

# HONEYBEE, WON'T YOU BE MY BAKERY

In Oxford, Shannon Adams crafts  
gourmet sweets and local treats

by Lisa Howorth



OXFORD IS LUCKY to have a number of great locally owned bakeries, including Bottletree, just off the Oxford Square, and Honeybee Bakery, the latest golden baby Jesus in the king cake of good places to eat in our little town. (Also worth your patronage is Lusa, a new Portuguese bakery on North Lamar.)

Late in the morning on a recent Friday, Honeybee was, forgive me, a hive of activity. A cloud of sugar and flour swirled in the shoebox café. There had been a cake drama about an order going to the wrong frat house. “There were two Sigma-somethings!” said proprietor Shannon Adams, who buzzed about the lemon-yellow storefront, set in the back corner of a strip mall.

Honeybee is a family operation. Shannon leads. Her brothers follow: Sean got his culinary training at the Colorado Art Institute; Brian is a student and a photographer; Chris was a walk-on football player at Ole Miss.

“We fight a lot,” says Shannon. “Everyone has an opinion about how we should do things, but Big Sister is right.”

At Honeybee, the sprouted twelve-grain loaf relies on flax, spelt, buckwheat, corn, sesame, oat, and God knows what-all else. On

the sweet side of the case, there are trifles, chess pies, berry cobblers, strawberry layer cakes, vanilla cupcakes, and bread puddings.

Shannon crafts soup specials daily, too, according to what farmers Doug Davis and Daniel Doyle of Yocona Bottom Farms bring to the back door. There’s a B.L.T sandwich, and also an A.L.T., built on a base of avocado. Breakfast features some of the best huevos rancheros north of the Rio Grande.

While a ceramics student at Ole Miss, Shannon waited tables at City Grocery. Her first business venture was a booth at the Mid Town Farmers Market, where she sold baked goods to people who wanted bread that wasn’t just an envelope for a sandwich and pastry that wasn’t just sugar and preservatives.

At Honeybee, she has realized her potential and delivered Oxford its next great bakery.

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