

Very Sad News



February 1, 2017 marked the date that a big spotlight went out in our lives and we lost our beloved Bob Turk at the young age of 91. Even though he was bigger than life, he was a quiet man and heard that he laid down for a nap and peacefully went to sleep. At Bob's request, he did not want a funeral and it is unknown at the present time whether there will be a memorial service.

Some Comments from Bob's 'kids'

I am truly lucky that I was able to work for a truly talented man like Bob. His positive outlook and work ethic left a lasting impression with me. I do not think he wasted a single minute of his creative years. – Tony Tauber

I was in the show before you, the mid 50s but I loved it so much. I was so proud to be a part of the Greatest Ice Show. I didn't mind the practice or any of it. It truly was the best time of my life and so thankful for that wonderful opportunity. I think we all felt that way. The many wonderful friends I made and some I still keep in touch with thanks to computers. I know Bob Turk just how you feel. Nice letter you wrote. Best wishes and take care. Pat Golden Roman

What a wonderful letter to us all! I will cherish it as though it were addressed just to me! – Sally Griffiths

My favorite memory is how he used to yell "BRAVO, BRAVO" from his perch in the seats when somebody was actually able to decipher what he wanted to see and do it. Also, I loved how he could never remember names and would shout "You, pink sweater, do that again!" He would call people things like "Skeesick" and "Hootentang" and a million other funny names that would always take you by surprise if he was talking to you. Miss those fun, fun days. - Heidi DeLio Thibert

Thanks for refreshing our memory with Turk's letter to us. It just shows you how awesome and beautiful that man was. How he reached out to each and every one of us was written so well you just felt like he was talking to you personally. Love you Turk. Thanks to you and our whole "Family" it WAS the best part of my life. Susie Lease Fajardo

Bob will be missed. I think he will already be working on a new show. Think of all the talent he is now with. – Randa Rae Peterson

So sorry to hear of his passing. I count myself fortunate to have been able to work with him! Such a visionary. – Nancy Horner

Brings tears to my eyes you far man we will always love you and we will see again in the Ice Capades Eternal version.

Love from Taf and Tim Wood

Bob Turk could light up a room wherever he made his entrance. He didn't need any bright lights. He brought a new look to Ice Capades. I recall reading his bio years after I left the show and was amazed at the work he had done prior to Capades. We worked with one of the very best and for that I am thankful. The heavens will be doing the Turk step now with a lot of others up there who are already familiar with it. What a legacy. RIP – Bev Ward

Bob you will be greatly missed but never forgotten it was a joy to work for you, Rita, Shirley, George, Cliff. Now that you are all together again have a great Party. May the TURK STEP live for ever Mr. Bob Turk because you will always be in mine RIP Bob from your "Monique" – Nicole Masson Matuzak

I was so blessed to have worked with this great man....this letter is beautiful and Bob really understood the life and the commitment we all madeand he taught us how to embrace our audiences with his so talented choreography..... –

Cammie Mathers

RIP Mr. Turk. He used to call me "The Mute" because I'd just stare at him without speaking when he would talk to me! Of course I was only 4, but he had such a dynamic presence...a true force! – Kim Walters

I don't know how many of you knew Bob Turk but he was a true icon. As you may or may not know Bob passed away on Feb 1st at the age of 91. I had called him about 2 weeks ago and he was delighted. He expressed how grateful he was for the life he had. He had juggled being director of Ice Capades along with doing the production and choreography for the Lido in Paris for many years. He was devoted to his work and his skaters, as you will see. This is a love letter he wrote to them, a couple of years ago. I feel we can tag along. Had he been with I.F. he would have felt the same about us. We know the line skaters were the heart and soul of Ice Follies, too. Love, Lee Goldrod

He was An AMAZING person ... I have SOO many DEAR memories ... He used to call me his little "Ballerina girl"... At the last reunion he was at I asked him- What is your secret ??? You look so wonderful and happy all the time ... "It's because I AM HAPPY all the time ... " so again RIP dear friend ... And like most of us ... I feel really SAD ... Will miss you always !!! So: " Thanks for the memories !!!" – Liv Lunde Ramos

I had a dream last night that we were all at our first rehearsal. Mr. Turk and Shirley were there. I felt so good waking up. – Jane Pierce

I loved Bob Turk - He was so wonderful. What a great impact he had on all of us! His comments are spot on- we were blessed who came out of that era. - Tricia Burton

I am so sorry to hear about Bob. He always had such a beautiful smile on his face and was pleasant to everyone as far as I know. He was a bright light in our lives. Cindy Ringwood Whitehill

I can hear his laugh now. Because of Bob & Helen Maxson he was the 1st to welcome me to Ice Capades. Barbara Bergquist-Geving

Such sad news. One of my favorite memories was Duluth, Minnesota rehearsals and after a couple of weeks I finally asked he and Shirley if I could swim in the 500 gallon bubble that was backstage. Bob responded, "Honey, if you're brave enough to get in that death trap, it's all yours. Shirley, get this girl a bathing suit." He was the best! – Dee Dee Dowding

Bob was one-of-a-kind... Bonnie Joe and I hired him to choreograph our show, "legends on ice" which we had in Long Beach, at Caesar's Palace Vegas for five weeks and the Tropicana for four weeks, he was talented a little crazy, and open-minded funds or the guy sometimes hard to deal with but that's because he was so talented! Will always remember him! – Gary Visconti

Where Are They Now?

Ken Shook – Continental & West Companies – 1974 – 1978

(Mr. Backflip!)

Where are you from and where did you live?

I was born and raised in Southern California and moved to Visalia. Shortly after arriving my two sisters had enrolled in dance classes and I would attend their lessons to watch. Because I took an interest on my own, the instructors took me under their wings and began training me in dance as well as basic tumbling skills.

How did you achieve your lifelong dream of skating in an ice show?

At the age of 15 I saw my first **Ice Capades** performance which got me interested in wanting to learn how to skate. A temporary rink was opened and I began frequenting the public sessions and would join the others in racing around the ice in their counter clockwise circles around the rink. At about that same time the dance studio was about to close but I continued skating and soon landed my first job at the rink. Having seen in the Ice Capades program that you could audition at 17, I had my heart set on doing just that. My first audition was with Dolly Pierce and Bobby Specht. Thankfully former Capades skaters Myra and Richard Garrett had moved to town to begin a skating school at the rink where I worked. After working hard, and going to my second audition which was conducted by Dolly and Phil Romaine, I was told that my height (5'6") was an obstacle but to never give up, I began writing to Phil asking for any details on the opening of the third Ice Capades Company. Luckily it was going to happen and they were looking for an acrobat. With a lot of hard work, I was able to perform the backflip as well as well as the back consecutive handsprings and cartwheels. I was finally on my way.

Your Professional skating years –



The new Continental show opened in October of 1974 and after 4 years of first stepping on the ice as well as seeing my first ice show, I was finally realizing my dream of joining the Ice Capades. I played the part of Mark in Lidsville and also assisted Vic Zoble in his comedy trampoline number and did a few line numbers. I remained with Continental for three seasons and then did one season with West Company before joining Holiday on Ice for their South American tour. Years later I also was asked to go to South Africa to perform for Marge Chase in one of her seasonal shows.

What happened after you hung up your skates?

After leaving the show I relocated to Atlanta and it was shortly after that when I became involved in the Fitness Industry. After teaching aerobics at a few small studios I was offered a position as a group exercise director and partner in a start- up chain of clubs that grew to 25 clubs before selling out in June of 2000 after sixteen years. I was involved in many charity events and worked with celebrities such as Richard Simmons and also was the technical judge for the first Step Challenge in 1992 with celebrity guests Bart Conner and Nadia Comaneci.

A great opportunity arrived in 1996 when I was asked to be the Fitness Director at the first ever Olympic Village Health Club during the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta. After selling the business, I took a bit of a break and

became the care giver for my Mom. During that time I also served as the Patron Services Director as well as the ADA and Volunteer Coordinator at the Fox theatre which is a 4600 seat venue in downtown Atlanta.

What are you doing now?

After being in that position for 14 years I decided to move into my semi-retirement phase of life so quit there and did a bit of traveling before settling down once again and accepting a couple part time positions with the City of Roswell. I am now enjoying my time off taking daily walks with his four legged companion Cody, doing occasional retreats and am still called on from time to time to serve as House Manager for the local Cultural Arts Center as well as assisting as the Rental Coordinator for the local Adult Recreation Center.

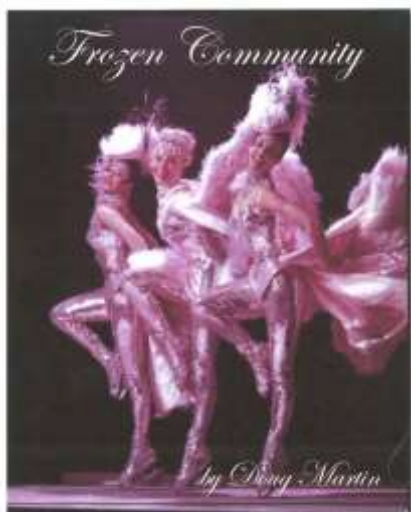
What is your fondest memory?



My biggest thrill was getting to perform alongside the stars that just years earlier he had been watching when I first attended the show as well as just making so many friendships that to this day have become a very special part of my life. I always looks forward to the reunions when we can get together to laugh, share stories about the past and be young again even if just for a few days.

Here's Ken's email address if you would like drop him a line: kshook5555@aol.com

Another Trip Down Memory Lane



Doug Martin published a book called 'Frozen Community' that contained a collection of stories and memories while he was on tour with Ice Capades for 11 years. For those of you who were lucky enough to have gotten a copy, the stories that he collected from our alumni certainly brought great memories and recollections. Because the book is no longer available, thought I would share with everyone some of the stories, some of which are classic. Am certain that it will give you a giggle or two with some of the antics that went on. We can always use a laugh or two.

Our Freddie Trenkler was famous for pulling pranks. Dave Pitts recalls one that he pulled 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.

15 Signs You Grew Up in Ice Capades by Synnove Head Reilly

1. You can count to 8.
2. Markers are not things you color with.
3. "G-strings" and "boobie pads" are part of your everyday vocabulary.
4. You earn extra money fixing fishnets.
5. You earn extra money stuffing Dorothy's picture in the program (or whichever star was visiting that week).
6. You evaluate a hotel room bathroom to see how good a kitchen it could make.
7. You think every kid trick-or-treats in hotel hallways, knocking on every door that has a trunk outside.
8. '5' and '3' minutes do not refer to the hardness of an egg.
9. Giving interviews is normal.
10. You watch Johnny Carson every night.
11. Phil Romaine stretched you.
12. You were just as afraid of Bob Turk and Shirley Costello as the adults were.
13. Diddo Mr. Eby and Mr. Palmer.
14. You can still pack a suitcase like no one else!
15. Jan Wood made your wedding G-String.

Video of the Month



Here is our Robert A. Wagenhoffer doing what he does best – entertain and move his audience. As a single skater, he was the 1977 Nebelhorn Trophy champion, the 1980 NHK Trophy silver medalist, the 1981 Skate America silver medalist, and a two-time U.S. National Medalist."

Enjoy watching his special style from a 1994 Champions on Ice performance skating to 'Crying' by Roy Orbison & kd Lang.

[Click here to view the video.](#)

Comments from February Blade

Thank you so much for all the wonderful videos, pictures and updates on fellow skaters! Thank you so much the great work you do for all of us. You do a tremendous job! My husband loves learning about past events in skating he was not aware of as well as present and future events to come. The more people that become aware of how special it is the better! God bless you for what you do to bring back wonderful memories and some real class to a sometimes dark world! -Helena (Leny) H. Byron (Formerly Leny Rochester)

I can't seem to put into words my feelings about this month's Blade. You have outdone yourself. It is incredible. My heart was so warmed with the article about Yvonne and I can only say 5 Stars to you. You have done an incredible job on The Blade and I know that everyone appreciates all of your hard work. Again, thanks for all you do. - Newman Stare

Upcoming Events



The Randy Gardner School of Skating at ICE At Santa Monica

[Click here](#) for more information



Skater's Reunion 2017 Prague

September 7 – 10, 2017

It is open to all skaters and crew from all different ice shows and ice circuses worldwide.
More information will be sent shortly, Questions: praguereunion2017@gmail.com

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, reunion pictures and upcoming events.

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