

Biographical Description for The HistoryMakers® Video Oral History with Bev Smith

PERSON

Smith, Bev, 1943-

Alternative Names: Bev Smith;

Life Dates: March 4, 1943-

Place of Birth: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, USA

Residence: Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Occupations: Radio Talk Show Host

Biographical Note

Radio talk show host Bev Smith was born March 4, 1943 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Smith is the eldest of six children born to Isabel and John Sloan. She was raised in the Homewood neighborhood of Pennsylvania, and graduated from Westinghouse High School. In 1961, Smith entered beautician school, to raise money for college, and a year later enrolled in Clark's Business School. In 1963, she took classes at Robert Morris Junior College.

In 1969, Smith was appointed office manager for the National Conference of Christians and Jews, under Ralph King. In 1971, she was named Pittsburgh's first African American consumer affairs investigative reporter for WPXI Television. She was then hired as news and public affairs director for Sheridan Broadcasting in 1975, and hosted a talk show on Sheridan's flagship station, WAMO. In 1977, Smith became the director of consumer affairs, as well as energy coordinator of her county in Pennsylvania. That same year, she moved her radio show to KDKA, where she also hosted a television show called Vibrations. Smith then became a radio host for Miami's WGBS (now WNMS) in 1979, and Orlando's WKIS in 1985. In 1988, Smith began hosting a local radio program in Washington D.C., as well as the national Black Entertainment Television talk show "Our Voices," which she hosted for over thirteen years.

In 1998, Smith became the host of "The Bev Smith Show," on American Urban Radio Networks, which made her the only African American female radio talk show host with a nationally syndicated show in the country. Smith signed off the air as host of her show in 2011.

Smith has received nearly 300 awards and recognitions for her contributions to radio and television, including the Spirit of Democracy Award, the Radio Air Crystal Award

and the prestigious Max Robinson Award. She has also been selected by Talkers magazine as one of the most important radio talk show hosts in America.

Bev Smith was interviewed by The HistoryMakers on June 9, 2014.

Related Entries

Crescent Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Westinghouse Academy [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Duff's Business School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Assoc. Degree

Robert Morris College [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

Night School

Baxter Elementary School [STUDENTOF]

[from ? to ?]

National Conference of Christians and Jews [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1969 to 1971]

Office Manager

WIICTV (Now WPXI) [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1971 to 1975]

Investigative Reporter

Allegheny County Government [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1975 to 1979]

Director

KDKA Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1979 to 1981]

Talk Show Host

KDKA-TV [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1979 to 1981]

Host

KDKA-TV [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1979 to 1981]

Panelist

WBBS [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1981 to 1984]

Host

WKYS Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1984 to 1986]

Host

Daytona Beach Channel 2 [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1984 to 1986]

WTAE Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1986 to 1987]

Host

WRC Radio [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1987 to 1991]

Host

Black Entertainment Television [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1987 to 1999]

Host, "Our Voices"

CNN [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1991 to 2001]

Host Fill In For Talk Show

MSNBC [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1991 to 2001]

Panelist

PBS Washington [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1991 to 2001]

Panelist, "To The Contrary"

American Urban Radio Networks [EMPLOYEEOF]

[from 1998 to 2011]

Host

National NAACP [MEMBEROF]

[from ? to ?]

Lifetime Member

AFTRA-SAG [MEMBEROF]

[from 1965 to ?]

Pilot's Club [MEMBEROF]

[from 2013 to ?]

