

Sad News

Lois Wideman – Aug. 23, 2025



On August 23, 2025, Lois Wideman of Palm Beach, FL, passed away from a sudden, aggressive illness. Her daughter, Kendall "KC" Wideman Pickett was lovingly by her side. She is preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Floyd L. Wideman Jr. and her beloved son, Floyd L. Wideman III.

She lived an amazing life beginning with her starring role in the **Ice Capades**, which then led to a very successful and lengthy Modeling career with the Ford Agency in NYC. She raised her children in Rumson, NJ and the family maintained a home in Palm Beach, where her husband was raised; his parents having built a house in 1940 that still stands

on Sanford Avenue.

She and her husband then made a permanent move to Palm Beach. Never one to sit still, Lois began an Interior Design career beginning with Jessup, Inc. and then with Kemble Interiors.

After retiring, she carried on with Volunteer work at The Four Arts King Library, the Palm Beach Police Station and The Church Mouse, all the while continuing her tennis games well into her 90s.

She was full of kindness, grace, charm and laughter and so loved by all who knew her...she will be so very much missed.

A Celebration of her Life will be held in the Fall.

<https://www.palmbeachdailynews.com/obituaries/psar1272207>

Our Alumni in the News

“We’re Not Done Yet”: Torvill & Dean Announce Dazzling New Ice Show After Dancing on Ice Cancellation

Posted September 15, 2025

Figure skating legends Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean shocked the entertainment world with a bold declaration: “We’re not done yet.” After ITV canceled Dancing on Ice, many assumed the Olympic icons were ready to step off the stage for good. Instead, the duo are making a powerful comeback with a brand-new ice show — and they won’t be alone. Joining them on the judges’ panel are two international stars, Scott Hamilton and Kristi Yamaguchi, promising a spectacular new era for skating fans worldwide...

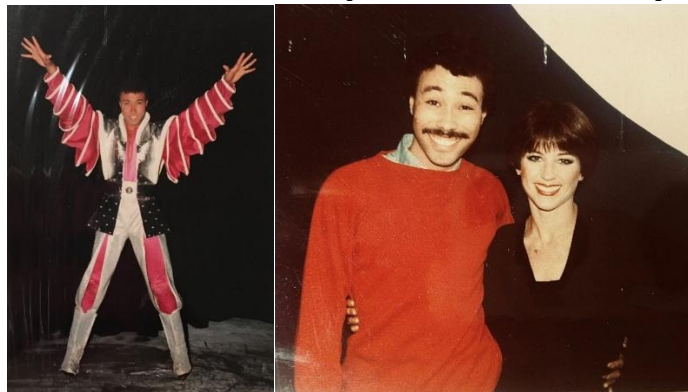


Click here to read the article

<https://sport.feji.io/posts/not-done-torvill-dean-announce-dazzling-new-ice-show-dancing-ice-cancellation-puck123>

Life on the Road with Tim Estiloz

Tim Estiloz takes a trip down memory lane.



OK, joining some ol' amazing friends in commemorating a wonderful anniversary.
40-years ago today (EEK!) plus two years prior

... I left my very first TV job at KDKA-TV ... to temporarily run away to join the “circus” ... er, I mean the ICE CAPADES.

... As a former competitive figure skater, I auditioned as a lark and giggles - never expecting to be selected on the spot to join. Usually there was a year-long waiting period.

... Hesitant to leave my first writing gig in TV, my news producer at KDKA “threatened” to “fire” me ... saying I could always come back to TV

... but an opportunity like this one would never come again.

... So, I joined - to spend the next four years touring EVERY major (and minor) city across the USA performing before thousands of people in arenas every night, Tuesday thru Friday, 3-shows on Saturday, two on Sunday.

... and, determined to also meet my childhood crush back then (and now) Olympic champion Dorothy Hamill.

(Guess what? That happened, though why I have Pancho Villa's moustache - I'll never know, LOL)

It was an incredible experience yielding lifelong genuine friends, unforgettable experiences, hundreds of candid photos

... and a finished book manuscript I wrote, ultimately for myself.

(A couple of publishers were interested in it - but they wanted "behind the scenes" dirt and gossip added to it. I don't do that to my Capades friends)

... Though, it took years of therapy to stop having flashbacks about sequins and satin slacks.

Below in the comments is a link to an interview I about life in the Ice Capades show.

... Time of our lives, kids - because that's what we mostly were.

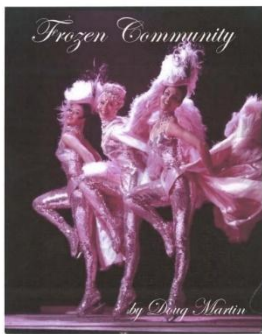
... Still are, inside.



Entertainment reporter Tim Estiloz chats with WBZ's Jordan Rich about what it was like to be a performing skater in front of thousands with the world famous Ice Capades touring ice show - before returning to broadcasting.

<https://youtu.be/e7mSa08slf4?si=24nMYPPNzW055xyV>

RELIVING FOND MEMORIES



Doug Martin had published two books called 'Frozen Community' where he wanted to have skaters tell funny stories about their time on the road. Stories were posted before but worth sharing again. Hope Michael Garren won't mind sharing his story again.

Michael Garren received his first contract with **Ice Capades** in 1965, earning \$90 a week for the first four weeks, and \$110 a week after that for the rest of the year. Skaters before me had earned even less, so I was thrilled. Honestly, I would have done it for nothing, because it wasn't about the money; it was about being in the ice show business, Ice Capades in particular. So I couldn't complain about the compensation, at least not *that year*.

When my option was picked up for the 65-66 season I was as happy as could be, especially since I was being transferred to East Company. I'd be able to travel the entire country, east to west, and see all the big cities in the National Tour. I would work in the same show with skaters Aja Zanova, Phil Romaine, Cathy Steele, Tommy Litz, Peter Voss and Ann-Margreth Frei, all of whom I admired greatly. It didn't matter that I had to room with two or three other guys, and made only \$125 a week. I didn't complain, at least not *that year*.

When I was selected to be an understudy to a principal in the show, I made an extra \$25 a week. I was more than grateful for the raise, considering myself ahead of the game. Then I moved to West Company and became a principal, skating two numbers and the finale. My contract stipulated that I had to be understudy to three other principals for no extra compensation other than the slight raise from Chorus skater to principal. But even that didn't matter. After all, I was in the spotlight for my two solos. So I didn't care, at least not *that year*.

A soon learned in dramatic fashion how the corporate mind of Ice Capades worked – through certain things would not have happened if John Harris had still been at the helm. Unfortunately, he was gone and I was at the mercy of the corporate bottom line, which meant I had only one solo the following year, but was still the understudy to three other principal skaters, at the previous year's salary. They would let me stay on they said, but without the stipulated raise in my contract, I agreed, but with a steadily growing sense that they were taking advantage of me.

Don't get me wrong, I still loved skating with Ice Capades, loved working with the friends I'd made, loved the travel, opportunities, and parties, parties, parties. But the fact that they thought I was good enough to skate a solo in place of a World or Olympic Champion, and yet be paid a pittance, was taking a toll on my self-esteem. I was becoming increasingly concerned, but not enough to do anything about it, at least *not that year*.

My second year with Ice Capades I served as understudy for an opening number pair, Bill Wilkins and Gerty Desjardins. When either of them was out, I was in. I was understudy for Wolfgang Schwarz, who had just won the Olympic gold medal in Grenoble, and when he was out, I as in. I also was the understudy for Donald Knight, the 1967 North American Champion, and when he was out, I was in.

Who would have ever though that on one fateful night in Calgary, Gerty, Wolfgang and Donny would all be out and I would be all in. I skated a solo in "Follow Me", the opening number. I skated Wolfgang's solo late in the first half, and I skated my own solo in "Ritual of the Waters," which closed out the first half. I was extremely annoyed that I had to skate my own number and not have *my* understudy do it. In the second half, by the time I came out to skate Donny's solo in *Wild, Wild, West*, I'm sure the Canadians were asking themselves, "Him again? Who the hell is this guy?" I know I was asking myself, "How the hell did you get yourself into one spotlight after another?" The audience had come to see Ice Capades, not the Michael Garren Show.

When it came time to sign my contract for the following year, I was presented with the same options I'd been working under: stay on another year with one number and two understudies, all for the same salary as my first year as principal minus the stipulated raise once again. But after my experience in Calgary, I decided to give up the understudy position, and I never did another one. In fact, I decided it was time to leave the show altogether. It was a difficult and sad decision, but one that turned out to be a good business decision for me. I went on to have another 16 years in the business, with new contracts, new shows and new friendships. I cherish the youthful years I spent with Ice Capades, and the many friendships I have maintained. I wouldn't be the person I am without that experience. At the time I couldn't conceive that I was entering into a phase of my life that would have lasting influence on me, at least not *that year*. I've since learned that sometimes you get what you

wish for, and sometimes, if you're one of the lucky one, even if you don't know it at the time, you get so much more.

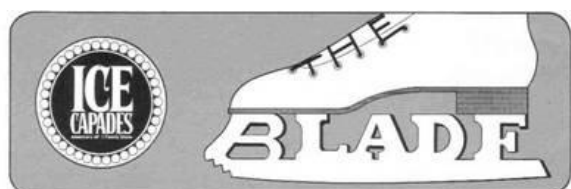
From 30th program

"Five Minutes" shouts the stage manager as the orderly but frenzied backstage reaches its peak.



Before you see the enchanting beautiful girls and handsome smiling boys swirl onto the ice a thousand and one events take place behind the lighted curtains. An hour before curtain time the skaters, musicians, stage hands, wardrobe personnel and electricians begin to arrive in two's and three's. For some 400 performances during a ten month season the skaters repeat similar actions – applying make-up, lacing skate boots, doing warm-up exercises and making fives and six costume changes per show. The skaters perform on an average of nine to ten shows a week, plus rehearsal and publicity appearances. It is a busy life.

There is still some time to relax – to have a snack, a cup of coffee and to check the mail and the bulletin board for the latest changes. Also, many skaters pursue hobbies and explore local scenic places. A travelling show means packing and unpacking, and what about the different climates experienced on the tour? North, South, East and West, this company of 110 people traverses the United States and Canada. Two complete Ice Capades companies tour simultaneously visiting 65 different cities each year.



The website, www.icecapadestheblade.com has been revamped and more information has been added. If you have something to add, please send them.

Look here for **2025 Ice Capades Reunion** information, including reunion pictures

Cast, Precision & Production Pictures – Relive some memories.
Past reunion Pictures – Check them out for some you may have missed.
Rosters – Looking for someone or remembering who you skated with in the show?
Video links – have been collecting skating 'You Tube' links from the early years.
Program Covers – we had the most beautiful covers
Past Issues of The Blade – just in case you missed an issue
Past Reunion Pictures – relive the times you attended the reunions
In Memorium – remembering those who have left us too soon
Check it out!

Upcoming Events



CELEBRATING THE JOY
OF DANCING ON ICE

Ice Theatre of New York, Inc[®]
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Ticket and information at [icetheatre.org/tickets](https://www.icetheatre.org/tickets)

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