

Our Alumni in the News

Ageless Protopopovs ask: 'Where is the love?'

Posted 9/12/16 by Sarah. S Brannen, special to icenetwork

Two-time Olympic gold medalists offer critique of modern pairs rules



Ludmila and Oleg Protopopov are in their 60th year skating together. -Sherry Gao

When Ludmila Belousova and Oleg Protopopov won their second Olympic gold medals in 1968, they were already among the oldest figure skating champions in history. Forty-eight years later, they still skate every day, but they only perform in public once a year: at "An Evening with Champions" at Harvard University. On Sept. 9 and 10, they skated in the show for the 24th time.

At the ages of 80 and 84, the Protopopovs take their annual appearance very seriously, spending a good while warming up and keeping to themselves for a long time before their appearance. They traditionally open the second half of the show, on a perfectly clean sheet of ice. Last weekend, wearing royal blue costumes, they skated to a waltz they have used before called "Fascination." Of course, the audience was spellbound.

"An Evening with Champions" benefits the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, and Ludmila spoke with feeling about the cause.

[Click here](#) to read the rest of the article.



[Click here](#) to see them in action at An Evening of Champions 2015

They still have it.

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Where Are They Now?

Nancy Sommer – Advanced Publicist for East & West Companies

Remember me? Back in my term with Ice Capades, you were either running to me, or hiding from me. During my time with the show, we worked together to present information about the show that was interesting, fun, and a little different. Many of you did some great things to help publicize the show and also got your face in front of the camera, or on the pages of the local newspaper, or both.

ICE CAPADES, EAST CO. <input type="checkbox"/> WEST CO. <input type="checkbox"/>	
PUBLICITY ASSIGNMENT	
CITY: <u>SPRINGFIELD</u>	DATE: <u>November 8, 1970</u>
ARENA: <u>EASTERN STATES COLISEUM</u>	PLAYMATES:
FROM: <u>NANCY SOMMER</u>	PERFORMANCES: <u>Nights</u>
TO: <u>TAFFY WOOD & GLORIA LOR</u>	Mats:
SUBJECT: <u>PICTURE FOR NEWSPAPER STORY</u>	PRICES: Adult
Arrangements have been made and you are scheduled to appear for the following assignments:	Youth
DATE: <u>WEDNESDAY, NOV. 18</u>	BOX OFFICE
TIME: <u>3:00 PM</u>	LOCATIONS:
PLACE: <u>Front entrance to Coliseum</u>	
PLEASE CONTACT: <u>Muriel Dams, Women's Ed., Springfield Daily News</u>	
Comments: <u>She will do story on the costumes, wigs, and general set-up. Please tell her about the dist, etc. I have also asked Jan Wood and Ann Gardhouse to be backstage and will want them in the pic with perhaps a wig or headpiece...don't put on the costumes, just maybe hold one up, or something.</u>	

Did you know that Sashi Kuchiki was a good cook? Or do you remember that he called himself the "only topless skater" in show business? George and Helga Valle also were great cooks, and they all did some cooking on TV to promote the show. And oh yes, we even taught some cities how to cook a full meal in the wonderful electric skillet that we all took with us on tour.

In one city, (Fort Worth) we were able to talk one of the local entertainment editors into auditioning with a pillow tied to his seat. He was 6 ft 5 inches tall, and with skates on, topped out at about 6 ft 8. Maybe one of the best was when the entertainment editor of the Victoria paper brought in a skunk to audition with the Romero

family. One of my favorites was Gloria Lor (Spoden), because she was such a good sport and could do anything.

Then, off to the next city, before the show again to get the PR and promotions all set. Armed with my arsenal of two suitcases, electric typewriter, huge case which was home to the Costume Dolls, and other assorted equipment, it was time to go to the next city, ahead of the show, party of one.

And yes, that was quite a few years ago. After leaving the show in 1974, I joined the Sperry and Hutchinson Co. (S&H Green Stamps) as Regional Public Affairs Director, and continued traveling. San Diego beckoned, and became my



home for the next twenty eight years, and I loved every second of living there. But home was really Fort Worth, and that once again became home. Now, comfortable in this Texas city, the Convention and Visitors Bureau is where you will find me on an "On call" basis.

They say you can't go home again, but "they" are mistaken. I miss the show, and all the group who were really like family. You can take the girl out of Texas, but you can never take the Texas out of the girl.

If you would like to get in touch with Nancy... pensione89@gmail.com

Janet Hansen – East Co. 1974-1975



I started out as a roller skater when I was six years old where I competed in a variety of state and national roller competitions. But when I went to Bowling Green State University for college, I switched to figure skating. Some of you may know a few other BGSU skaters who performed in the Ice Capades.....Scott Hamilton and Mark Beck. While at college I skated in all the annual shows as well as performed at the hockey games (for entertainment at the break) in a synchronized skating group.

I have to admit that I tried out for both Ice Capades and Holiday on Ice, but only "made" it in Capades as a chorus line gal. I had finished my business degree at BG when I joined the show for the 1974-1975 season with the East Company. I only intended to skate the show for one year as I was a very business career oriented gal. But what a wonderful and memorable year it was for me....weigh ins and all. That year's show included the pink boas for the "Touch of Class" chorus line

number. Enjoy my photo!

I met so nice guys and gals while skating....a couple whom I'm still friends with to this day....Hi Marni!! Hi JoJo!

I want to share two very funny memories with all of you...the first one wasn't funny at the time, but sure is now. As many of you may remember, us chorus line gals wore wigs and to get them off and on quickly, we also wore some type of net or cap over our hair. Well, by now, you can guess the rest of the story. During a very lovely, and serious, Duke Ellington number, my wig fell off during the show. One of the more senior girls, skating near me, correctly guided me to "get off the ice", which I did.

Our "kiddie" number that year was "It's Christmas Every Day". My role was as a tin soldier who had to retrieve one child from the audience, in a very designated area, to enjoy a ride on the Christmas sleigh around the ice. We would typically choose a small kid as they were easier (and safer) to carry. One night, the child I chose, perhaps in a state of wonderful excitement, had a urination accident right in my arms while being carried to the sled. All I can say is that our costumes included gloves.



Other happy memories for me include a very nice Thanksgiving dinner while we were on the road and a fun Halloween party. Of course, being in the Ice Capades, you not only had to dress up, for Halloween, you also had to perform. One of my skater friends and I went as Sonny and Cher and we lip synced one of their songs.

After Capades, I enjoyed a wonderful business career as the Marketing Director at The Dow Chemical Company for a foam sealant product sold at Home Depot called Great Stuff. I am currently retired and live in Atlanta, but still do some work part time as a Marketing Consultant. I don't skate much anymore, but have recently had the pleasure of meeting with and skating with Tara Lipinski and Merle Davis and Charlie White. I am also a poor, but avid golfer. I have been

happily married for 30+ years and my husband Dan and I have two children....Mark, a University of GA grad and Danielle, a GA Tech grad. We are a “house divided” in college football.

I'd love to hear from any of my “old” friends. You can connect with me at janetehansen@me.com.

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Videos of the Month



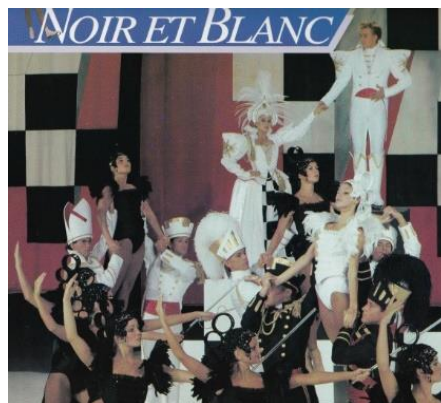
Did you know that David Sadleir did this?

[Click here](#) to see him in action in 1982, A Slice of Pie

Great Production Number from 1988: ‘ Chess’

A very elaborate production featuring dance team Carol Fox & Richard Dalley, soloist Catarina Lindgren, and adagio pair Kathleen Connors & J.P. Morgan, also Leann Knight & Jeff LaBrake - adagio pair.

[Click here](#) to view it.



We all knew what happened after Bolero. Here's their story how it all started. [Click here](#)

Our Alumni Keep Getting Together



Jef Billings' Celebration of Life at his house ; Sarah K, Tai B, Dorothy H, Scott H, and Randy G.

All clients, all IC alumni! (Photo by Jamie Alcroft)



On a recent visit to Carmel, CA - Hans Mueller, Jewel Steele & Phil Wyly

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Upcoming Event in Toronto

December 19 - 23, 2016

Don't miss the

World Figure Championship & Figure Festival



[Click here](#) for details

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Comments from November Blade

Thanks for the great work you continue to do with the "Blade", – Stephan Klovan

Just a note to say your work is not taken for granted! Very few volunteer to take on tasks like you have. Even fewer of these will be faithful - most give up and quit! You are a trooper! I enjoy the Blade and other Ice Capades alumni emails you send. Your efforts provide much joy!!!!!!!!!! – Robert Strong aka '440'

Thanks for the great updates and all your work on this. – Randy Gardner

Thank you so much for doing this newsletter. I love it!! Janet Hansen 1974-75 pink boas.

Want you to know I LOVE reading The Blade, and most especially it with my kids! My son is currently on tour with his band and my parents are so proud of their 3rd generation touring performer!!!! Thanks for all you do to keep us close and informed. Synnove Reilly (nee Head)

You are doing a wonderful job, Lor, just as you always have done..... and I called you Lor because it is shorter, and easier to spell. Thanks for doing such a great job with The Blade, but knowing you, it would never be less. Nancy Sommer

I look forward to reading the Blade every month. Good to see Tony again after so many years. – Gloria Dale-Johnson

Thank you so much for all you do with The Blade. Good Job. – Jewel Steele

Upcoming Events



The Randy Gardner School of Skating at ICE At Santa Monica

[Click here](#) for more information

Website Update

The reunion website – www.icecapadesreunion2015.com is still there. Even though the reunion is over, the plan is to continue to use this site for alumni updates so please keep checking back from time to time as news will be added periodically. Don't forget, there are also show rosters for your reference, updated obits and upcoming events.

If you would like to be removed from receiving The Blade, please type 'unsubscribe' in the subject line and send it to me directly. gspoden@rogers.com