



Sad News

Narena "Boots" Greer Beyer

September 21, 1923 – June 11, 2019

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

It is with sadness to announce the passing of Narena Louise Greer Beyer, a resident of Rancho Palos Verdes for the past 30 years. All who knew her called her "Boots", a nickname she was given during her roller skating and figure skating performing years and endured throughout her life.



Born on September 12, 1923 in Solano Beach, CA., Boots showed immediate physical prowess by riding and showing horses at the tender age of 6, winning many ribbons and silver cups with her beautiful horse named "Film Actor". At the age of 10, she learned to Roller Skate and few years later formed a roller skating trio called "Boots & Her Buddies" skating exhibition performances at local rinks and skating clubs. One member of the trio left but the act continued as a duo renaming the act "The Skate-O-Maniacs". In 1939, a talent scout for The Major Bowes Touring Shows asked the duo to audition and in 1939, they officially started their professional skating career touring the US and Canada until

1941. One exciting feature of their Act was Boots passing her whole body thru a tennis racket frame while she was spinning. In 1941, the team appeared at the famous Roxy Theater in New York and signed a 3 year contract with Music Corporation of America. They returned to appear at the Roxy after 5 weeks and appeared alongside Milton Berle. They later went on to appear in a Revue with the late, great Eddy Duchin and his orchestra.

Boots switched from Roller Skates to Ice Skates and found a new partner and taught him all the tricks she used to do on Rollers. The new duo was signed sight unseen to appear at the Century Room in the Hotel Adolphus in Dallas. Boots' new partner Richard Norris had no problem with all the incredible adagio skating lifts and so Boots changed the name of the act to "Narena & Norris". They were immediately signed for an engagement at the Netherland Plaza Hotel in Ohio and then on to New York where they appeared at the Hotel New Yorker skating to a live orchestra conducted by Victor Lombardo.

Word spread about this dynamic act and in 1948 they joined "**Ice Cycles**" for a season. Their next major break came along when they were hired by the "Shipstads & Johnson's Ice Follies" touring the US and Canada playing all of the major arenas including Madison Square Garden. During this time Boots married her partner Dick Norris and the duo received well deserved international publicity that included both Life and Look Magazine features.

[Click here to read the entire article](#)

New Reunion Information



[Click on the PDF file on the cover page for updated 2020 Reunion or for access to registration website, \[click here\]\(#\)](#)

Our Alumni in the News

WBP 40th Anniversary Reunion on Symphony of the Seas



Chip Rossbach, Paula Trujillo, Lisa-Marie Allen, Dori Schreyer Murray, Denise Daniel, Sarah Kawahara and Sylvia Froescher.

[Click here](#) to see a few memorable pictures.



Life's been an adventure for Lynn-Holly Johnson



If a movie were to be made about Lynn-Holly Johnson's life, a tagline could be, "Seek Adventure."

How many people can say they've kissed Robby Benson, cracked jokes with Roger Moore, stood in Bette Davis's presence, married George Clooney and then died a week later, and due to personal integrity, turned down films that would become big hits?

Johnson can.

At 19, Johnson was happily skating for the **Ice Capades**. Producers for *Ice Castles*, which was being cast, tracked her down, and she completed a successful screen test. The part was hers if she wanted it. Producer Donald Wrye had championed her to the executives at Columbia, touting her modeling, acting and skating experience. The icing on the cake — Johnson, as a child actor, had played Helen Keller in *The Miracle Worker*, so acting as a visually impaired person wouldn't be daunting for her.

It should have been off to the races! But not so fast. Johnson was happy with her touring life. The script contained a huge stumbling block for her, a nude love scene. She told her Ice Capades roommates, Kitty and Heidi DeLio, that she was going to decline. "No way!" Kitty said. She told Johnson to go downstairs to the Columbus, Ohio, Ramada Inn pay phone and accept — with the provision that the nude scene would be deleted. It was.

However, when they got halfway into the actual filming, a substituted scene had Johnson taking off her blouse. Again, she vetoed this. The director refused to speak to her. Production was shut down for two days. Who won this round? Johnson. The scene was rewritten.

When asked about what it was like to work with Benson, the "It Guy" of the 1970s, Johnson said that as a serious competitor skating six to seven hours a day, going into the movie, she didn't know a lot about him. However, Benson's determination to master enough hockey to look like a serious competitor impressed her; she also appreciated that he didn't look down on her for having no previous acting experience.

In one of the movie's key scenes, Lexie Winston (played by Johnson) has a life-changing accident. The character was tired of people wanting something from her, telling her what to do, and keeping her from training hard. Striking hard, her feet on fire, the adrenaline rush caused her to trip, hitting her head hard. But Johnson quickly corrects the notion that Winston is completely blind — she can see shadows and light.

For her to be convincing to the film's viewers, Johnson unfocused her eyes, causing them to be blurry. "I made it scary for myself," she said. The resulting feelings of not being able to compete temporarily hit home, too. In

1974, a hipbone socket injury had sidelined Johnson.

A movie that originally was slated to be R-rated came out instead as a family movie. Johnson takes great satisfaction in knowing that she stood her ground.

A now-recognizable face after *Ice Castles*, producers sought her out. Again, she stood her ground if nudity was involved, saying no to cult classics like *Caddyshack* and Francis Ford Coppola's film *The Cotton Club*.

However, she did become Moore's Bond girl in *For Your Eyes Only*, shared the screen with Bette Davis in the Disney film *The Watcher in the Woods*, and hung out with the likes of Dustin Hoffman, Stephen Spielberg and John Denver; she even got to meet Princess Diana.

But, when asked about her time in Hollywood, Johnson ruefully says, "I made it out alive." Once again, Johnson made a stand to stay away from the ever-present drug culture and to show integrity in a world of lies and deceit. Whatever the character was, Johnson became the person, taking the part as seriously as she would any competition. She was always willing to put in the hard work.

During down time in filming in the Philippines, she learned Japanese. She took long walks in Spain — whatever she could do to enhance her life of adventure.

Eventually she tired of the crazy stuff, the game-playing and the outrageous, often unsafe, filming locations, deciding to close this chapter of her life. Like Winston, she desired to walk away from all the Hollywood hype and be her own person.

That meant falling in love, marrying Kelly Givens, and raising two children, Kellen and Jensie. Much of her time now is spent traveling to her children's gymnastics and track competitions.



Though blessed with beauty and athletic ability, Johnson knows the hard road from recovery all too well. Along with her 1974 injury, Johnson suffered a stroke in her 50s due to an undiagnosed hole in heart while traveling on a plane. Taken by her husband to the emergency room, she endured a successful heart surgery; the surgery closed the hole in her heart, but it was followed by a year of intense cognitive therapy to restore linear thinking lost in the stroke.

She urges all people with a family history of heart issues to have a thorough heart exam and tell doctors everything there is to know about them.

Understanding injuries well, Johnson was on hand recently at the University of Alabama to support Jensie, as she had surgery to correct a gymnastics injury. And in January, while skating in Sun Valley, Idaho, Johnson fell and broke her arm, which now contains a plate and screws — a permanent injury. Remind you of any movie scenes from the 1970s? The silver lining for Johnson is that she doesn't set off airport security with her new metal.

Life is an adventure to Johnson; she has lived hers well.

Video of the Month



ADULTS SKATE TUESDAY - "Mr. Debonair" Richard Dwyer! Richard holds the Guinness world record for longest professional skating career, and at age 80, can still land an axel that garners applause (Video provided by Lauren Day) [Click here to check out that amazing axel.](#)

This is how easy it is to put a mini reunion together



A special day with **Ice Capades East** roomies and long-time special friends who came from Boston, Seattle, Vancouver and Victoria and met up in White Rock. They shared so many wonderful memories of that time in their lives. — with Dale Harding, Dolena Thompson, Linda Dev, Corazon Ross, Sonia Burling Polson and Benita Anderson.

For those of you who skated in Green Bay - The 60 year-old **Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena** is being demolished



The Ice Capades, regular visitors to the arena, wanted to do a week of rehearsals one year. Imagine the surprise of the staff when they got to work and the ice had melted. There was a leak in one of the pipes under the concrete floor. As crews scrambled to do a major repair, the arena had to buy ice time from two other ice centers in the county for the show to practice on.

“Oh Lord, that was a panic attack.”

Those skaters loved to play broomball, and so the arena staff would round up former Bobcats players and others to take them on during off-hours from their performances. Van Matre and the ticket office staff would play cheerleaders, once even purchasing old outfits from Ashwaubenon High School. The “A” for “Ashwaubenon” did double duty as “A” for “Arena.”



Remembering the 2015 Ice Capades Reunion



[Click here to relive some memories & pictures](#)

Upcoming Events



2019 Skate America

October 18 – 20, 2019 - Las Vegas, NV

Ticket & hotel information, [click here](#)

Royal Ballroom Cruise January 20, 2020



Royal Caribbean Mariner of the Seas

4 Nights \$429.00 and up

Taking reservations now

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[Click here for more information.](#)



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