

Hidden Stories from Behind the Scenes

Terry Wilke posted this question on our Ice Capades Facebook page and I wanted to share some of the memorable comments. I think we are long overdue for an Ice Capades practical joke thread, or what I would like to call "Where Intelligence and Creativity Meet Boredom." If you want to add some of your memories, go to Ice Capades Reunion.



Terry started it off with a practical joke we played on Ron Shaver for "Send in the Clowns". We played such a great practical joke on Ron during the final show before Christmas in Atlanta with this slide. There were three projectors (left contour curtain, center contour curtain, and right contour curtain). Each one had the slide loaded in case of a lamp failure. We only used the stage right/house left slide for Send in the Clowns. He would turn quite often and motion toward the image during the number. The first couple of times, it was in the place he was used to. For the remainder of the act, every time he turned away, we would switch panels for the slide. By the end of the number, all three appeared, and he had the biggest grin on his face. So much for a dramatic number! When he bowed at the end, he bowed stage left, then he bowed stage right, then he bowed facing the lighting console!

[Terry Wilkie](#) - There were so many, sorry I don't remember who got this pulled on them but there was a principal male that had a quick change that involved a skate change. I think Steve Fenton preloaded half a Twinkie in the nose of each skate. When the principal male shoved the skate on, cream oozed out of the lace holes.

[Stasia Kelly](#) - What a cool surprise to see my dad's face at the top of your post! I never knew this story about my friend Ron Shaver or about any of these pranks. I was an IC Advance Rep during those years...memories I deeply treasure

[Georgia Bonatis McKee](#) - Not naming names: A comedian who wore his beloved lucky robe despite it literally falling apart and held together with safety pins was removed from his dressing room and replaced with a pile of ashes. I remember being mortified about that!

[Johnna Bates](#) - Someone put some Tabasco sauce in Albert Luca's container of Listerine. When he went to juggle those spitting ping pong balls from his mouth.

[Jim Hurst](#) - I believe it was Don Night that did it. Albert said he almost made it through the routine, but his eyes were watering so much and he said he never laughed so hard. When you travel with people for at 7 to 8 months out of the year, you become like family and those jokes get you through the shows especially in those days we were doing two and three shows a day. ☺

[David Lucas Moreira](#) - I think it was Don too or Johnny.

[David Lucas Moreira](#) - you and Albert were such fine-tuned professional performers. I don't think anything could throw you off. Pranks backstage? That was a whole different story!

[DeeDee Dowding](#) - There were a few times we stood in front of Steve Lee and the other horn players sucking lemons.
[Jim Hurst](#) - So what did the performance director think about these pranks?

You mean the same performance director that yanked a hair out of her nose right before checking into a hotel to make her cry so she could get a bigger room for the same price?

[DeeDee Dowding](#) -Who? Come on.....tell us!!!

[David Lucas Moreira](#) - Remember when Dorothy went out as Smurfette?

[David Lucas Moreira](#) Yeah and kept falling over things because she couldn't see.

[Fancy Shmancy's Sewing](#) I remember when Steve Fenton put on one of Terri Pagano's "for your eyes only" hot pink unitards with balloon boobs and a blonde wig and sat behind the precision stairs, so as we were walking up, we looked down and saw him sitting there. We all were laughing so hard. I'm surprised no one at [\\$#it](#) off the end of the slide.

[David Lucas Moreira](#) - as someone who spent a lot of time as Smurfette, I attest to the visual difficulties! Anyone remember the very intricate prank played on the girls in the Gershwin precision number in Spokane? The one where after the number when most everyone was changing to finale costumes in the line girls dressing room, the costume crates were moved aside while simultaneously a large tarp-like contraption filled with popcorn and other debris was dropped from the top of the stage that the dressing room was on in the arena... Paul Thibert, Michael Aldridge and I don't know who else was responsible for that wild prank, but the girls screamed so loud it could be heard out in the audience. I don't even think they got in any trouble for that!

Did you know.....

... **Flashback to the late 80's**

... That time a group of my friends from **Ice Capades West Company 1986** and I were dancers on Dick Clark's iconic AMERICAN BANDSTAND for an early morning show taping in LA - the same day as a three-show Saturday!!

(Grace Rodriguez-Hager, Louis Vachon and Karen Lamont)

... and we almost missed returning to the LA Forum for the first three-show Saturday matinee Capades performance because we were having so much fun dancing on AB.

... We got our skates & costumes on just in time for the "10-minute" call.

... I don't think many except our closest friends (and maybe Jimmy Mullen) knew this happened - until now.

— in [Los Angeles, California](#).





Videos of the Month

Getting ready for Cortina

Sneak preview – Quad God landing 7 quads at Grand Prix final

https://youtu.be/AV1r_pNSl1s?si=FNwkHrOjnDy08n_Y

(I hope this is not blocked to view.)

Cirque du Soleil

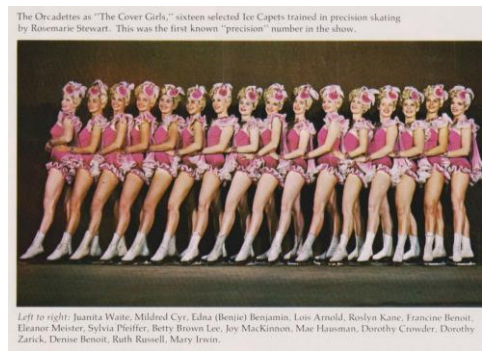
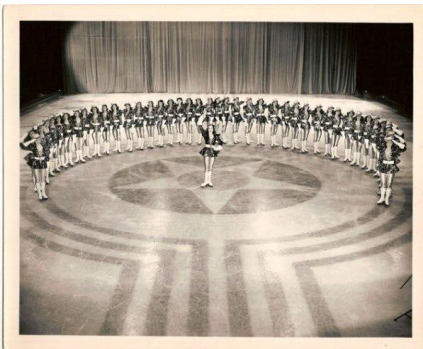


The best of **Crystal** - See some of the most captivating performances on ice from [#Crystal](#) that'll have you on the edge of your seat and craving more! Crystal's amazing backflips on skates and incredible balancing acts are thrilling audiences in Colorado, Wisconsin, New Mexico, Illinois, Ohio and the United Arab Emirates this spring!

<https://youtu.be/u5vXmag46no?si=i-8XB9BPQvoxjNGh>

Our Beautiful Ice Capets

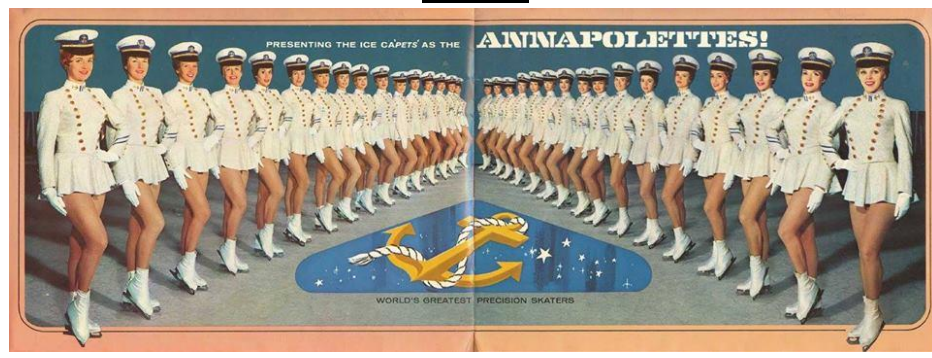
40's



50's



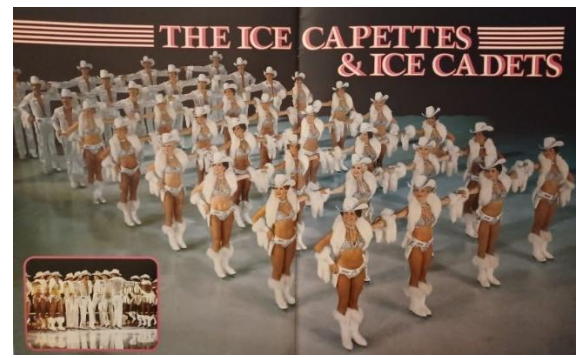
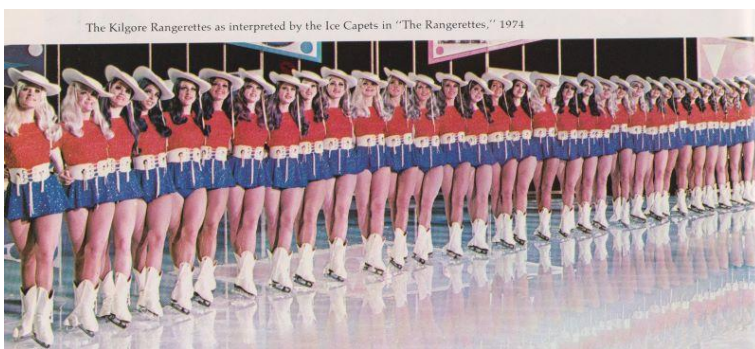
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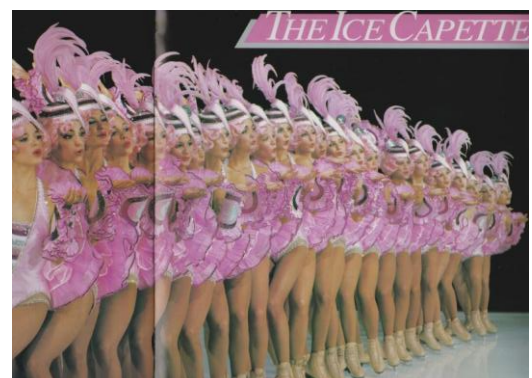
70's

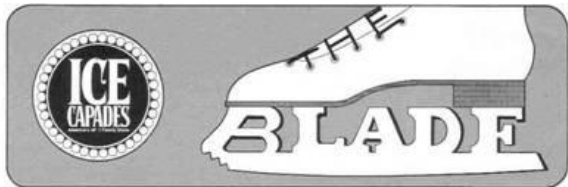
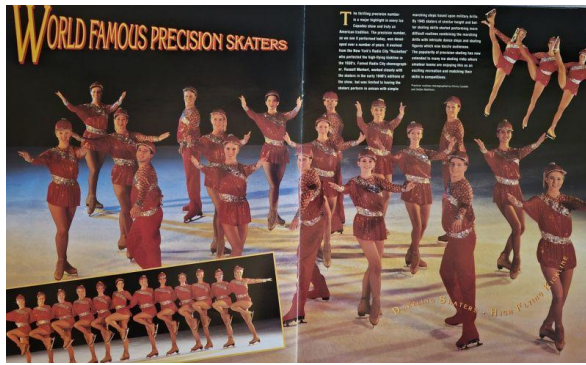


80's



90's





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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