

Shane Hatchell Striking a Chord

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Reflections of guitars and music linger in guitarist, singer, songwriter and instructor Shane Hatchell's memory. "I remember as a kid," Shane begins, "being at Kitchen's Kitchen, which used to be on Route 60. It was a little, tiny bar. A guy was in there playing a guitar and that image always stuck with me. Then, I remember seeing Roy Clark on The Odd Couple television show when I was a kid."

Those impressions of music, of fun, of creativity stayed with him. "I thought about guitars as a kid, but didn't ask for one and start playing until I was 14 or 15 years old."

That Christmas, Shane received a guitar. He took some classes around Williamsburg and Newport News from instructors like Lindsay Arndt and Mike Hansen. "My high school guidance counselor gave me a copy of one of The Door's albums, and she told me that I

might want to consider going to college to major in music," Shane explains. "A few years later I enrolled in Shenandoah University. I guess that's when I started getting serious about music."

He attended Shenandoah for three years, but hadn't decided how he wanted to incorporate music into his life. "Maybe perform," he says, "I wasn't sure yet. I returned to Shenandoah a few years later, took a semester in music education, and found that's what I really enjoyed." Shane plans to return to school to finish his degree in music education. "I've been doing the job for years, but I'd like to go back and finish that degree."

As a teenager, Shane listened to a lot of rock music. "Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin and Jimmy Hendrix were some of my biggest influencers," he says. "Triumph, a lesser known band, was

one of my favorites as a teenager. They were a rock trio that did incredible music."

In college, he discovered other styles of music like jazz and classical. "That opened my mind and took me away from my roots and what I'd grown up with," Shane says. "I started creating music that I term more 'thinking music' than 'feeling music'. Writing from theoretical places. By the time I left college, I wasn't writing things that were very listenable."

His focus was on the structure of the music and the interplay of the instruments.

"Life went on after college," Shane says of his time around the Shenandoah area. "I worked. I got married then that ended, but produced a wonderful son, Tristan. The divorce was a tough time especially with my son going so far away." That period led Shane back to writing songs again. "Leaving out the theory," he says,

GET FIT with BODYFIT!

LOOK FIT. FEEL FIT. BE FIT.

Meet our newest instructor, Kim Owens!

- Personal Trainer/Fitness Instructor
- Physical Therapy Tech
- Professional CPR Rescuer
- PE and Health Virginia Teacher Certified
- Stability Ball Certified Instructor

Let Kim Help
Kick Start
Your Fitness!
**CALL
TODAY!
221-6688**



Williamsburg Crossing • 5251-62 John Tyler Hwy.
(757) 221-6688 • www.bodyfitva.com

You'll Love Our

\$2 OFF
with coupon. Not valid
with any other offers.

any Pasta Dish \$10.95 or more
Good Mon thru Wed only • 5pm to 10pm
COUPON EXPIRES 9/30/10



2021-D Richmond Rd.
(next to Hertz)

M - Th: 11am - 10pm, Fri & Sat 11am - 11pm

Sun 12 noon - 9 pm

www.annasbrickoven.com





Squires
EVERYDAY CAFE

Wine • Beer • Bar • Bistro • Bands

Great Selection of Wines • Domestic Microbrews
Imported Beer • Great Food! • Live Music!

Awesome Sandwiches!

Menu & Schedules at www.squiresgourmet.com

GREAT MUSIC, FOOD & FUN!

Call to Place Your Order or Stop On By!
757-229-6939

Mooretown Road Across from Sentara

ENJOY A
FREE Art Lesson Today!

Fine Art Classes
for Children, Teens & Adults
ALL LEVELS WELCOME!



Small classes with one-on-one instruction. Offering lessons in pastels, charcoal, watercolors & oils.

Tina Rodriguez,
BA in Art
San Diego State University

10% OFF
for All New & Returning Students!

Call (757) 206-6101
6935 Richmond Rd.
www.schoolforart.com



"The quality of our entertainment is only surpassed by our food!"
- Randall



Enjoy Dinner, Music & Friends!
A Classic American Grill

- Daily Chef & Tapas Specials
- New wine list featuring over 75 bottled wines
- "Critics Choice & Critics Pick" Best Casual Dining Restaurant - Tidewater Restaurant Review

J.M. Randalls
Blues, Jazz & Beyond

757-259-0406
Corner of Longhill & Olde Towne Rd.
www.jmrandalls.com

"I just concentrated on what I felt. It was simple chords, simple tunes. At the time that was necessary to get the emotions out."

He began to give more time to his music. He taught guitar to friends and to the children of friends on weekends while he held down a full-time job during the week. Then something happened that shifted his priorities. "I was trying to get back into the music when I had an accident on the job," he says. "I cut the tendons in my thumb. I wasn't sure if I would be able to play again." His mother was the medical staff coordinator at Williamsburg Community Hospital, and he called her to see if she knew of a good orthopedic surgeon that he should see. Not wasting any time, Shane's mother called the hospital in Winchester, Virginia to locate the closest and best orthopedic surgeon for her son. "After surgery, I woke up with a cast on my hand," Shane says. "I decided that if I could still play guitar once my hand healed, I would dedicate a lot more time to music." Then he adds with a laugh, "I wish I could have realized things like that without these drastic wake-up calls."

With that vow to give music more focus, Shane seemed to open up possibilities that he might have ignored before. His great-great uncle was a talented musician. A mandolin that the man had made is still in the family, and Shane's grandmother had shown it to him on one of his trips to Williamsburg. "She told me to take it and have it re-strung," Shane says. "I went into New Town to Authentic Guitars and found my former guitar teacher Mike Hansen running the store." Shane asked if the store needed any instructors. "I started with just a few days of work," Shane says, "now it has evolved into a full-time career."

Sometimes it takes a great effort to find a creative avenue, but Shane believes it found him. "I feel like I've been nudged in this direction more and more," he explains. "It's been the path of least resistance lately, where it used to feel like I was struggling to play my music. My confidence has grown, and I feel like I'm coming into being a musician."

For years, Shane's friends and family encouraged him to record his music, to create a CD of his songs. Shane and his band Broken Rules have released their new CD on Amazon and iTunes. The band consists of Shane on vocals and guitar, Drew Hutchinson on bass and Josh Wilson on drums. "I came up with that name 'Broken Rules' from when I went to school," Shane explains, "and I knew next to nothing. They told me all these rules that had to be followed to make music." Shane's way bypassed some rules and followed others. "When the professors explained these rules, I told them I break those rules all the time," he says with a laugh. "They said that was okay, but I needed to know why and when to break the rules, and to break them for artistic sake, not just because I didn't know about them."

Now Shane helps his students know the rules and when to break them. "The biggest opportunity for me was becoming an instructor," Shane says. "That changed everything. It brought purpose into my life. I love going out and helping somebody become a better musician."

With the support of his mother and father, grandmother and late grandfather, plus girlfriend Sheila, Shane has settled into Williamsburg as his creative center. "I grew up in Newport News and this area," he says. "People tend to go other places to try and make it. I have friends all over the country trying to make it as musicians somewhere else. I thought I would have to go away from here to be successful. The opposite happened. I didn't do so well far away. I came home and got close to family again then I fell into the job that was perfect for me. Life has really come together. I feel very lucky to be able to teach what I love to excited students and play music with great friends." NDN