

Bringing Back The Bard

Written by Mark Shaffer

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Lowcountry Shakespeare founder and “Twelfth Night” director, Jeff Evans, discusses the troupe’s return from hiatus and how Falstaff (the character, not the beer) changed his life.



The October, 2010 production of “Twelfth Night” marks a long-awaited homecoming for Lowcountry Shakespeare to Beaufort’s Henry C. Chambers Waterfront Park. *Lowcountry Weekly*

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Jeff Evans – or as we fondly refer to him “the guy who signs the checks” – formed the troupe in the mid 1990’s. Having played the likes of Iago and Macbeth on stage, this time around Evans chose the role of Director. Obviously hard questions had to be asked. In lieu of those, we had the following conversation on the magazine’s porch overlooking the park

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Mark Shaffer: Lowcountry Shakespeare’s been on hiatus for the last few years, so this is our first official interview on the subject. In fact, as far as I can say without being under oath, we’ve never spoken of it before. Ever. Fill me in on a little bit of the history. How and when did it all begin?

Jeff Evans: It began a while ago. It’s been fun.

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(Long pause)

MS: I'm going to need more than that. I've got space to fill.

(Laughter)

JE: Oh, all right. I was one of those people who went through high school and college without reading Shakespeare. As an adult I find that kind of disturbing. I'd moved back to San Francisco and decided to take an acting class just for the hell of it and studied acting for a couple of years. Even then, I'd