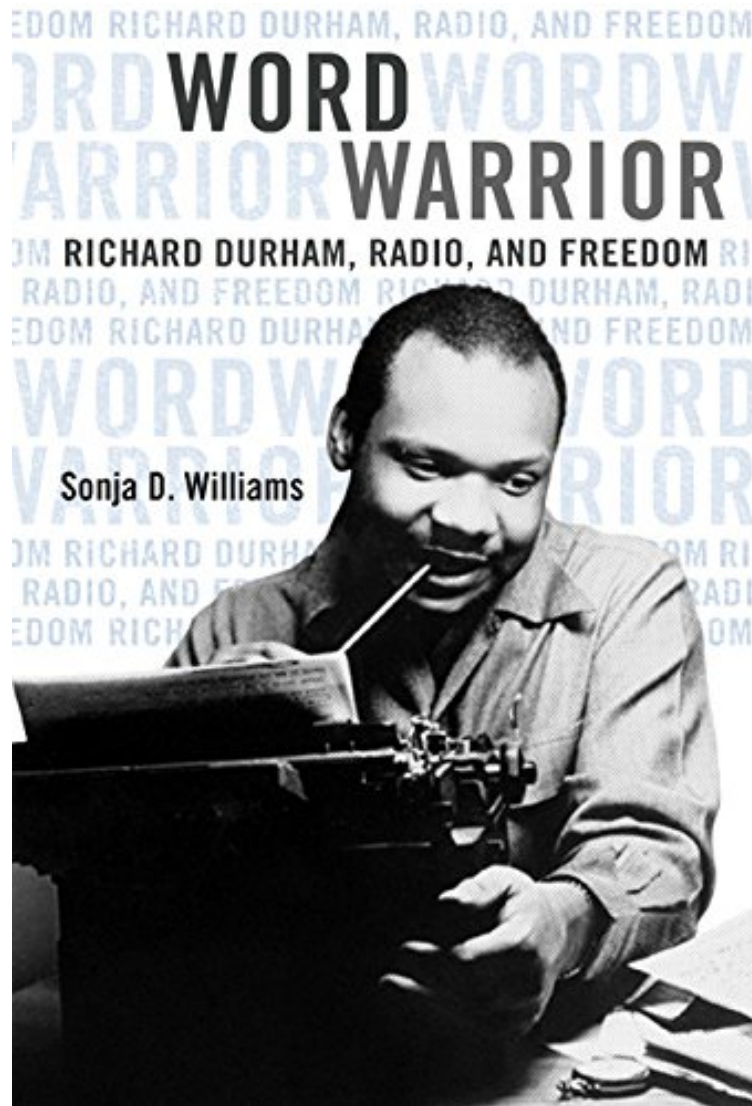


Word Warrior: Richard Durham, Radio, and Freedom (New Black Studies Series)

Sonja D Williams

ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#334567 in Books 2015-08-11Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .80 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 0252081390272 pages | File size: 64.Mb

Sonja D Williams : Word Warrior: Richard Durham, Radio, and Freedom (New Black Studies Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Word Warrior: Richard Durham, Radio, and Freedom (New Black Studies Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Educational and InspirationalBy Michael KirklandDurham book reviewRichard Durhams life and work are illuminated in this inspiring biography by Sonja Williams. The title, Word Warrior, appropriately defines the obstacles that Durham confronted throughout his career as radio/TV scriptwriter

and journalist. The written word was his most potent weapon. Freedom, equality, and justice were common themes that ran through his writing. While a radio scriptwriter in Chicago in the 1940s, he chose abolitionist icons like Frederic Douglas, Harriet Tubman, and Sojourner Truth as central characters in many episodes of the popular Destination Freedom program. The compelling drama in these stories often overcame the sometimes less than receptive radio station and network management that might have preferred more tepid stories without racial overtones. But Durham always held true to his convictions and even, in some cases, had to fight for equal pay for his work and the legal rights to his own intellectual property. Williams provides a complete radio log of Durhams Destination Freedom shows from 1948 through 1950 in the Appendix of her book. Durhams writing talents also took him to the labor movement as the UPWA union program head in the 1950s and as the editorial voice of Muhammad Speaks for the Nation of Islam in the 1960s. Toward the end of the decade, he also produced Bird of the Iron Feather for television, perhaps his most ambitious work, with mixed reviews amidst severe production constraints. But Durham may be best known for co-authoring the autobiography of Muhammad Ali, *The Greatest: My Own Story*, in 1975 where Durham bonded with the famous prizefighter. By the early 1980s Durhams reputation as something of a political guru now preceded him as he was sought after to represent Harold Washington in his successful run for major of Chicago. Unfortunately, Durhams fast-paced career finally caught up with him, as he did not live to complete several personal projects that had been on a back burner. But one could argue the Durham was most productive while deadlines dictated his work schedule. An award winning radio producer in her own right, and professor of Media, Journalism, and Film, Sonja Williams is eminently qualified to write this faithful and thoroughly documented biography. The result is both educational and inspirational. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Inspiring and Riveting Biography By James McGrath Morris What a perfect pairing of subject and author. The subject Richard Durhama pioneer of black radio and black journalism chronicled by biographer Sonja D. Williams an award-winning radio producer and professor of media and journalism at Howard University. Open Word Warrior to any page and Williams prose will carry you back to a time when Durhams shows kept listeners glued to the radio and his hard-hitting print journalism made people talk. Williams scrupulous research and wide-ranging interviews has given Durhams life that long deserved careful, inspiring, and riveting biography. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great job, Sonja By Margena Christian Little-known story about a fascinating man that needed to be told. Great job, Sonja!

Posthumously inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame in 2007, Richard Durham creatively chronicled and brought to life the significant events of his times. Durham's trademark narrative style engaged listeners with fascinating characters, compelling details, and sharp images of pivotal moments in American and African American history and culture. In *Word Warrior*, award-winning radio producer Sonja D. Williams draws on archives and hard-to-access family records, as well as interviews with family and colleagues like Studs Terkel and Toni Morrison, to illuminate Durham's astounding career. Durham paved the way for black journalists as a dramatist and a star investigative reporter and editor for the pioneering black newspapers the *Chicago Defender* and *Muhammed Speaks*. Talented and versatile, he also created the acclaimed radio series *Destination Freedom* and *Here Comes Tomorrow* and wrote for popular radio fare like *The Lone Ranger*. Incredibly, his energies extended still further--to community and labor organizing, advising Chicago mayoral hopeful Harold Washington, and mentoring generations of activists. Incisive and in-depth, *Word Warrior* tells the story of a tireless champion of African American freedom, equality, and justice during an epoch that forever changed a nation.

"With this book, Williams (Howard Univ.) rescues a forgotten but important voice in the Civil Rights Movement. Whether Durham was writing poetry, reporting, or creating radio and television scripts, his subjects remain the same: justice for the African American community and the injustice of segregation...Williams details all this in this well-written analytical profile of this important, versatile writer." - Choice Connect (a publication of the ALA's Association of College and Research Libraries)