



## Sad News



Loraine Silverthorn aka Lani Hudelson died peacefully, with her family around her on Dec 13, 2018. She was very recently diagnosed with irreversible spinal cord damage and said nothing about it online until she was able to be at peace with the prognosis. She knew this was coming and she had asked me to pass on a message to you -

"Thanks for the memories - it was a great time for all of us I think".

If you have any questions, you can contact Lani's sister Pat directly at [pdahl1@shaw.ca](mailto:pdahl1@shaw.ca)

### **Blair Koski- Klein – January 2, 2019**



Our inspiring, courageous, fun-loving Blair Koski-Klein passed away early the morning of January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

She shared her joy of life with Andy, Carson, family, friends and the special people she met along her many travels around the world. And she met life's challenges with courage, strength, laughter, and a commitment to live life to the fullest. Every person that she connected with felt better for having met her.

Blair's contagious smile and laughter will forever live in our hearts and the hearts of her figure skating community.

There are no words to describe just how truly special Blair was to her family and friends and everyone who was lucky enough to have known her.

"I'll always be with you...right there in your heart" ...-Mickey Mouse.

# REUNION UPDATES!



## SAVE THE DATE!

**Skaters, All-Performers, Production, and Administration personnel...**

You may have traveled around the world, but have you been to beautiful Palm Springs? We will be celebrating at one of the most stunning Palm Springs properties, the **OMNI Rancho Palmas Resort & Spa**, on **June 16, 17 & 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020!** This is a spacious property, with lots of different areas for us all to gather and catch-up with friends, both in the sun and the shade, and inside the hotel. You shouldn't have any problems locating your friends here!

Specific details about the hotel rate and our 'rate', along with cost for the event to follow soon. Please note that fun activities and things to do, are being planned for during the daytime. Watch for those updates, here, and on our Facebook Event Page, and Group page. If you are on Facebook, *please take it upon yourself to invite 'your' Ice Capades friends to the event, on The 80<sup>th</sup> Reunion Event Page.* All 'Professional Ice Show' skaters, production, and administration staff from other shows, are also invited.

**EVENT and HOTEL registration information to be posted soon! Till then, Please Mark Your Calendar - and Hold That Date!**

[Click here for full details and updates](#)

## Our Alumni in the News

[Carol Fox](#) and [Richard J Dalley](#) have been elected to the United States Figure Skating Hall of Fame!!! So very well deserved-so LONG in happening!!



The ice dance team of Fox and Dalley earned medals in nine of their 10 U.S. Championships, including five silver and two bronze at the senior level (1978-84). The five-time World Team members also earned medals in all but one of their international and professional events. After finishing fifth at the 1984 Olympics, Fox and Dalley were featured performers of the Ice Capades from 1984-89. Dalley has served U.S. Figure Skating and the U.S. Olympic Committee in multiple roles and is an ISU judge and national technical specialist. Fox served on the Adult Skating Committee and has been coaching since 1990. I have been and always will be your Number 1 Fan!! YES!! AMEN!! HAPPY 😊;) Oh, and don't forget, they are 2 times WORLD Professional Champions!!!

## **Cheyenne Mountain woman's film work destined for Sundance Film Festival**

- By: William J. Dagendesh – Colorado Springs Gazette



A foreign film chronicling the life of a champion skater for which a Cheyenne Mountain resident choreographed the skate scenes may soon be released in the U.S.

Catarina Lindgren is being recognized for her choreographic work in the film, “Sonja: The White Swan,” the true-life story of Norwegian Olympic gold medalist and world-champion figure skater Sonja Henie. Known for her white boots, short skirts and incorporating dance choreography into her performances, Henie is regarded as one of the world’s top skaters.

“Sonja: The White Swan,” starring Norwegian actress Ine Marie Wilmann in the title role, earned rave reviews from the Norwegian public, Lindgren said. “It was a great reaction from everyone,” said

Lindgren, who attended the film’s premiere in Norway. “They celebrated afterwards at Sonja’s art museum in Oslo with fireworks and fun performances by the actors.”

The film will be reviewed at the Sundance Film Festival and considered for U.S. distribution. Held in January in Park City and Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Sundance Resort, the Sundance Film Festival showcases new work from American and international independent filmmakers, and is regarded as the nation’s largest independent film festival.

Working on the film was a dream come true for the Swedish-born Lindgren, who took up skating at age 8. Later, as a champion skater, Lindgren won the Swedish National Championships for four consecutive years, and competed in international competitions, World Championships and the 1984 Olympics.

Lindgren developed an interest in choreography at a young age and following graduation from high school, sought work performing on the ice. She worked alongside Canadian figure skater Sarah Kawahara, known for her choreographic work on the films “Blades of Glory” and “I, Tonya,” a biography about controversial figure skater Tonya Harding.

Lindgren got involved with the project through Norwegian film production company Maipo Films, who contacted the skater/choreographer last April. “They asked around, Googled a bit and came up with my name. They sent me an email and asked about my interest and availability. After lots of prep work, I met the film crew in Oslo in May,” Lindgren said.

Through emails and Skype sessions, Lindgren guided performers through the ice-skating pros and cons, and worked with costume designers on what fabrics make the best ice performance clothing. Lindgren also was involved in hiring the skating cast, Wilmann’s double, Kiira Korpi, and finding suitable music to accompany each scene.

**“I worked with a company manager from Ice Capades, Don Watson, who had been a friend of Sonja’s and skated in her shows,” Lindgren said.** “He provided the actress and film crew with a lot of information on Sonja’s personality and some scenes were added from his knowledge of what went on.”

During the summer, Lindgren, Wilmann and Korpi worked to perfect Henie’s skating style and choreograph the numbers. Teaching the non-skating Wilmann to give a convincing performance was particularly challenging, Lindgren said.

“She worked incredibly hard even through injuring herself,” Lindgren said of Wilmann. “I am proud to have been able to make her progress technically with her skating skills so quickly.”

Having the opportunity to revisit old ice shows and bring choreography to the screen rarely seen in a group performance was the most rewarding aspect of the project, Lindgren said. Incorporating her own experiences into the film, and working with what she described as an incredible cast and crew made for great team camaraderie, she said.

Lindgren isn’t currently involved with any film projects, though she is working on choreography projects for competitive skaters, she said.

Of the film, “Sonja: The White Swan,” Lindgren hopes someone will pick up U.S. distribution rights, she said. “For me it was a dream project,” Lindgren said of her association with the film. “I’m excited to be able to view it in Sundance on Jan. 29.”

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## **For your Reading Pleasure**

### **Down memory lane – 3rd in a series of short stories**

**by Michael Garren**

JUNE 8, 2008

## MANNEQUIN MOLESTATION

I dare to say that there was a time for all of us in our childhood when we were captivated by our imagination to play 'dress up' of some sort or another; whether it was little boys playing cowboys and Indians, little girls playing ballerinas and princesses, or either playing the opposite. It was a time of childish innocence, where we could portray our super hero, an unusual character from a fairy tale or nursery rhyme, or an imaginary friend that no one else had ever seen, without ever a thought of being judged critically by others. It wasn't difficult to become lost in one's own world of 'pretend' when all we had to do was to put on that special costume which would magically transport us to somewhere else in our imagination. Most of us fortunately never outgrew our youthful innocence and inclination to pretend.

With Ice Capades we were fortunate enough to have had the opportunity over the years to wear some of the most beautiful and extraordinary costumes ever designed; many of them made expressly for us as individuals. Take just a moment to think back; I'm sure you can remember quickly those that fit perfectly and which you loved to wear. Some costumes made us feel handsome or beautiful making it effortless to become another person or character; some were just plain easy to skate in and fun to wear. We had been given the ability to bring life to animals or inanimate objects. On the other hand there were invariably those costumes that were cumbersome, hot and uncomfortable; not at all easy or fun to wear, but hey, it went along with the job right? Some costumes would even disguise our true identity and render us simply as an anonymous pair of blades, but even so, most of us were able to satisfy our inner desire to become someone or something else just by playing 'dress up' with our show costumes.

HOWEVER, for many of us, satisfying our endless urge to 'dress up' just by putting on our show costumes would NEVER have been enough. We had to do it all the time; our answer was to have PARTIES, lots and lots of parties. We had hat parties, we had fine parties, we had press and publicity parties, we had opening and closing night parties, we had birthday parties, we had parties on every imaginable holiday; we even had parties to plan BIGGER parties. We could party with the best of them too.

I've heard that just by having humor as a part of one's life that it would extend the length of your life by several years. If I had an extra day for every good laugh I had while I was in Ice Capades I'd live to be at least 1000. One thing we were exposed to in Ice Capades was a constant stream of humor and laughter. It was contagious; if we weren't laughing with someone we were planning on how to make others laugh. It was tantamount to a show within a show. It made us feel good and relieved the multitude of stressful moments and days we all experienced. You didn't have to look for it; someone was right there always making us laugh. You knew who the company comedians were too, and I'm not talking about the ones with numbers in the show. I had my favorite comedians as I'm sure everyone else did. In West Company it was Rick Prada.

In East Company my favorite constant comedians were John Nazaretta and our dear friend Leonard Perry. I laugh out loud when I remember our 15 minute breaks in rehearsals where John would imitate and mutilate the skating style of Sonja or our current female stars. Those resting in the seats could almost always count on getting a humorous break whether they wanted one or not. Whether it was to be dressing room humor or on the ice, they had the ability to keep us all laughing and the two were substantially different; the dressing room sometimes being a stage for much less refined, shall we say, shenanigans. In addition, Leonard had an insatiable propensity for playing 'dress up'. He could make a costume out of practically nothing and often did, much to our dressing room amusement. I'll leave that to your childish imagination of which I spoke earlier.

In 1967 I believe it was Leonard who suggested that a small group of us should do a 'runway' type of fashion show for the upcoming Halloween party, which was held if I'm not mistaken at the Manger Hotel in Rochester, N. Y. If you knew Leonard, it would have been inconceivable to think mistakenly that he meant male fashion as opposed to female fashion. This time it wasn't to be a costume thrown together from things just lying around the dressing room. It was to be a full on, music track, designed 'costume' fashion show which we decided to keep secret from everyone else in the show until we stepped into the room. We began planning it a couple of months in advance of the party and it was obvious that we had to go shopping for the various items we needed. It was decided it would be less intimidating, since we were a group of five guys out buying items for female fashion, if we went shopping as a group. And, we needed more than just fabrics to make our costumes so it was apparent that we needed to go to a department store to buy all the items without running

all over town. We chose the largest in the city and all piled into a cab together to get there. I knew the shopping spree was going to be full of laughs just because of the composition of the group and our mission, and sure enough, Leonard didn't disappoint us by asking the doorman as we entered the department store, with a totally straight face, if he knew what floor the 'men's dresses' were on. Use your imagination to get a mental picture of this outing if you can.

After a couple hours of shopping and constant joking around we'd purchased most of the fabrics and trim we needed, and Leonard needing one more item suggested we go to the lingerie department. Now, Leonard LOVED fabrics; the color, the texture, the sheen, the way they moved, and was stopping every few minutes since we'd arrived in the store to feel each of the different fabrics. As we entered the lingerie department we were passing a life size female mannequin adorned with a silk night gown held up by very thin spaghetti straps over each shoulder. Leonard was leading the group a little ahead of us and stopped abruptly beside the mannequin. "Oh this is nice", he said as he reached out in an attempt to feel the fabric of the night gown. As he did so, one strap fell off the mannequin's shoulder exposing one of its breasts completely. As he looked down at the exposed breast of the mannequin and then up directly at us with a totally straight face we burst into laughter which I'm sure was heard all over the floor. Leonard still had the silk fabric in his hand as we looked past him to see an older matronly type store clerk, her hair done up in a big bun, in a very long dress and laced up work shoes, approaching at break neck speed. Leonard released the fabric and was trying to replace the spaghetti strap on the mannequin's shoulder when the clerk pushed her way between him and the mannequin and ripped the strap out of his hand. "HOW DARE YOU" she barked. Her indignant attitude made us laugh all the more knowing that it had simply been an accident. "**YOU'RE ALL PERVERTS**", was her exclamation as she pulled the night gown up over the mannequin's breast and replaced the strap over its shoulder. Just picture all this happening, we in outright hysterics, Leonard looking at us and then the clerk without saying a word and with a totally straight face as if to exclaim, "**WHAT**"? "**OK, LET'S GO FIND THE BRAS**" was the last and only thing the clerk heard Leonard say as we pushed past her and continued down the aisle. Amid all our laughter, a quick glance over my shoulder was to reveal the irate clerk standing in front of the mannequin with her feet planted apart, her fists on both hips, looking like a victorious Peter Pan having just vanquished Captain Hook, as if to say "**AND DON'T COME BACK**".

My years with Ice Capades were to teach me to see the humor in everyday situations and how to laugh with others and sometimes even at myself. Some incidents and situations literally bring tears of laughter to my eyes as I recall them today. In addition to the laughter which I miss so very much, I miss feeling like a million bucks in some of the costumes I wore over the years. How very lucky we all are!

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## Comments from January Blade

Thank you for The Blade - I really love reading it every month. More and more I appreciate all of the stories - whether I'm speaking to people in Las Vegas, on Facebook or through The Blade. These are treasures that I am so very happy to share with my adult kids! - *Synnove Reilly*

That was a good piece on Aja Zanova and Otto and Maria Jelinek. There is an old story about the Edmonton Gardens and a mother cat with kittens staying warm on a fur coat (popular then) on the floor in the Principals' dressing room. The coat belonged to Aja Zanova. - *Mike Edwards*

Roy Blakey came from Minneapolis to join me for rehearsals of "Opera Festival on Ice" at Willy Bietak's Warehouse in San Bernardino. I was astounded, more than I have ever been for an ice show. Opera music and ice skating are a wonderful marriage of the arts. It was the best blend I have ever seen with top skaters. I call those skaters, as Toller Cranston said in his book referring to skaters like those as "The Great Unknowns" I was one of those too. There are a lot more out there. Skaters past and now on the 11 Ship shows of Willy Bietak Productions. A show running 17 years on one of the ships is finally getting a new one in January. I will see that dress rehearsal also like I have seen most of his great shows.

Also fantastic! The 80 Ice Capades reunion will be in my own backyard, Rancho Mirage (Palm Springs). How great is that? (I was in Ice Capades 1956-58) I skated with Willy and Peggy Fleming in Ice Follies 71-72 and have worked for Bietak doing costumes. So I will be at his Reunion on one of those great ships.

I want to thank you for your work and keeping me in the loop. So many us are forgotten or not even known by today's skaters. (Sonja Henie, who's that? They say) You are keeping the memories fresh. – *Paul Sibley*

Always such a joy to receive the Blade. I read every word & I can only tell you that it brings great joy every month. I hope this finds you well & I wish you the most wonderful New Year. Keep up the great work on "The Blade". – *Mark G. Richard*

I just want you to know that your monthly Ice Capades Newsletters is wonderful and always makes me feel so good. You do an incredible job!! Having the link to the Video of the month is just unbelievable. Thanks again for all you do. – *Newman Stare*

Pleased you have been so kind as to keep me in the IC loop. Bill Bain must smile as I, so from above every time you keep The Blade alive. Thank you so much for being such a sweet and wonderful person. Loaves & Geeses – *Cadet Craig Carr*

I enjoyed the video in The Blade so much. It was fascinating to see how skating has progressed over the years! When we were skating we had single Axels and some double jumps, some of the skaters had or hoped to have triples, but quads? Not in our dreams! - *Ellen Johns-Friedlander*

## Upcoming Events

### **Winterlude Mini – Reunion – Feb. 1-3, 2019 – Ottawa, ON**



Attention ALL Ice Capades Alumni!!! You're invited to come to Ottawa, CANADA CA next month to celebrate the 80th Anniversary of our fabulous show AND the opening weekend of WINTERLUDE!!!

Come CELEBRATE the 80th Anniversary of the FABULOUS Ice Capades, on the opening night of the world famous WINTERLUDE, with some of the stars of the show, as well as other prominent professional and amateur ice skaters in the National Capital Region.

For further information contact: Stephan Klovan - [stephanklovan@gmail.com](mailto:stephanklovan@gmail.com)



On May 25th to May 28th, 2019, onboard Royal Caribbean's Symphony of the Seas, we will be celebrating 40 years of Willy Bietak Productions. Come join us for this incredible reunion of friends, family, skaters and employees from around the world!!!

REMINDER to make sure you book your

**Bietak Celebration Cruise today!**

We also need your help. If you have a cast photo from any Bietak Production show you were part of, please email a copy to [reunion@bietakproductions.com](mailto:reunion@bietakproductions.com). Make sure to include in the email the show name, year, and location.

Visit <https://www.bietakproductions.com/bietak-celebration/>

## Royal Ballroom Cruise January 20, 2020



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