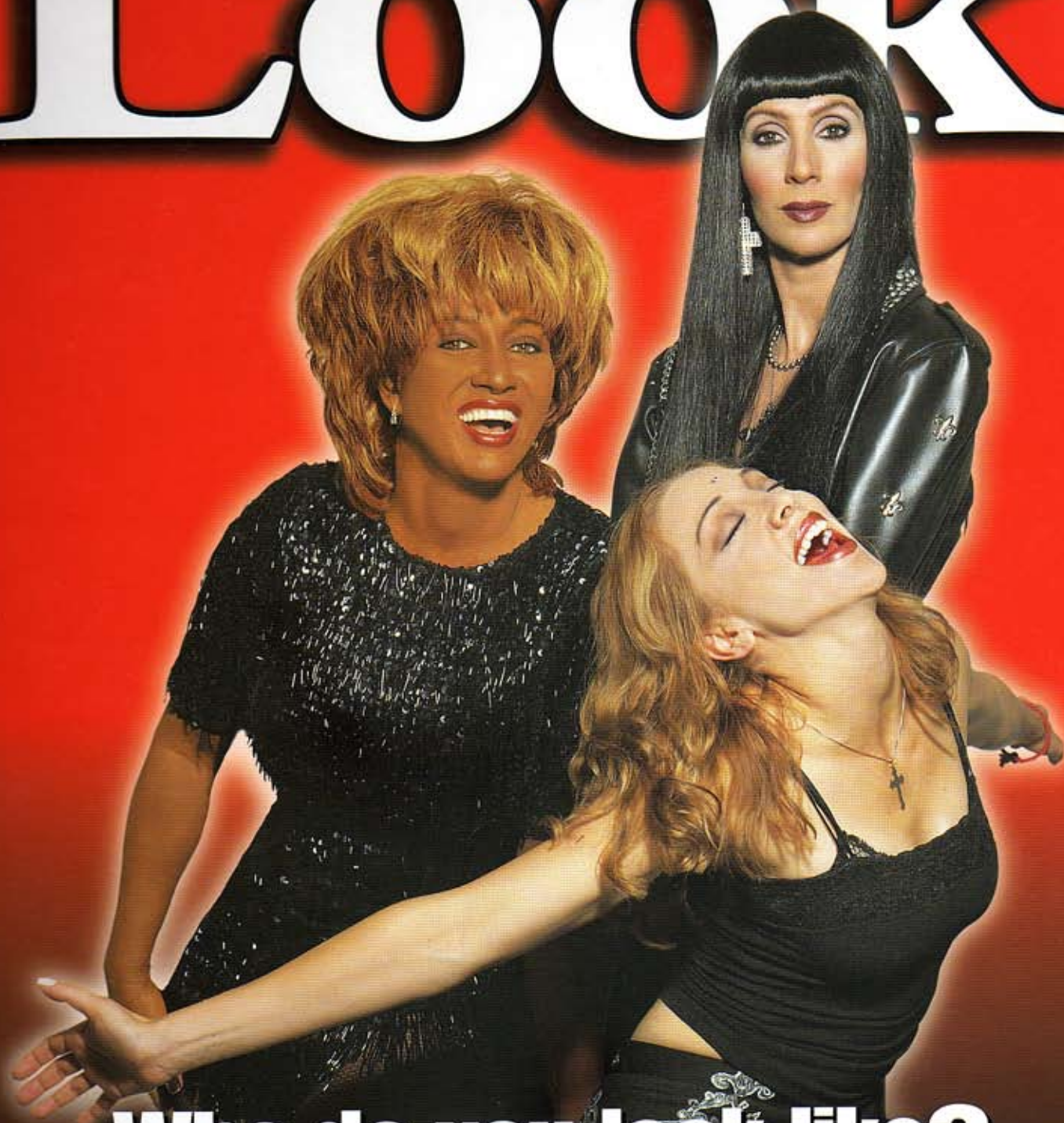


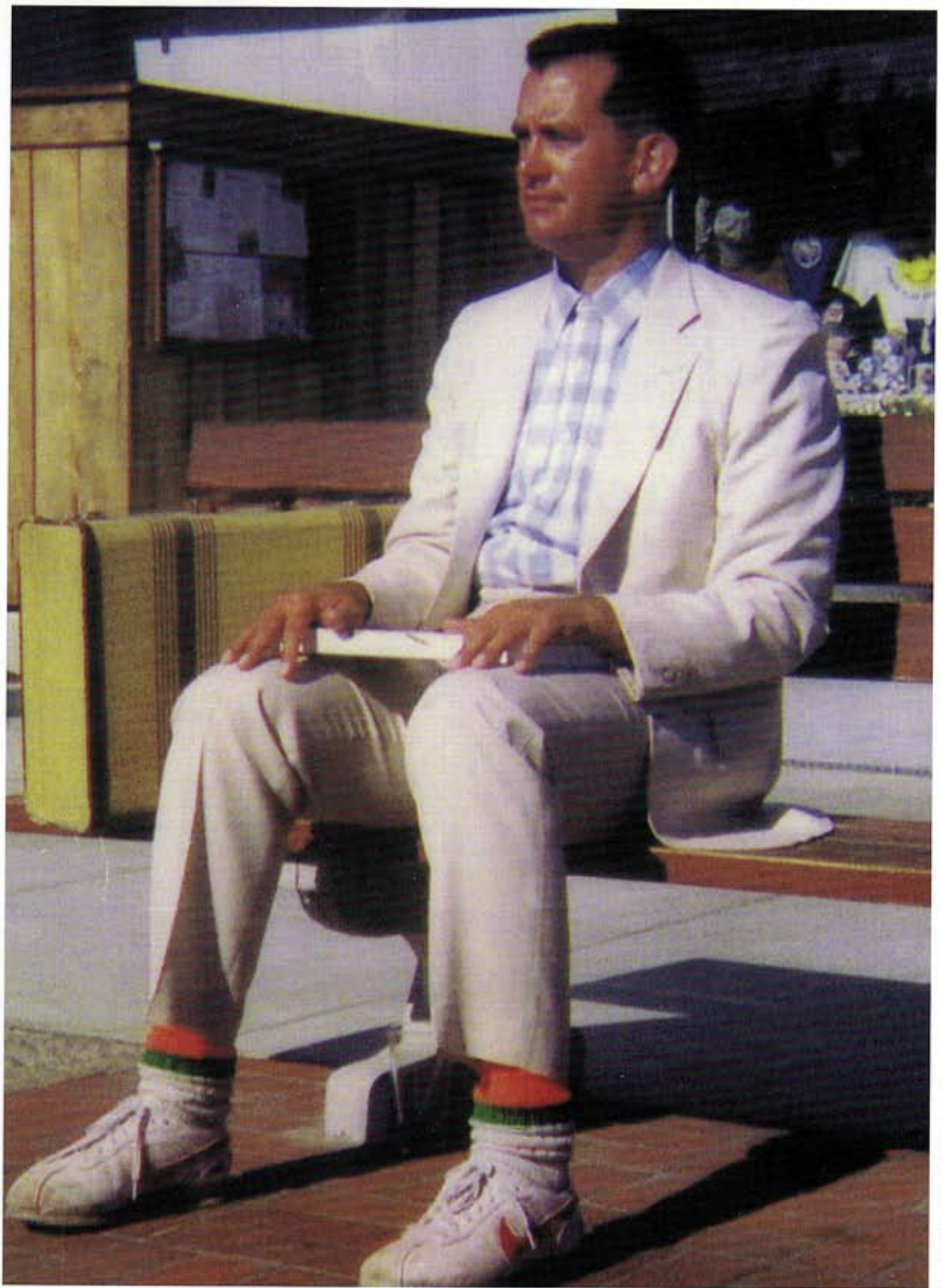
Made you Look



Who do you look like?

by

Denise Bella Vlasits



Jeanne Weber Photography

Life is Like a Box of
Chocolates

"I love to meet people. I estimate that I've been photographed with a million ordinary people. I'm constantly amazed at the excitement the Gump character generates. Forrest Gump was a genuine, ordinary person who, through strong character and determination, achieved the American Dream. He is an inspiration to people young & old. Consequently, being able to bring a smile to so many faces makes me a very fortunate person."

Steven James Weber as Forrest Gump

Steven Weber was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, grew up in Bucks County and then moved to Northern California in 1981, where he currently resides. He is the third of five children and prides himself as the proud uncle of ten nieces and nephews. In September 2000, his loving parents will celebrate their marriage vows of fifty years.

Steven attended catholic school for twelve years, took saxophone lessons, and played in the school marching and concert bands. After high school, Steven studied working with wood and took six semesters of woodworking classes. He considered himself a competent amateur cabinetmaker. He then served a four-year apprenticeship in the Coppersmith (metal fabric) trade. He worked in chemical research, sales, custom clothing, and office furniture. He attended community college and San Jose State, receiving a B.S. degree in Business (marketing).

All along the way, Steven would hear comments about his resemblance to Tom Hanks. At the time the TV show *Bosom Buddies* starring Tom, was popular, Steven would hear just about everyday who he looked like.

It wasn't until the popularity of the feature film, *Forrest Gump*, that Steven decided to do something with his identical look. One Halloween night, Steve dressed, and debuted, as Forrest. Not long after that, he heard an advertisement on the radio announcing the openings of the first of seventeen *Bubba Gump Shrimp Companies*. He called them, and the rest is history. He currently works Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Monterey and San Francisco and travels to other *Bubba Gump* restaurants around the country.

Steve's resemblance to Forrest instantly attracts and astonishes people. His outgoing personality, along with his ability to weave 'Gumpisms' into his banter, truly pleases the crowds. The timbre of his voice, coupled with the southern drawl, leave many shaking their heads in disbelief, saying, "He even sounds like Forrest Gump." Children, teen-agers, adults and seniors alike, people from all over the world, leave Steve's performances completely fulfilled ... fantasizing that they have met the real Forrest Gump.

When working for the *Bubba Gump Shrimp Company*, Steve Weber sits on a park bench (suit case & chocolate in hand) with a photographer, and individuals from small and large groups get the opportunity to be photographed and chat with him. Steve is equally adept at addressing groups from stage or mingling at a party. His five to fifteen minute standup routines are funny, entertaining, motivational and inspiring, while blending in the philosophies of the character Forrest Gump.

Steve's appearances on television shows featuring his Forrest impersonation include: News segments and studio appearances on Channel 7, 4, 9, and 54. Steve has been featured in over thirty-five news stories that have aired locally and nationally. He has appeared in numerous publications. His Forrest Gump is a huge success at corporate events, trade shows, private parties, schools, fundraisers, in industrial films and commercials.

Everyday when Steve goes to work as Forrest he touches the heart of someone new. Part of the magic of an impersonator is to convey the illusion and make someone believe, even for a moment, that a star has taken the time to talk to a fan.

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