



2021 NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Born: Nov. 10, 1949

Primary Connection:

- The Jim Henson Co.: Costume Designer, 1978-present

Education:

- Moore College of Art & Design: Bachelor's Degree, Fashion Design, 1971
- New York University: Master's Degree, Costume Design, 1975

Key Memberships/Awards:

- Academy of Television Arts and Sciences: Member (retired)
- Costume Designers Guild: Member (retired)
- United Scenic Artists: Member (retired)
- Moore College of Art & Design: Distinguished Alumna, 2005
- Several Emmy Awards and nominations

10 Things You Need to Know About

Polly Smith

Inventor of the Sports Bra

U.S. PATENT NO. 4,174,717

1. Smith met future Jogbra® co-inventor Lisa Lindahl in eighth grade when they both lived in Montclair, New Jersey.
2. Smith's ties to Vermont (where she worked on the Jogbra) began when she was young and would visit her family's cabin there throughout her childhood.
3. Creativity ran in Smith's family, as her mother was a quilter and her grandfather was an illustrator.
4. She began sewing her own clothes in eighth grade and credits both her mother and a home economics class for teaching her the skill.
5. She earned her bachelor's degree in fashion design from Moore College of Art & Design, as well as a master's degree in costume design from New York University.
6. Smith designed the first sports bra while working as a costume designer for the Champlain Shakespeare Festival in Burlington in 1977.
7. The original Jogbra prototype that Smith designed utilized Lycra and elastic, with a first-of-its-kind cross back that the sports bra is known for today.
8. Smith landed her "dream job" working in costume design for The Jim Henson Co. in 1978 and designed for several "Muppets" television and film projects.
9. Smith has won seven Emmy awards for her work on "Sesame Street" and she has been nominated for the award several times.
10. She holds three U.S. patents.