

# Shirley Jones performs in Hamlet

By Wade Allen  
Editor

Academy Award winner Shirley Jones played to a near sold-out crowd on Feb. 23 at the Richmond Community College in Hamlet. Her show, entitled "A Night at the Oscars with Shirley Jones" featured her performing film and stage hits from her career.

Backed up by the Hollywood Concert Orchestra, which is conducted by James Hohmeyer, Jones sang her way through nearly 60 years of classic music scores including "Oklahoma!" and "April Love."



Actress Shirley Jones is prepared to sign autographs at Richmond Community College in Hamlet on Feb. 23. Jones is known for her role as Shirley Partridge in the pop culture television show "The Partridge Family."

Twenty minutes after the show, Jones emerged in the lobby of the auditorium to sign autographs for die-hard fans. Although most of the crowd had already left, Jones made herself available and smiled as she shook hands and waved to fans.

## Autographs

Selling autographed pictures, CDs and DVDs, Jones greeted about 25 fans and posed for pictures with a few of them. Some people came toting color cast pictures from "The Partridge Family," featuring Jones as Shirley Partridge. The show was a major pop culture phe-

nomenon in the 1970s and sparked the career of Jones' real-life stepson, David Cassidy.

LP albums were everywhere; DVD sets were being opened for autographing; and dozens of color glossy headshots lined the table in front of Jones as she autographed any piece of memorabilia that was laid before her.

## Video

Jones chose to open the show with a brief video on an overhead projector featuring highlights of her career, which has spanned over 50 years. During a portion of the video dedicated to her history in motion pictures, Jones was shown in love scenes with more than 20 of the most famous leading actors that Hollywood has ever known, including Gordon MacRae and Pat Boone.

"I know that you all want to know who the best kisser was," Jones said, as the video ended. "It was Burt Lancaster."

## "Oklahoma!"

Jones made her film debut in 1955 when she starred in "Oklahoma!" with MacRae. When Jones emerged from backstage, she began singing "Oh What a Beautiful Morning" and the crowd went wild. Receiving a standing ovation after the completion of the song, Jones immediately launched into "April



The Pine Needle editor Wade Allen visits with entertainer Shirley Jones following her concert on Feb. 23 in Hamlet. Jones sang many of her classic hits from her 50-year career in film, television and stage.

Love."

Jones said that she enjoyed playing wholesome characters, like in "Oklahoma!" but also enjoyed venturing to other projects. Her role in "Elmer Gantry" won her an Oscar in 1960, solidifying her place in show business.

"I've played good roles over the years, but I had to play a prostitute to win an Academy Award," Jones said, jokingly.

When Jones had finished singing her hits, she announced that she would be singing one last number, "There's No Business Like Show Business." Dancing around the stage, the 75-year-old didn't miss a beat and the audience applauded louder than ever.

## Film scores

When Jones wasn't singing her classic songs, the Hollywood Concert

Orchestra performed the scores to major motion pictures from the past 100 years including "E.T.: The Extra Terrestrial," "The Sound of Music," "Forrest Gump," "Chicago," "West Side Story," "Schindler's List," "Titanic," and "Gone With The Wind."

Although all of the scores performed by the orchestra received a round of applause, "E.T.: The Extra Terrestrial" received a standing ovation.

## Hardees patron serves others daily

By Will Wade  
Staff Writer

When you visit Hardees in Pembroke in the morning, there are two things guaranteed: fresh biscuits and a warm greeting from Bundy Locklear. Locklear is a retired educator with one thing in mind, to help others.

Every morning Locklear clips coupons he has gathered throughout the day, organizes them, staples them and then visits Hardees in Pembroke to pass them out to customers standing in line.

The retired educator said he "wants to make people aware that you can save money and not to be afraid to save money. I give coupons to some people, and they think there is something sinister about it, but it is not."

Locklear said he just loves to give and has all types of coupons, but Hardees is his favorite. Locklear has been passing out coupons at Hardees for 15 years and said he doesn't plan to stop anytime soon.

Hardees shift manager Christian Medlin said she

enjoys Locklear coming to the store and helping people save. She said he is a nice guy and greets all of the customers and offers them a coupon.

Medlin has been working at Hardees in Pembroke for three years, and she said Locklear has been helping people there for as long as she can remember.

Locklear has four children, eight grandchildren and has been married for 51 years. He lives in Pembroke and retired from Purnell Swett High School in 1996.



At the Hardees located in downtown Pembroke, Bundy Locklear offers coupons to customers daily.

## Indie rock band creates unique sound that cannot be replicated by others

By Kayloni Wyatt  
Managing Editor

The indie rock band Vampire Weekend is hands down the most uniquely creative band to come out in the past three years. Their ability to infuse African influenced music into an unforgettable indie sound is astonishing.

Their self-titled first album put them on the map with other New York based bands such as MGMT, White Rabbits and Matt & Kim.

The band hails from Brooklyn, N.Y., and formed in 2006. That same year they signed with XL Recordings, which is home to musicians such as Radiohead, M.I.A. and Adele. The band garnered a lot of attention when bloggers caught wind of their unusual sound.

They've been compared to the equally artistic band The Shins. They've made comments describing their sound as "Upper West Side Soweto."

Lead singer Ezra Koenig and drummer Chris Tomson were members of a comedy rap band called "L' Homme Run." Rounding out the quartet is Chris Baio as bass guitar and backing vocals and Romtam Batmanglij playing keyboard, guitar and additional backing vocals. All the members of the

band met while attending Columbia State University.

Their debut album was released January 2008. The first single off the album, "Cape Cod Kwassa Kwassa" was released in 2007.

The widely known single "A-Punk" was the second single off the album. It helped the record skyrocket to gold in the following months.

The album was later proclaimed as one of the best of 2008, and there's no arguing with that statement.

Koenig has a mind of his own that seems as though he's channeling his inner hipster.

No other band can even come close to the sounds that Vampire Weekend creates.

Their new album, Contra, is a very powerful follow-up to the previous album. Instead of staying neutral with their sound, they branched out to more intriguing rhythms.

Contra is the band's first number one on the Billboard 200.

Even though some people believe auto tune is ruining the music industry, track four "California English" features the obstruct sound. Vampire Weekend embraces the intolerable technique and makes it decent.

Koenig experiments with his voice by singing in several different voices.

The first single off the album, "Cousins," sounds fast paced and lively almost like "A-punk."

There's a lot of energy in most of the songs on the Contra album.

They achieved something that most remarkable new bands are unable to achieve, developing an astounding follow-up album.

"Giving up the gun," the second single from Contra, is exceeding the same expectations as their previous singles. The song embodies clever guitar riffs.

"Taxi Cab" slows down the fast paced album with its simplicity and smooth vocals. The instant the song plays, a lucid feeling approaches. The song could be mistaken for the work of The Killers, with its humble but artistic lyrics.

Another song on the album, "I think Ur a Contra," has the sense of simplicity and Koenig's vocals immediately attract attention.

The first album was enjoyable and displayed their refreshingly new sound. The following album is close to musical bliss. Vampire Weekend now and will forever have a special place in the Indie Playlist of greatness.

Vampire Weekend will be performing in Asheville, N.C., April 6 at the Orange Peel.