

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Steven A. Cutting

PERSON

Cutting, Steven A., 1961-

Alternative Names: Steven A. Cutting;

Life Dates: June 8, 1961-

Place of Birth: New York, New York, USA

Residence: Brooklyn, NY

Occupations: Fashion Designer

Biographical Note

Fashion designer Steven Alan Cutting was born in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn, New York on June 8, 1961 to Russaloin and Clement Cutting. Cutting learned to sketch at six years old, and by the time he graduated from Queens' Christ the King Regional High School, he was determined to pursue a career in fashion. Cutting earned his B.F.A. degree from the Fashion Institute of Technology in 1983.

After college, Cutting worked on Seventh Avenue with the design firm Enrico Masei. Then he moved to Italy and worked at a freelance studio owned by Anna Schpioni. Cutting worked in Italy and Germany where he was a designer for Krizia and Chiwitt from 1983 to 1985. In late 1985, Cutting returned to the United States and became the head designer for Philippe Monet. While at Philippe Monet, Cutting traveled extensively and began to specialize in leather and cloth outerwear. In 1990, he established his own freelance company, Steven A. Cutting, Inc. The company's clients included Kenneth Cole, Reebok, Collage, and Pony. Cutting worked for himself until 1996, when he became head designer for Perry Ellis America. In 1999, he joined First Manufacturing Company, where he was the design director for Jimmy and Marylou and the Whet Blue Collections. In 2000, Cutting was hired by the Larry Levine and Boston Outfitters labels. Cutting has worked with the House of Dereon owned by Beyoncé and Tina Knowles and has also established his own label, Katalyst.

Cutting joined the faculty of the Fashion Art Department of the Fashion Institute of Technology in 2001, where he teaches design techniques with leather. From 2003 to 2005, he was the president of the Fashion & Arts Xchange, a networking organization for people of color in fashion and the arts. In 2006, Cutting joined the board of the Gay Men's Health Crisis, working to fight AIDS. Cutting lives in New York with his wife, Asha Shetty, and has three children.

Steven Cutting was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on August 30, 2007.

Related Entries

St. Teresa of Avila [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

P.S. 169 Robert F Kennedy School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Christ the King Regional High School [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

Fashion Institute of Technology [STUDENTOF]
[from ? to ?]

B.F.A.

Enrico Masei, design firm [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Anna Schpioni [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from ? to ?]

Designer

Krizia and Chiwitt [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1983 to 1985]

Designer

Philippe Monet [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1985 to ?]

Head Designer

Steven A. Cutting, Inc. [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1990 to 1996]

Owner/Designer

Perry Ellis America [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1996 to ?]

Head Designer

First Manufacturing Company [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 1999 to ?]

Design Director for Jimmy and Marylou and the Whet Blue Collections

Larry Levine and Boston Outfitters labels [EMPLOYEEOF]
[from 2000 to ?]

Fashion Institute of Technology [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 2001 to ?]

Teacher

Gay Men's Health Crisis [MEMBEROf]

[from ? to ?]

Boardmember

Fashion and Arts Exchange [MEMBEROf]

[from 2003 to 2005]

President