



## STEPHEN BAREFOOT, Producer

While he's spent most of his career in various endeavors within the field of performing arts and artist representation, it was his peripheral involvement in Minnow Media's 2017 documentary "The Malpass Brothers: Heading Home" that gave birth to a deep desire to "do another one." So here the team comes together again, telling the life story of Carol Sloane - a world-renowned jazz singer Barefoot first met when he was a 20-something bartender at a club called "The Frog" in Raleigh.

Barefoot grew up a 4-H swine and cotton champion on a farm in rural eastern NC, headed off to journalism school at UNC-Chapel Hill, then spent three years as a Peace Corps volunteer in East Africa where he moonlighted as an actor/singer with Kenya National Theatre in Nairobi. Getting back to the US, he toured with a new James Thurber-based musical before realizing the life of a bus-and-truck touring actor wasn't his dream. He relocated to Vermont and worked for The Experiment in International Living for several years before resigning that position in order to attend Ringling Bros. Clown College in FL. Turned out he jumped the gun on leaving the job at EIL, as Clown College declined his application for enrollment. So much for that circus...

That's when he returned to NC - and to the jazz club The Frog & Nightgown in Raleigh. In the early 80s, he opened his own jazz/cabaret supper club called Stephen's, After All in Chapel Hill where he reunited with Carol Sloane as his booking partner to present a line-up of top-tier jazz notables. He has remained tethered to arts presenting, production and artist representation for the past forty-plus years.

Barefoot has produced live commemorative events featuring James Taylor, The Radio City Rockettes, Charles Kuralt, Perry Como, Jeff Foxworthy, Faith Hill & Tim McGraw and others. He was managing director of the historic 1926 Carolina Theatre in Durham, NC for a number of years leading up to the venue's restoration in the late 80s. He directed programming for historic Thalian Hall (1858) in Wilmington, NC for twenty years, and served as executive director of the 200-member North Carolina Presenters Consortium for 14 years. Through his agency goingbarefoot•inc., he currently represents acclaimed actor/playwright Mike Wiley and the vintage country group The Malpass Brothers.

Barefoot is a Belo Award-winning Airbnb host in Durham, NC and recipient of Airbnb's global "Host Story" award. When he sneaks time or runs away to a writing retreat, he drafts another chapter to his "dubious" pending memoir *Things I Should've Written Down Before I Died*.

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