



ALANA T. HOLMES - 2014

ALANA T. HOLMES

I was born in Columbia, SC and moved to New York City as a baby. The move was necessitated by my father's career as a broadcaster with CBS and my mother a model.

Most of my childhood was spent living in two different worlds and speaking two different languages-Northern and Southern. In New York, I'd run home from school to see the Mickey Mouse Club and American Bandstand. I took ballet as a child and as I grew older danced all the popular dances such as the lindy, cha-cha, and merengue.

From grammar school on I traveled alone by train to Florence, SC to stay with my grandmother for part of every summer. She and I and my cousins traveled to the beach and would go to Myrtle Beach and watch the dancers at the Pavilion. Of course there were also wonderful dancers in Florence that I would watch dance on a small outdoor concrete pad at the Florence airport and at the teen canteens.

In my teens I was sent to boarding school in Charleston, where I found all the beach clubs, went to Ocean Drive for house parties where we went to the Pad, traveled to Columbia for fraternity parties at USC and went to popular nightclubs. I also went to Pawley's where I once saw the "dirty" shag.

I enjoyed all the dances in the 60s like boogaloo, monkey, mashed potato, twist and all the other crazy dance fads that came along. After marrying and divorcing in Florence, I moved to Atlanta with my daughter, Nina, and dabbled in being a hippy and later became part of the disco club scene for many years. What a fun and wonderful time that was. I met my husband, King, in Atlanta where he joined me making the rounds of the clubs till all hours of the morning.

King and I subsequently married and moved to Columbia in 1978, coming back full circle to where I was born. We returned to our shag roots and met all of our wonderful friends and have been shagging ever since. King wanted this honor for me to be inducted into the Shaggers Hall of Fame so much and it saddens me that he won't be here to dance with me but I know he is proud of me and will be there with me in spirit.