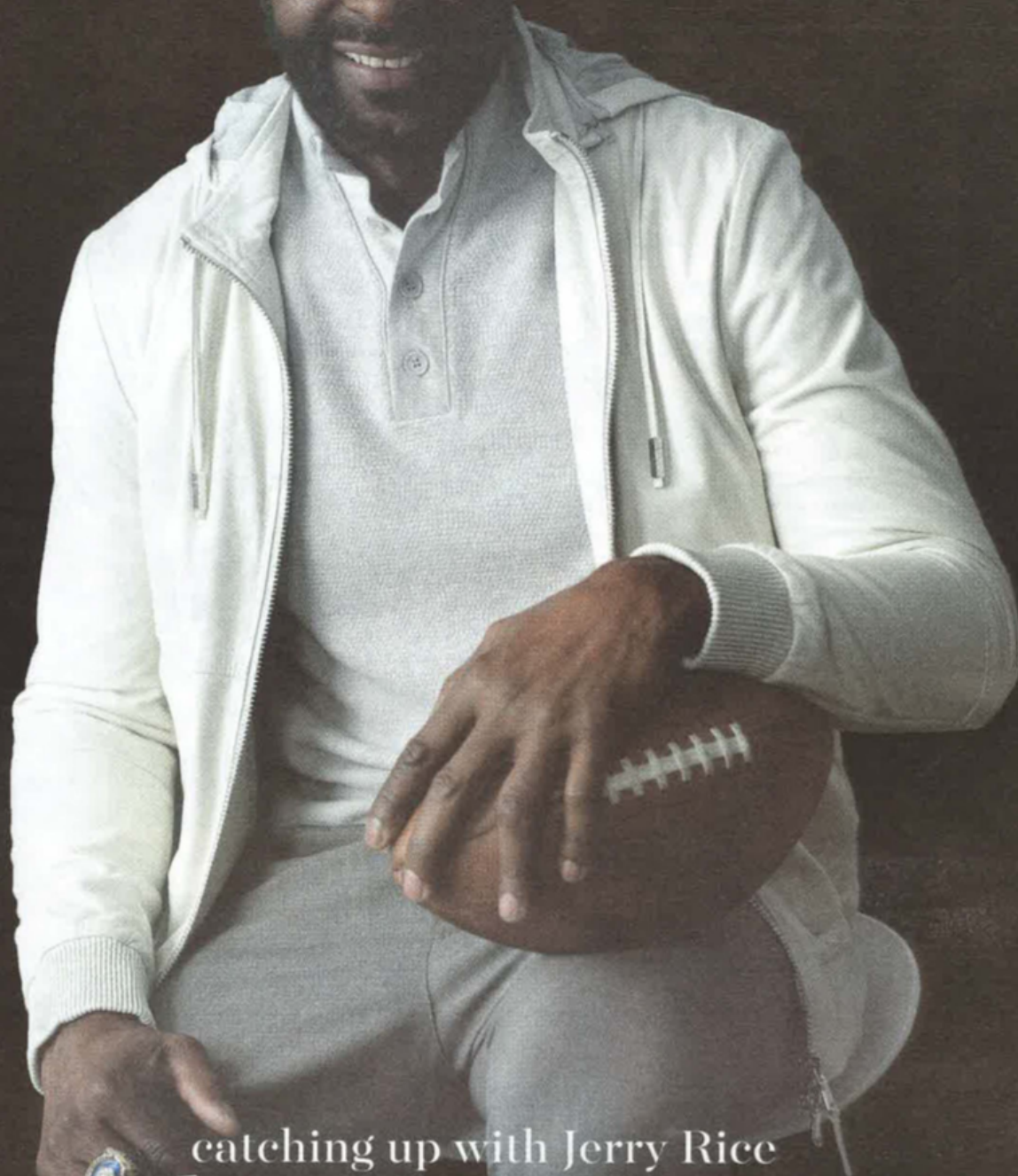


PENINSULA *style*



catching up with Jerry Rice
the LOVE issue

A PUBLICATION OF THE DAILY JOURNAL

Peninsula Ballet Theatre
Presents

Cinderella



Carlmont Performing
Arts Center
February 25 & 26

Cinderella Tea Room
Opens Each Day 3PM.
Tea Served at 3:15PM at
1880 S. Grant St, San Mateo

Shorted version
for Tots in San Mateo.
March 4 & 5, Noon, 2:30PM, 4:30PM.

PeninsulaBallet.org

LOVING DESIGN

BY DAVE NEWLANDS

"We live down the street and we work out together, and we work together. It's kind of crazy, we actually end up hanging out together a lot."



The two were young and working summers at a hotel in Portland, Maine. Leslie Lamarre, Grange's wife and business partner, had just graduated high school, and Grange was just out of college. Strictly speaking, Lamarre did not fall in love with Grange at first sight. She fell in love with his canoe.

"He was good friends with my brother who also worked up there and I hadn't even met him yet," Lamarre recalled. "One day I saw this brilliant canvas canoe with varnished ribs and rope woven seats. It was meticulous. I was like, oh my god that's gorgeous... his older brother was there and said, 'Do you like that? My brother made that...' It was a work of art. Now Randy's crying."

It wasn't long after that she did fall in love with Grange. Like many young lovers, they planned out their dreams of "someday." For them, it was a fixer-upper van and a cross-country road trip. As a reporter on a budget, Lamarre began socking away \$25 a week, and when she had \$5,000 she told Grange the good news. Grange scrambled to match her road trip fund and eventually they bought a Dodge van, and converted it into a Westfalia-style camper.

"We went on this zig-zaggy trip across the country and into Mexico and Guatemala, so it was 3 or 4 months," Lamarre said. "I had a sister in Foster City, so we figured we would stop and visit and we would find jobs here if we wanted to stay, and if not we'd move on."

"I got a job pretty quick in San Jose, and, bang! We just never left," Grange said.

The two married at City Hall in San Francisco in 1988. Lamarre freelanced for a few local publications, and Grange pursued architecture.

When one of Grange's designs won a Better Homes & Gardens contest he began to get more big-ticket clients with more ambitious projects.

"I saw that he had these amazing opportunities and all of a sudden Randy called me at the office saying, 'I got this really weird phone message,'" Lamarre said. "It was from [the government architect of Tonga]. I'm like, 'Oh my god this guy's from



Tonga he wants you to do a project for the king! ... I've got to help you get this thing off the ground. You focus on the architecture and I'll handle the business."

When she started pitching in her ideas for interior design, that's when TRG Architecture and Interior Design was born.

"Leslie's done more than anybody to actually get the business going," Grange said. "I was doing all my design work and everything, and she just kind of gravitated toward setting things up, so she probably does too much work."

"Well, don't worry about that," Lamarre pitched in with a smile.

Since their career paths came together, Lamarre and Grange have been almost inseparable. Work, play, family: they do it all together.

"We live down the street and we work out together, and we work together. It's kind of crazy, we actually end up hanging out together a lot," Grange said.

They try to keep a balance – work stays at work and they prioritize quality time – but there's no secret.

"It's always different and always changing, so it's never a grind," Lamarre said.

"It would almost be weird if [she] had a job in the city or something, and I had my architecture," Grange said. "It feels natural to work together."

Work is definitely the wild card in their lives. The thrill for them is not knowing what's next.

"I guess what makes it a fun profession is that each one of these projects is a different kind of puzzle," Grange said. "I don't know if I would have a specific dream project."

For now, what's next is developing the business in their new location. They moved from downtown Burlingame a year ago to their new San Mateo office, and they have been enjoying the freedom of personalizing the new space.

Outside of work, their daughter is graduating college this year. Their son is graduating high school and, fittingly, building his first canoe. So this really is the year for Grange and Lamarre to look back. Their present lives are mirroring their past so nicely.

The two have come a long way since building canoes and fixing up vans, but they're still windsurfing, and finishing each other's sentences, and sharing teary-eyed reminiscences.

They may be business partners with award-winning projects, and parents of two kids about to enter the real world, but at heart, Randy Grange and Leslie Lamarre are still just two kids in love.