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## Young Renzo walks like a warrior into stardom

*photographer e. yaussy*

He walked out of Wando just like everybody else, and walked back in a star. This year's Spirit Week would be the first time **Lorenzo Hardee**, better known as the rapper Young Renzo or the Young Fox, would return to his alma mater.

Hardee knew he wanted to pursue a musical career at a young age.

"I was four years old playing drums in a local church, and I knew that was for me," Hardee said.

Although he seems to be put together now, he wasn't always this way. In recent years Hardee said he has put his life on the right track, which he hopes will lead to stardom.

"I think it's kinda cool that he started out pretty rough and made his way to where everyone knows him... he shows that your past doesn't really define you," **Emma Scott**, 10, said.

Hardee expressed how facing hardships at a young age has influenced the person he has become; he relies on religion and his daughter, Maddy, for inspiration.

"God before everything and I have a 5-year-old daughter so my motivation is to succeed (for her)," Hardee said.

Hardee knew his music career had taken off when a manager

moved from New York to Charleston in order to assist him. They worked together to ensure a successful career. Hardee even chose a pseudonym to perform with.

"Calling myself the Young Fox is just part of my character. I wear the fox tail because no matter if I was singing, rapping or dancing, if I was walking in the mall right now you're still gonna want to know why he is wearing a fox tail. It catches people's attention. As long as I draw attention, if you don't remember my name, Young Renzo, you remember the kid that performed with the fox tail, so that's why I am the Young Fox. I have them in every color," Hardee said.

Hardee hasn't let the stardom get to him and goes out of his way to interact with fans.

"I just really liked meeting him and just thought he was really nice. Not what I was expecting," **Leken Sallie**, 11, said.

Being a Wando alumni, Hardee can relate to where students are today.

"I walked these halls and there were a lot of people that didn't think I was gonna go anywhere... you're the person that's gonna determine where you're gonna go," said Hardee.

*-Sophie Mauerhan*

this is SPIRIT WEEK 89

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