



# Jackie McGee Womble 1991

## JACKIE MCGEE WOMBLE

My first contest - Labor Day - Fat Jack's, 1981. I knew very few people. I was going to be the first female to dance in high heels - and I did. I also danced without knowing what a pivot was, but thanks to Brenda Pace who explained that I did it with Charlie and not by myself. I was born in 1956 and raised in Raleigh, N.C. I loved old music but never shagged. After graduating from E.C.U., I met Charlie who hated Beach Music. One night by accident we witnessed a Shag Contest. Charlie fell in love - me, no way was I going to wear flat ugly shoes! I watched Charlie compete about a year before I could be coaxed into a contest. My fondest memories are the first couple of years spending every weekend with our friends Jimmy & Betty Reeves and Don Bunn, and of course Dewey now. Charlie and I missed very few contests for four years, but I had never been to the Hall of Fame till '86. Then I saw what real shagging was!! I saw all the things I couldn't do. I remember seeing Jeannie Pack and Lila Munn and truly understanding what the word graceful meant. SOS 1987 - Harry Driver asked Charlie and me to dance after the Hall of Famers. I remember Charlie crying and telling me, "I think they have accepted us". It was the biggest accomplishment in our shagging. So many people have inspired Charlie and me with their great dancing and support, but shagging goes beyond dancing. It becomes a way of life, with friendships that last a life time.

But, to my husband I owe everything. For his encouragement, his patience, teaching, discipline, dedication and for sharing his love of the dance with me. I never knew that two people could share something so wonderful together always side by side. He's always been my rock, and has made my life the best it's ever been. He made it possible for me to do the thing that I love the most, sharing and teaching other people to shag. My happiness now comes from looking at the dance floor and seeing it filled with people who love the dance as we do. Thank-you Charlie Womble for teaching me so many other things and for sharing your life with me. I LOVE YOU!

I hope I can give back as much as shagging has given to me. Hall of Famers, Competition Dancers, Juniors, the Audience, we are one, The Greatest People on Earth.