



Shea Carver - 2021

SHEA CARVER

Born January 14, 1977, in Charlotte, NC, Shea tagged along to hundreds of shag classes taught by parents, Sonny and Judy. But it was the sound of rhythm and blues that captured her attention: The Clovers, The 5 Royales, Big Joe Turner, Rickie Lee Jones. At age 10, she learned the basic and sugar foot and practiced with her dad in their living room when not twirling under a pair of panty hose tied to a door handle. By 13 she had her 1st dance partner, Bobby Solomon, Jr., and at 14 was competing with Daniel Jackson, taking lessons from Susie Beaver & Patrick Gibson, and winning contests throughout the junior shag division. By 1994 Shea, along with fellow junior shaggers Chuck Jenkins, Brandi Collins, Trey, Morgan and Mandy McCants and their families founded the JSA and launched the first Junior SOS, both of which continue today. Shea began competing with Brent Key in 1994, winning numerous contests, landing in the top 3 multiple years at the Grand Nationals and promoting the shag at the U.S. Open Swing Dance Championship. Under the tutelage of Sy Creed and Dana Barton, Shea and Brent won the 1st shag division at the U.S. Open in 1996 and continued to teach, compete and win across the nation. Though Shea stopped competing in 1999, she was inducted into the Charlotte Area Shaggers Hall of Fame in 2012. The dance remains integral to her love for the arts, which she has written about for 25 years in Wilmington, NC. as editor of a daily newspaper.