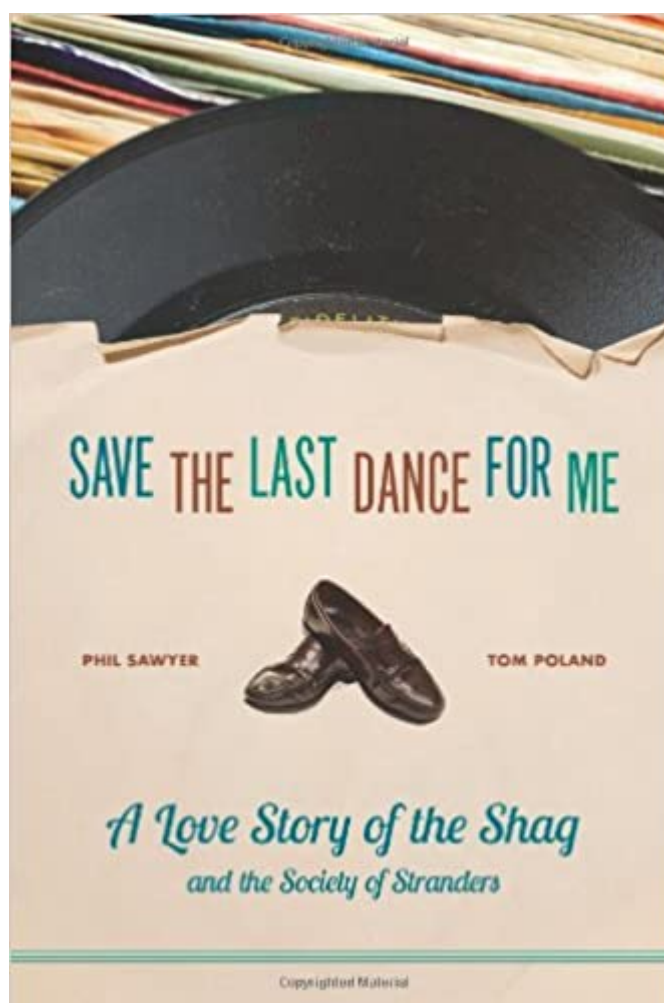


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# Save The Last Dance For Me: A Love Story Of The Shag And The Society Of Stranders



## Synopsis

The shag, the official state dance of North and South Carolina, originated in the 1930s. The dance quickly spread throughout the South, where it became a legend in many beach regions. *Save the Last Dance for Me* is the story of the shag and the development of the Society of Stranders, an organization devoted to the dance and its culture. In *Save the Last Dance for Me*, Phil Sawyer and Tom Poland retell the story of the legendary dance and its iconic presence at Ocean Drive, Myrtle Beach, and other South Carolina beaches. While contributing memories of shagging on Ocean Drive, Sawyer and Poland also discuss the actual dance steps that make up the shag. With the retelling of the shag story comes the unique story of the Society of Stranders. Formed in 1980 after a Red Sea Balsam bottle containing an SOS note washed ashore as a practical joke, what resulted was increased national publicity and five thousand "strand-ers" flocking to Ocean Drive Beach to show their support for the shag culture. The Society of Stranders, or SOS, and the Association of Carolina Shag Clubs together now consist of more than fifteen thousand members. The shag's past, present, and future are described here with archival and contemporary photographs. The shag has become an important part of coastal culture for thousands, particularly in North Myrtle Beach, a community that has embraced the legacy of this dance. *Save the Last Dance for Me* tells the story of cultural change, including the separation and integration of races, and chronicles how rhythm and blues, Motown, and beach music evolved to create a social phenomenon that is still popular today.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Dr. Phil Sawyer is one of a kind, and in the small genre of Carolina shag history books, *Save the*

Last Dance for Me is also one of a kind. You are about to learn that, decades ago, a radical merger of cultures and customs created a social dance more graceful and beautiful than the sum of its partners. By the time you finish, you will know that, without Phil Sawyer's love for the dance and his loyalty to it, the Society of Stranders would have drifted into oblivion. The 15,000 SOS dancers, young and old, who continue to migrate to the beach three times every year owe Phil big time."--Richard S. Durlach, dance instructor, University of South Carolina Department of Theatre and Dance

"A must read for all who have, at one time or another, been touched by the shag and the music that made it possible. Save the Last Dance for Me presents an excellent history of our dance, the shag, emphasizing how it started, the people, the places, the music, the good times and the bad, and the growth and preservation. If you love the shag, you will love this book."--Charlie Womble and Jackie McGee, nine-time National Shag Champions

"The S.O.S. was a product of serendipity, good luck, and shoot-from-the-hip planning. Intended to be a one-time reunion for a few hundred former Ocean Drive Beach teenage diehards of the 40s and 50s, the beach party is still going on after some thirty-two years of revelry. It has been attended by many tens of thousands! Tom Poland and Phil Sawyer have captured in Save the Last Dance for Me some of the joie de vivre, fun and hijinks that went into making the South's largest adult party such a roaring success!"--Gene Laughter, S.O.S. Godfather

We spent more than three years researching and writing this book. For me it revealed much about the blues and how the British Invasion took place. It also revealed the paths the music and dance took to their mutual identity as beach music and the shag. --Tom Poland --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Been looking for a book on Shag Dancing for a long time...this was everything I expected!!

This is an excellent book which gives you the history/origins of the shag dance. Having grown up in the Carolinas and a member of many Shag clubs I found this book to be very interesting reading. While people talk about the Carolina Shag as a dance, it really is more of a philosophy and way of life that surrounds it as well. All of you have to do is attend one of the Spring Safari or Fall Migrations at North Myrtle beach to gain an appreciation of the comraderie and love of the dance. Great reading for Shaggers

Very good book, well written, interesting read!

Sawyer and Pollard wrote a winner in the history of Shag in the south. This history needs to be written before it disappears. Buy it today.

Good.

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