

Our Alumni in the News

Scott Hamilton & Friends returns to Bridgestone Arena on Nov. 23 with an electrifying collab of rock anthems and world-class figure skating.



Skater Spotlight

SKATER SPOTLIGHT

Kathy Dunn Lewis
Age 73
Monument, CO
Bronze Free Skate

Proudest on-ice moments: Skating with the Ice Capades and winning Bronze V Women FS at the 2023 Adult Championships!



Kathy has been skating off and on since she was 9 years old. "My girlfriend took me skating in 6th grade, and I fell in love and wanted to go all the time. But because I am one of 9 children, my Dad could only take me every other week. One day I was skating at a public session and a coach was watching me and talked to my Dad about coaching me. Then, I COULD GO A LOT MORE!!!! Now I'm kind of a dabbler. I competitive pro/am ballroom dance, bike, ski, etc... but I always come back to skating because it is the most fun and freeing experience. I think having toured with **Ice Capades** and being elected Miss Personality by my peers helped on my resume to get jobs after I got out of college. I also taught skating in college which helped pay for tuition. I love to go fast. Nothing stops me, and I have no regrets; I had a heart attack (from stress, no blockages) two weeks before the Adult Championships, but I was determined

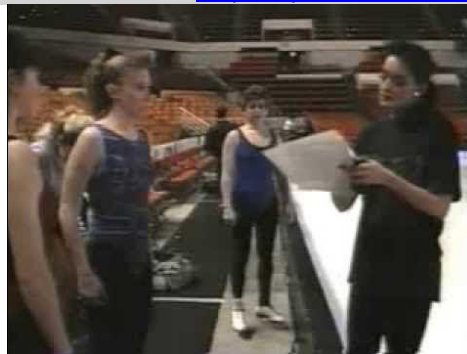
to go anyway and won gold! I'm hoping to compete internationally in Germany next summer."

Checking in with Tim Estiloz with some great Behind the Scene videos.

Entertainment reporter Tim Estiloz takes an extremely rare and candid look at the Ice Capades from "Behind the Scenes" in this PART ONE portion... interviewing the skaters and production staff. For over 50 years, Ice Capades was synonymous with quality family entertainment - and exceptional Olympic and champion skaters like Dorothy Hamill, Scott Hamilton, Peggy Fleming and many, many more. This is a unique, entertaining and candid "Backstage" look at the hard work and dedication it took to put on this now - sadly defunct - unique show. The feature also sheds light on the rarely seen "pros and cons" of living "life on the road"... traveling from city to city for months at a time. This feature was written, produced and edited by TV entertainment reporter Tim Estiloz in 1992 - shortly after completing a stint himself as an Ice Capades skater and amateur competitor. Be sure to visit Tim's website: www.TimEstiloz.com



Part one Behind the Scenes - <https://youtu.be/rE-ouAkSGgM>

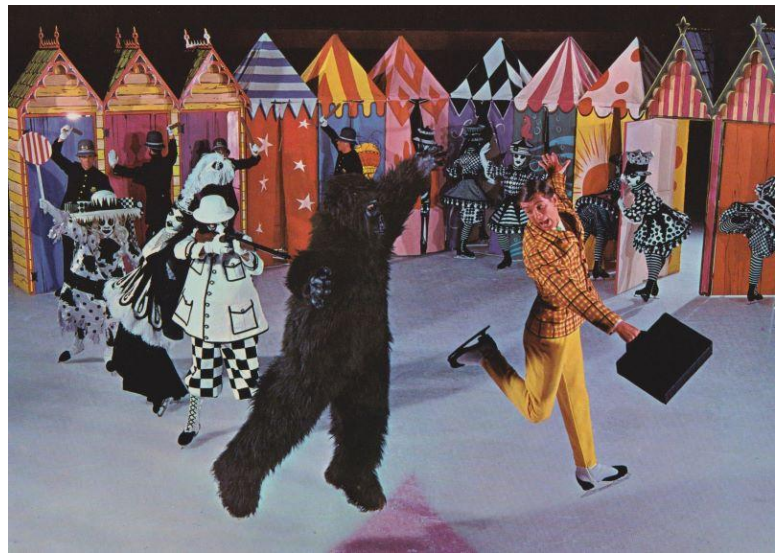
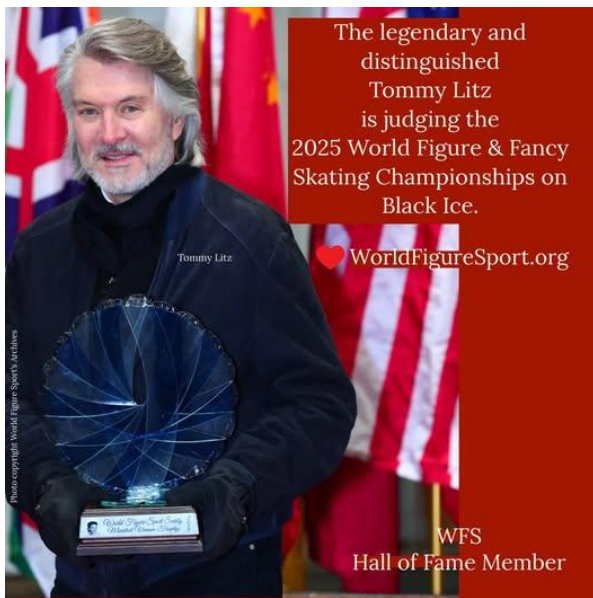


Part 2 – Behind the Scenes - <https://youtu.be/bvxtKeYnqbM>

What's Tommy Litz been up to these days?

The legendary and distinguished Tommy Litz was a recent judge at the 2025 World Figure & Fancy Skating Championships on Black Ice – Oct. 8-11, 2025. Thank you, Mr. Litz! ❤️

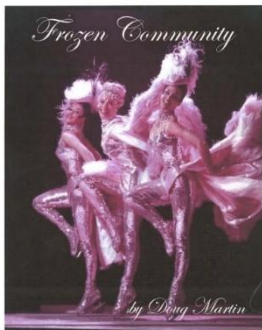
WorldFigureSport.org



Still looking as handsome as ever.

Hasn't changed a bit!

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. Haven't posted this one in awhile, but it's worth mentioning again – classic Freddie Trenkler & Johnny LaBrecque.

Dave Pitts recollects Freddie Trenkler's classic prank on Johnny LaBrecque:

It was in Cleveland, Ohio, one year that Freddie Trenkler, prankster that he was, pulled his famous water joke on Johnny LaBrecque. Since our dressing rooms were so old and had overhead water pipes that ran their full length, Freddie got an idea. He ran a long, thin tube – which was virtually invisible unless you knew what to look for – from beneath his makeup table, up the wall, and across the pipes, stopping directly over LaBrecque's seat at the long makeup table where we all sat side by side to put on our show makeup.

We had no idea what Freddie had done. All we knew was that a few minutes after Johnny sat down to start his makeup, water began to drip, drip dripping onto Johnny's head and shoulders from the pipes high above him. He looked confused for a few minutes as he tried to figure out where the water was coming from. He even tried to move his chair, but we were so crowded together that he couldn't get away from the drip, drip, dripping of the water, which was landing on him alone.

Throwing a fit, Johnny demanded that because he'd been in the show longer than the rest of us, and therefore had seniority, he exchanged places with Freddie's assistant. I believe it was Doug Martin at the time. So after bantering a few words back and forth, good-natured Doug gave in and switched places. Naturally, the moment they switched, the water stopped dripping. Doug asked what Johnny was complaining about, because nothing was dripping on him. Johnny bitched and complained, but moved back to his spot in front of his costumes. A few minutes went by, and again the pipes above Johnny began to drip,

drip, dripping. Well, this time Johnny went ballistic and demanded that Doug switch places with him again. So good Ole Doug switched back, and, of course, the dripping immediately stopped.

Since Johnny and his partner, George Bussey, we're always the first comedy act that followed the opening number, they had to leave the dressing room and get backstage to warm up, and be ready to go on the ice. The moment they left, Freddie jumped up, grabbed a step ladder that he had stored away, climbed up and moved the tubing so that it would once again stop over Johnny's new seat at the makeup table. While this was going on, the rest of us sat there fascinated and then, warned by Freddie that we couldn't laugh or in any way blow his joke, anxiously awaited LaBrecque's return.

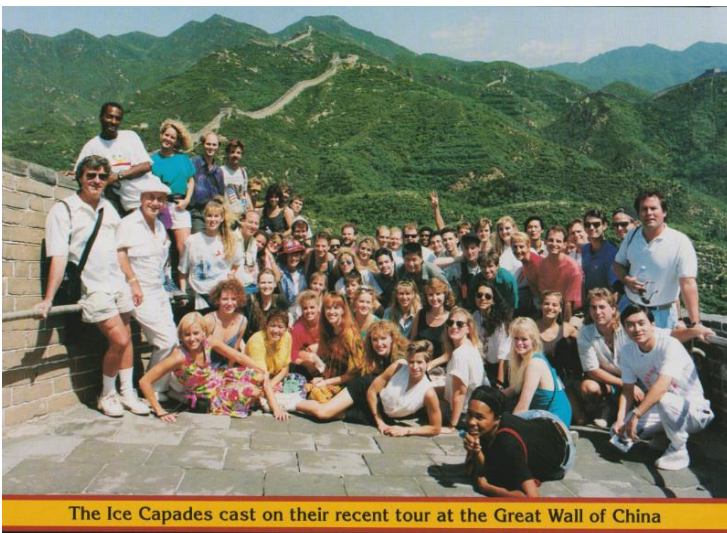
With their act over, Johnny, in his usual happy, blustery mood about how good his performance went, took off his costume, put on a robe, and sat down at his new spot at the makeup table to remove his comic's makeup and get ready for his next number. Almost immediately, the water began drip, drip, dripping. This time, Johnny went berserk, and the rest of us, Doug included, who were now privy to the joke, did everything we could to hide our faces and to keeping from laughing out loud.

When Johnny once again demanded that Doug switch places with him, Doug put up a little fight before giving in. Momentarily satisfied, Johnny left the room to cool down and have a cup of coffee. The moment he left, Freddie jumped up and re-switched the tubing, only this time George was also in on the gag. Johnny returned in a much better mood, and sat down to begin putting on his makeup for second comedy spot. Almost immediately the water began to drip, drip, dripping. Johnny jumped up, screaming and carrying on, then stomped out of the dressing room in search of the manager, Jack Balmer, to complain about the rotten, no good dressing room with the drippy pipes.

The moment he left, Freddie climbed up and removed the tubing so that when Johnny returned with Jack there was no evidence. Jack took one look at our faces and knew we'd all been up to no good. Playing the role of manager, he simply said, "I see the bad pipes have stopped themselves. I don't expect them to start dripping again, necessitating another visit from me. Have a good show." But as he left, there was no mistaking the knowing smile on his face.

The rest of the show went off as planned, with no further incidents, but that night at the bar, Jack came up and quietly asked who did what, and how? When told, he got a big grin on his face, said, "I love it." And went to get another beer.

Who remembers going to the Great Wall of China in 1992?

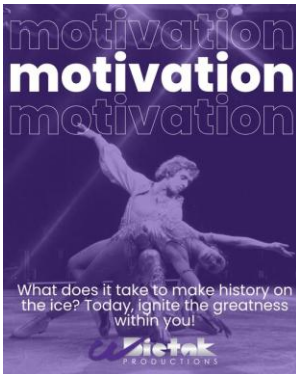


Thanks Darren Mortenson for the memory.

Ice Capades on the Great Wall of China. I believe this photo was taken on August 21, 1992. 33 years ago today, wow. I'm on the right side standing on Greg Letourneau's right shoulder (guy in white shirt / company manager). Thinking back to this amazing summer touring China, really makes me realize how blessed we all were to have had this experience. So many stories.... Treasured memories for

sure!

Motivation Monday | The Ultimate Professional Skater's Rally Cry!



"What does it take to make history on the ice? Today, ignite the greatness within you!"

Every champion was once a skater who refused to let a fall be the end of their story. Ice doesn't care for titles, it rewards those who show up, rise up, and dare to stretch the limits of what's possible. This week chase your boldest vision, knowing that each jump, spin, and setback adds another thread to your legacy.

Push past where your comfort ends, that is where transformation begins. Channel your discipline as your wings, your passion as your compass, and let the world witness how you redefine impossible. You are not just perfecting your craft; you're inspiring others; proving that resilience glimmers brighter than any medal. Today, skate for the love of challenge, the thrill of progress, and the unbreakable spirit within you.

Variety - March 18, 1953

'Ice Cycles' in Bid For Frozen Areas

Hollywood, March 17.

"Ice Cycles," the smaller edition of "Ice Capades," will plumb for virgin territory. The show will carry its own refrigeration equipment in a bid to play the smaller towns where there are no arenas with their own freezing plant. Move is regarded as a challenge for the markets now played by "Ice Vogues" and "Holiday on Ice," both of which carry their own equipment.

The decision by "Cycles" to invade new markets was made by stockholders of that firm in a recent poll. It's known that there are vast territories in the south where few shows penetrate because of lack of large freezing plants.

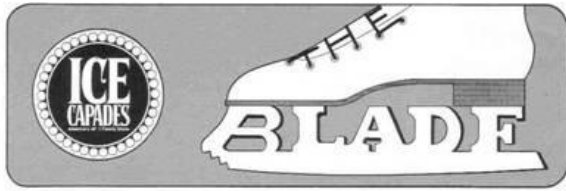
Even large towns such as Atlanta and Birmingham, virtually the exclusive province of "Holiday on Ice," can stand an additional icer if properly spaced. There are other spots in the same situation plus some which haven't been able to get any frapped follies at all.

The move by "Cycles" to carry its own tank makes possible expansion in another direction. The

operators of various arenas will be able to do their own promotion in cities reasonably distant from their own base of operations. It's figured that a show can draw within 50 miles. Beyond that, it's fairly difficult to get them in. An operator, familiar with conditions in his area, may be willing to promote in other cities. This is figured to mean tall coin because in addition to a producer's profit, he'll be able to make a promoter's profit as well. Of course, he can also lose twice as much if he gauges the b.o. potential incorrectly.

At any rate, it's a safe bet that the competition next season for the ice show patron's buck will be keener than ever. There will be longer routes and more cities will be getting an increased amount of shows.

By carrying its own equipment, "Cycles" will be able to play more auditoriums within the control of Arena Managers Assn., most of whose members own stock in "Capades" and "Cycles." There are several AMA members who do not have refrigeration equipment in their halls and thus have been forced to buy shows from other producers. This means it will be difficult for outsiders to crack AMA spots with icers.



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.®
presents

<https://www.icetheatre.org/>

Ticket and information at [icetheatre.org/tickets](https://www.icetheatre.org/tickets)

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