

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Jermikko Shoshannah Johnson

PERSON

Johnson, Jermikko Shoshannah, 1946-

Alternative Names: Jermikko Shoshannah Johnson;

Life Dates: August 20, 1948-

Place of Birth: Chicago, Illinois, USA

Work: Chicago, Illinois

Occupations: Fashion Designer

Biographical Note

Fashion designer Jermikko Shoshanna Taliaferro Johnson was born in Chicago, Illinois. Her father, Albert Johnson, was an entrepreneur and her mother, Teary Watson-Johnson, was a textile weaver. Jermicko Johnson combined the talents of both parents by starting her own fashion design business.

Johnson graduated from DuSable High School in Chicago in 1966 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the School of the Art Institute in 1972. The previous year, she served as an apprentice to fashion designer Stanley Korshak, and after graduating she went to work for Eucos, Inc. in Evanston, Illinois. Fureal Ltd., in neighboring Skokie, hired Johnson in 1973. The following year, she also began teaching at Chicago State University. Traveling to Fort Worth, Texas in 1975, Johnson became a fashion designer and coordinator for Pier 1 Imports. Two years later, Johnson returned to Chicago, creating clothing for Revere Sportswear. In 1979, she began designing apparel for HJ, Inc. That same year, she founded Jermikko Shoshanna Johnson Originals. In 1987, Johnson created yet another design firm, JJ Hobeau, Inc. Her successful businesses continue to thrive today. Johnson won the State of Illinois Fashion Designer of the Year Award in 1997 and was honored as the Manufacturer of the Millennium in 1999.

Johnson started the adult education fashion design programs at Olive-Harvey College and Chicago State University. She served as a faculty adviser at the Academy of Fashion and Merchandising in 1981 and at the Ray Vogue School of Fashion Design in 1982. Johnson not only taught adults for many years, but also worked with children through the Chicago Public School program "Each One, Reach One, Teach One." Her civic activities include involvement with the Girl Scouts of America, the Apparel Industry Board, the Chicago Fashion Guild, the Chicago Fashion Exchange and the

League of Black Women.

Jermikko Shoshanna Johnson was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on July 26, 2002.

Related Entries

Du Sable Leadership Academy [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Eucos, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1981 to 1982]

Stanley Korshak [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1971 to ?]

Apprentice

Fureal Ltd. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1973 to ?]

Chicago State University [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1974 to ?]

Instructor

Pier 1 Imports [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1975 to ?]

Fashion Designer

Revere Sportswear [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1977 to ?]

Fashion Designer

HJ, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1979 to ?]

Fashion Designer

Jermikko Shoshanna Johnson Originals [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1979 to ?]

Founder

JJ Hobeau, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1987 to ?]

Founder