

December 13, 2007

**Getting To Know ...**

**Marc Lewis, who performs with the Washington Revels.**

— Lea Mae Rice

For Marc Lewis, the Washington Revels is a family tradition. His father, Greg Lewis, is executive director of the performance and cultural group; his mother Susan and brothers Chris and Trevor have been involved in various ways for at least 23 years. Marc Lewis himself has appeared in Revels performances since he was a child.

Off the stage, the Fairfax resident enjoys games. At age 12, he learned how to build a simple computer program and was hooked. A graduate of The Potomac School and Bucknell University, he now works as a software engineer for EA Mythic, a studio of game developer Electronic Arts. In his spare time he also plays Frisbee, reads and sings in two choirs along with Revels.

Each year, the Revels puts on a Christmas performance with a different theme; past years have included early American, Scandinavian and Victorian London. This year, which is the Revels' 25th anniversary, is significant for Lewis: he has a solo performance, which he has never had before.

Lewis hopes the production can bring audience and performers together. "The more I can persuade the audience to join in, the more fun actors and audience alike will have," he said. He shares some thoughts on his community, Revels and this year's Christmas performance.

**Favorite local restaurant or place in the community?**

My favorite local restaurant would have to be Saravanh Palace. Amazing Indian vegetarian cuisine, and it's right around the corner from me. Sold my family on it as well, so much so that they have spent some family events out at my apartment instead of my parents' house in Chevy Chase simply so we could do dinner there.

**You've been involved with the Washington Revels since you were very young. What performance or performances stand out in your mind and why?**

Well now, the interesting answer involves a costume that no teen boy would have been entirely comfortable in, but out of all of the themes Revels has had would have to say our Shepherd Alley was very memorable. I was in it with two of my best friends, and there was one number, "Children Go Where I Send Thee," which involved all of the teen chorus running around the stage, sliding, leaping and falling everywhere trying to act out each part of the song. Last year's show was memorable as well because it was the first year that my older brother and I were the two dancers for the song Lord of the Dance, which traditionally ends the first act, and my father was the soloist. It was great to be able to do that together.

**What do you enjoy most about performing?**

The community that builds up around it, and by that I don't just mean the relationships with the cast, crew and production staff, but with the audience as well. Revels has always tried to include the audience in the community, whether through songs that the audience sings with the chorus, numbers that get members of the audience on stage, or dances that weave their way through the theater and the lobby that the audience is encouraged to join in. In recent years I've met a family that travels to D.C. from Pittsburgh every year to come and watch the show, and there are definitely other people I look for every year out in the audience as well.

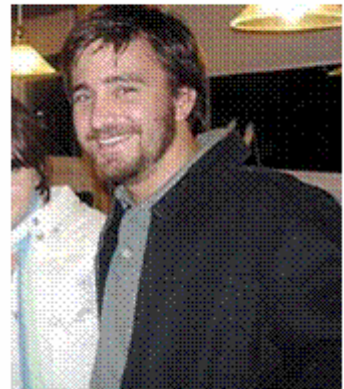
**What is the biggest challenge in performing?**

The challenges change from person to person. Some people have some stage-fright, others — myself included — can't master accents without a lot of work. Hardest thing, though, is to stay in character. You are on stage with people you've grown familiar with over the months of rehearsal, but you can't just be yourself with them when on stage; you have to be aware of your costume, accent, profession, and more. Instinctual actions such as bowing and greeting have to be rethought, since the mannerisms can change depending on your character.

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The Christmas Revels are Friday, Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 15 at 2 and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 16 at 2 p.m. at the Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st St. NW, Washington, D.C. Tickets are \$12-\$14, to order visit [www.washingtonrevels.tix.com](http://www.washingtonrevels.tix.com) or call 1-800-595-4849. For more info, see [www.revelsdc.org](http://www.revelsdc.org).



Marc Lewis