

Jimmy Dunne

THE MUSIC MAN

HIS TIME AT PARAMOUNT SET HIM ON A JOURNEY BEYOND ANYTHING MOST COULD IMAGINE, FROM WRITING SONGS FOR MORE THAN 1,500 TELEVISION SHOWS, TO EVENTUALLY WORKING WITH ARTISTS SUCH AS WHITNEY HOUSTON, JANET JACKSON, KENNY ROGERS AND MANY MORE.

It was the 4th of July and 27-year-old Jimmy Dunne was driving through LA on his way to Malibu for a celebratory event. At the time, Jimmy was living in Hollywood, writing and producing for the hit series “Happy Days.” That drive would change his life.

After growing up in the Chicago family suburb of La Grange, Illinois and graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Kentucky, Jimmy packed up his Mazda

GLC and headed west to California. He had found success at Paramount Studios with the encouragement of his mentor, Garry Marshall. His time at Paramount set him on a journey beyond anything most could imagine, from writing songs for more than 1,500 television shows, to eventually working with artists such as Whitney Houston, Janet Jackson, Kenny Rogers and many more. His Hollywood dream had become a reality, but little did he know he was about to discover a new dream.

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HIS HOLLYWOOD DREAM HAD BECOME A REALITY, BUT LITTLE DID HE KNOW HE WAS ABOUT TO DISCOVER A NEW DREAM.



JIMMY SITS COMFORTABLY IN HIS STUDIO SURROUNDED BY HIS AWARD WINNING RECORDS

BY ALLIE LEBOS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRUCE HULSE



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-JIMMY DUNNE

On his way to Malibu that day, Jimmy happened to drive through a small town called Pacific Palisades, when the Palisades' annual 4th of July parade caught his attention in a big way. He became inspired by the scene that played out in front of him and reminded him of his hometown parade.

“When I saw the parade, the families with their kids, and the very heart of this town, I thought this is where I want to spend the rest of my life. And so, with that, I bought a house here knowing I would one day raise a family,” recalls Jimmy. Not too long after making his move to the Palisades, Jimmy met his wife, award-winning designer Catherine Bailly Dunne. Their two daughters,

Kaitlyn and Alexis, both attended St. Matthews Parish and then eventually Marymount High School, where Jimmy ran the “Father’s Club.”

According to Jimmy, “the sense of community and of belonging to a place is so alive in the Palisades,” and his passion for maintaining that sense of belonging shows through his own personal involvement and contribution. His latest venture is called “Veterans’ Gardens,” which he has been working on for over four years, with the ribbon cutting slated for June 2019. Jimmy partnered with Bob Hartner (“Co-Citizen of the Year” with Jimmy), renowned developer and architect Bill McGregor, Jay McCann (spearheading the American Legion donation of \$400,000), and

LEFT: BEAMING WITH EXCITEMENT, JIMMY SHARES THE PLANS FOR THE “VETERANS’ GARDENS.”

RIGHT: ALTHOUGH PRIMARILY A KEYBOARDIST, JIMMY SITS WITH HIS GUITAR, A GIFT FROM CAROLE KING AND JAMES TAYLOR





Rob Jernigan, a Managing Principal at Gensler, an award-winning design firm.

Being that Palisades Park has plenty of activities for families and children, the addition of the Veterans' Gardens' bocce courts will breed leagues for so many of the town's elderly members. Veterans' Gardens will also be the home of a beautiful new picnic area for parties, simple get-togethers, and birthdays – for Palisadians of all ages to enjoy.

“Bill McGregor has designed stunning ‘living rooms in the park’ where folks can come to read a book, enjoy a meal, get acquainted with friends, and play cards or chess,” said Jimmy. A flag memorial and commemorative plaques in all the living rooms, along with a donor wall (all uniquely designed by Gensler), will pay tribute to the veterans of Pacific Palisades.

“Is our town unique because it's sheltered by the mountains and the warmth of the Pacific Ocean? Absolutely,” says Jimmy. “Is it exceptional because of our absolutely spectacular new Palisades Village, with its amazing restaurants, theatre and stores? No doubt about it. Or because of our schools and churches and synagogues that nurture the family-centric spirit that permeates *everything* in our town? You bet. But the true beauty of our town, and heart of our town – it's our people. That's what makes the Palisades – the Palisades...happy, full of life people of every age and walk of life who are so appreciative to be a part of this Palisades family.”

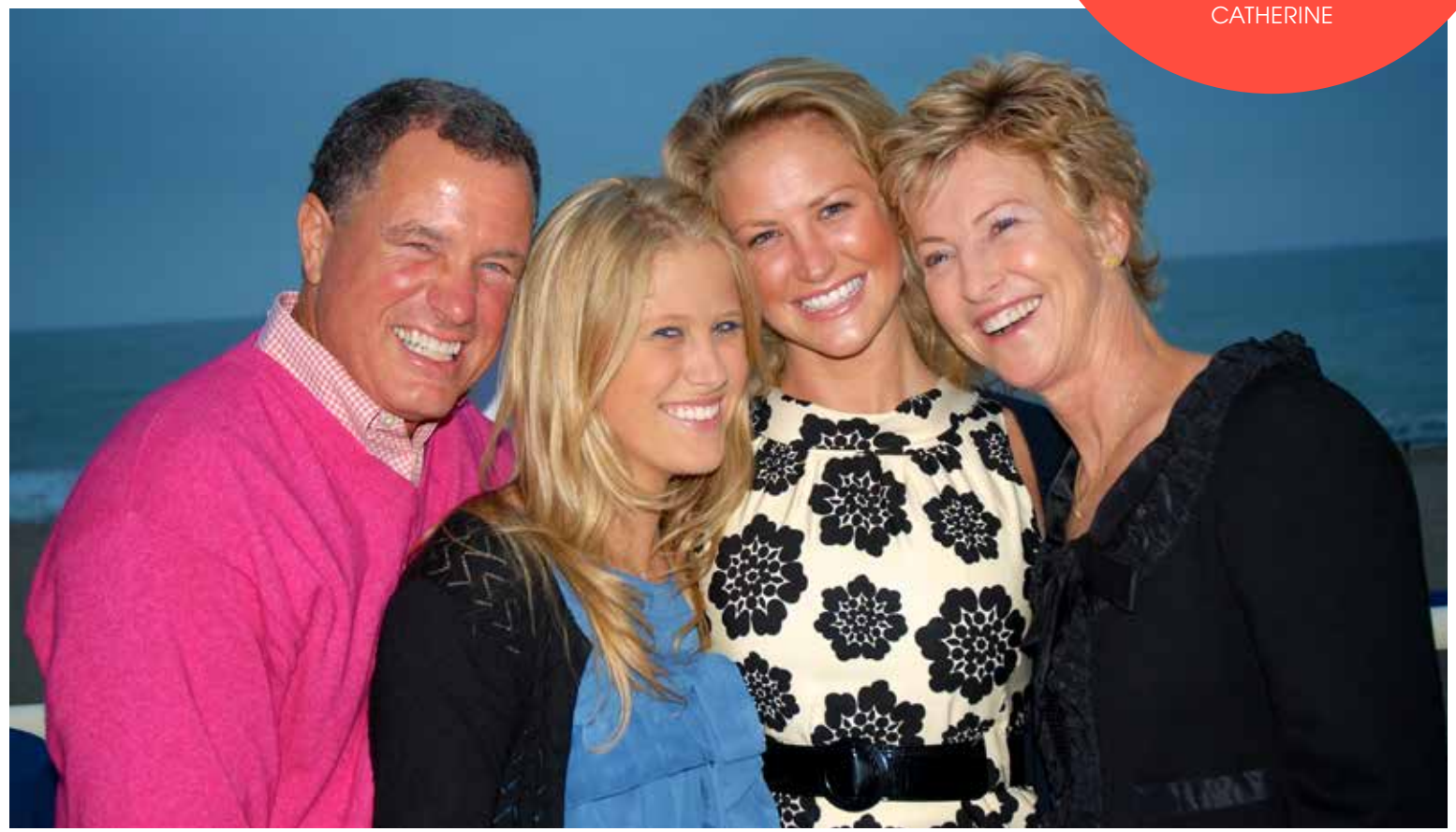
Jimmy has been a voice in the Palisades since he arrived. He founded and ran both the California Paddle Tennis Conference and the California Beach Volleyball Conference (in their 16th year), where thousands of kids on the beach have played 15,000+ matches over the years. He's coached kids in town in every sport and art imaginable – and believes you can learn about life and who you are through sports and arts in ways you can't find in a book.

Jimmy's passion for providing children with the best opportunities possible also led him to his role as a principal of the LA County's Sheriff's Youth Foundation, where he reimagined all arms of the Foundation for its 1,700+ kids while significantly increasing revenues.

From his diverse background in music production (ranging from pop to country to R&B) to his uncanny ability to tell a touching story within a three-minute song, Jimmy Dunne is a man of many talents and passions. Jimmy founded Inspire Entertainment (a leading music and branding firm), creating industry-leading campaigns for companies such as Whole Foods, USA Gymnastics, Visa, JC Penney, MS Society, UPS, Caruso, Staples, CBRE and so many more.



LEFT: RELAXING ON FRONT PORCH OF HIS PACIFIC PALISADES HOME. **TOP RIGHT:** JIMMY WITH HIS ADORING WIFE, CATHERINE BAILLY DUNNE, AN INTERIOR DESIGNER. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** JIMMY WITH HIS BEAUTIFUL FAMILY - DAUGHTERS, ALEXIS AND KAITLYN AND WIFE, CATHERINE



WHAT I'M MOST EXCITED ABOUT WITH "VETERANS GARDENS" IS THE FACT THAT IT WILL GATHER PEOPLE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE SENSE OF COMMUNITY THAT WE ALL APPRECIATE SO MUCH."

-JIMMY DUNNE



He's produced many large-scale charitable multi-media events for foundations and corporations, and he's currently writing a book for Loyola Press. He's a keynote speaker at numerous music and media industry, corporate and university events.

Given his various contributions and accomplishments to both the Palisades and beyond, it's no wonder that Jimmy was recently named Pacific Palisades' "Citizen of the Year."

In his free time, you can find Jimmy playing bocce at the Bel-Air Bay and the Beach Club, spending time with his wife and daughters, or maybe even writing the alma mater song for your university. The one thing that can be certain, each day in the life of Jimmy Dunne is one filled with passion, purpose and love for the Palisades.

JIMMY ENVISIONS WHAT THE VETERANS GARDENS WILL BECOME

"When I really think about the big picture, if I could be surrounded by any group of great friends, it would be the ones that I have right now. If I could pick absolutely any woman to share a life with, it would be my wife, Catherine Bailly Dunne. I'm the luckiest man in the world to have my two girls in my life. And if there were any town in the whole world that I could live in, to raise my family in and to experience this journey of life -- it would be Pacific Palisades, California."

- Jimmy Dunne



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