

Life after football, Mandarich finds second career

Tony Mandarich doesn't have the attitude of a man who's been bashed by just about every football analyst.

Instead, he's thankful, happy and enjoying a second career working along side his wife Char.

And while the second overall pick in the 1989 draft no longer puts defensive linemen on their backs, he still has the passion and drive of a professional athlete.

Photography is his new football.

"He's taken the passion, the drive, the intensity and desire, which he did with football, and now directed it towards photography," says Char. "You can't help but succeed with all that."

Recently, the couple, who live on the border of Fountain Hills in North Scottsdale, unveiled a new look to their website complete with video and a blog about their photo shoots and experiences.

Mandarich, 40, and Char, who has been a professional photographer for 15 years, have studios in Phoenix and Toronto. They travel all over the United States doing commercial, advertising and custom photography.

Mandarich, who says he's always had a passion for photography, was able to devote more time to it after he and Char were married in 2004.

The two then decided to devote their full-time professional pursuit to creating a new concept in commercial photography.

Life shaping

Mandarich played in the 1988 Rose Bowl for Michigan State University. He was named first-team All-American, a Heisman Trophy finalist and a two-time Big Ten Lineman of the Year.

He was the Green Bay Packers' No. 1 pick in the 1989 draft, the second player taken overall. But Mandarich never lived up to the hype and was released in 1991, after

playing in 45 games for Green Bay.

He was out of football for five years, but was "lucky" enough to make a comeback with the Indianapolis Colts in 1996. He retired in 1998, this time under the terms he was happy with, says Mandarich.

And while his football career didn't go as well as some might have hoped, Mandarich isn't bitter about his experiences.

"My football career was full of adversity and full of great, great times," he says. "I don't regret any of it, good or bad."

Mandarich adds he's happy with the person he is today and realizes what he has become is a direct result of

those experiences good and bad.

"I didn't always have that attitude," says Mandarich.

Mandarich and Char dated in college. Char's dad was a football coach at Michigan State.

While the two didn't see each other after college, they reconnected through friends years later.

"I was very pleasantly surprised," Char says of how Tony turned out.

"I think she was shocked more than surprised," says Tony.

Please see Mandarich page 9



Tony and Char Mandarich.

MARY FRANCES

Now At:

Kay Kinder's
 Fountain
 Fashions

Prepare to fall in love . . .

Mon-Fri: 10-6
 Sat: 9-5 Sun: 12-5

(480) 837-9014
 www.fountainfashions.com

16605 E. Palisades Blvd, suite 156 Fountain Hills in the Bashas' Plaza

Water's Edge RESTAURANT

Reservations recommended
 Call (480) 816-3515

Open daily for Lunch & Dinner
 Sun-Thurs. 11a.m.-9 p.m.
 Fri.&Sat. 11a.m.-10 p.m.

visit us at www.watersedgerestaurant.net

13014 Saguaro Blvd. Suite 101 On the corner of Parkview & Saguaro

Sample Dinner Menu

- Little Bites
- Blue Crab Cake - Fennel & Celery Root Slaw, Red Pepper Aioli
 - Stone Baked Flat Bread
 - Roasted red peppers, caramelized onions, crumbled fresh goat cheese and extra virgin olive oil
 - Personal Favorites
 - Herb Roasted Chicken Breast - carrots "Two Ways," whipped potato, natural chicken jus
 - Grilled Ribeye - garlic prawn, crab cake, asparagus, truffle risotto, jalapeno honey demi glace
 - Ginger Macadamia Crusted Sea Bass - Asian risotto, grilled asparagus, coconut broth
 - Rosemary Parmesan Breaded Scallops - truffle whipped potatoes, watercress, vanilla cream

Picnic continued from page 4

funds for arts and art education programs throughout Arizona. Since 1992 the League has contributed more than \$2.1 million to numerous organizations benefiting children including The Phoenix Symphony, Scottsdale Center for the Arts, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arts in Education Council, the Phoenix Art Museum, Free Arts of Arizona, and Phoenix Boys Choir.

For additional information about the League or on becoming a member or volunteer, contact SLA at (480) 945-7193 or visit www.ScottsdaleCulinaryFestival.org.

Entertainment

Saturday April 14

Fountain Stage
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Desert Gumbo Band

2:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Alice Tatum

4:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.
Big Nick & the Gila Monsters

7:15 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Chadwicks

Amphitheater Stage
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Dyno Glides

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Cold Shot and the Hurricane
Horns

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Limbs Akimbo

7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Chris Parker Project

Beer Garden
1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
The Instant Classics

Sunday April 15th

Fountain Stage
12 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
Shelby James and the Crying
Shames

2:15 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Gigi Dixon

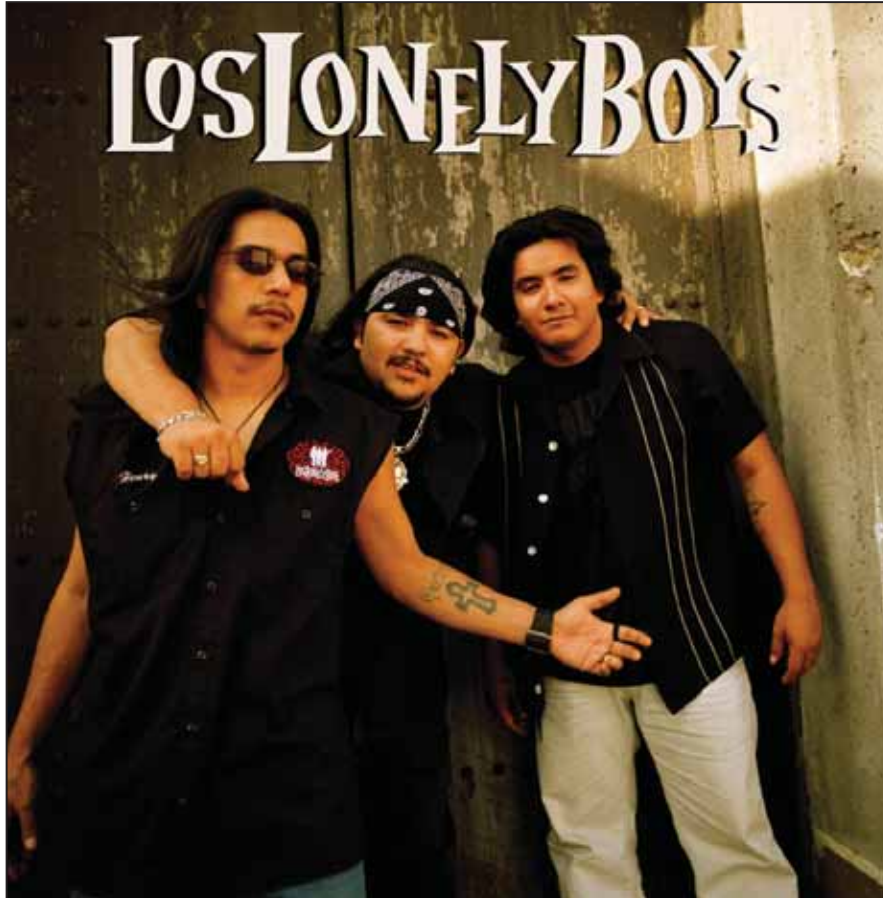
4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Chuck Hall Band

Amphitheater Stage
12 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Jeff Hunt Band

2:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
Sistah Blue

4:45 p.m. - 7 p.m.
Barrio Latino

Beer Garden
1 p.m. - 6 p.m.
The Instant Classics



(Above) Los Lonely Boys will perform at the McDowell Mountain Music Festival in Scottsdale along with Bob Weir, at right, former band member of the Grateful Dead who now plays with Ratdog.

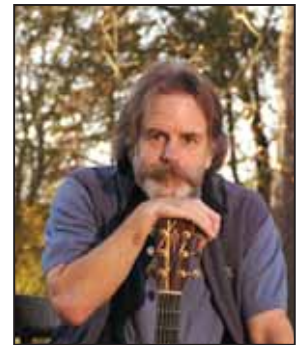
Festival continued from page 5

records of the sixties and early seventies, but Grace is just 23 and her vocals have been compared to Janis Joplin, Bonnie Raitt and Aretha Franklin.

Proceeds from the concerts benefit two local children's service agencies: Boys Hope Girls Hope and Phoenix Day.

Tickets are on sale for the McDowell Mountain Music Festival at ticketmaster.com or by calling ticketmaster at (480) 784-4444. Prices range from \$35 to \$150 VIP passes, but buy early as ticket prices will increase as the event draws closer. Bring chairs and blankets and prepare to enjoy two days of musical entertainment like never before in the Scottsdale/Phoenix area. Camping spots are available.

Visit mmm.net for more information.



Mandarich continued from page 3

"He broke all the stereotypes because he chose to," says Char.

Shooting on the edge

When Mandarich first started out he had a limited knowledge of the fundamentals of photography, but was willing to learn.

And he was willing to learn from Char.

"I've learned so much from Char," says Tony.

And while he may understand the rules, sometimes there are "no rules in Tony land," says Char.

"I'll go out on a limb and risk taking a totally garbage picture, just to get an edgy photo," says Tony.

But, he also knows Char is there to take the safe shots, the one's experience has taught her work.

As a former model she also knows both sides of the business.

When people hire Mandarich Photography, 99 percent of the time they get both Tony and Char.

And depending on the

situation, they play on their strengths to get the best possible photography for the client.

If one seems to have a better rapport with the subject, that person takes the lead.

But when the shooting starts, both have camera in-hand, taking photos from different angles.

Both sets come out very good with a totally different feel, says Char, providing a nice variation for the client.

Now they're taking their photography business to new heights by providing insight into how they shoot in various

situations. Mandarich Photography shares that insight into the world of professional photography, and the glamour and work behind it, through a recently launched blog at www.MandarichStudioBuzz.com, where sample images and free videos from recent shoots are displayed along with some of the tips and techniques behind how the shots were taken and edited in Photoshop, Lightroom, or other editing software (making the blog a resource for the budding photographer).

Mandarich Photography

has also launched an initiative called Mandarich Models today (at www.MandarichModels.com), where any customer can experience an actual model photo shoot.

In addition, Mandarich will be launching a tell-all memoir about his NFL career, rumored steroid use, and more in early 2008.

For additional information on Mandarich Photography or Tony Mandarich's impending memoir, please visit www.MandarichPhotography.com, or contact Char and Tony Mandarich at (480) 277-7888.

Take5AZ.com

WOW! WOW! WOW!

Check us out online!