

Our Alumni in the News

On thin ice: Skater talks about depression

by: Tammy Bain – 9/12/18



Dorothy Hamill, 1976 Olympic Figure Skating champion and world champion, sits down for an interview before Tuesday's Town Hall Lecture Series, at the North Platte Community Playhouse, Tammy Bain / The North Platte Telegraph

Dorothy Hamill had wonderful coaches and mentors. She felt the most at ease when she was ice skating, which gave her an Olympic gold medal at the 1976 Winter Olympics in Austria and a world championship the same year in Sweden. Her mother traveled with her daughter to help her assist her dream.

It wasn't until after the gold medal that the depression set in — along with the interviews, the corporate partnerships and the televised skating shows. She spoke about both the joys and the setbacks at Tuesday's Town Hall Lecture Series at the North Platte Community Playhouse.

"One of the things I loved most about skating was I could be in my own little bubble and not have to talk," Hamill told the audience.

She first became interested in ice skating when her older sister, along with other neighborhood girls, wouldn't teach her how to ice skate backward on a small pond. She later "badgered" her mother until she signed her up for group lessons. Hamill earned her way to what she called the only scholarship she ever received — one free, 15-minute private skating lesson.

Hamill went to her first competition in New York City, falling on her too-long wool dress, made by her mother, during practice. Afterward, she stood back as the girls rushed to see their results — she'd won second place.

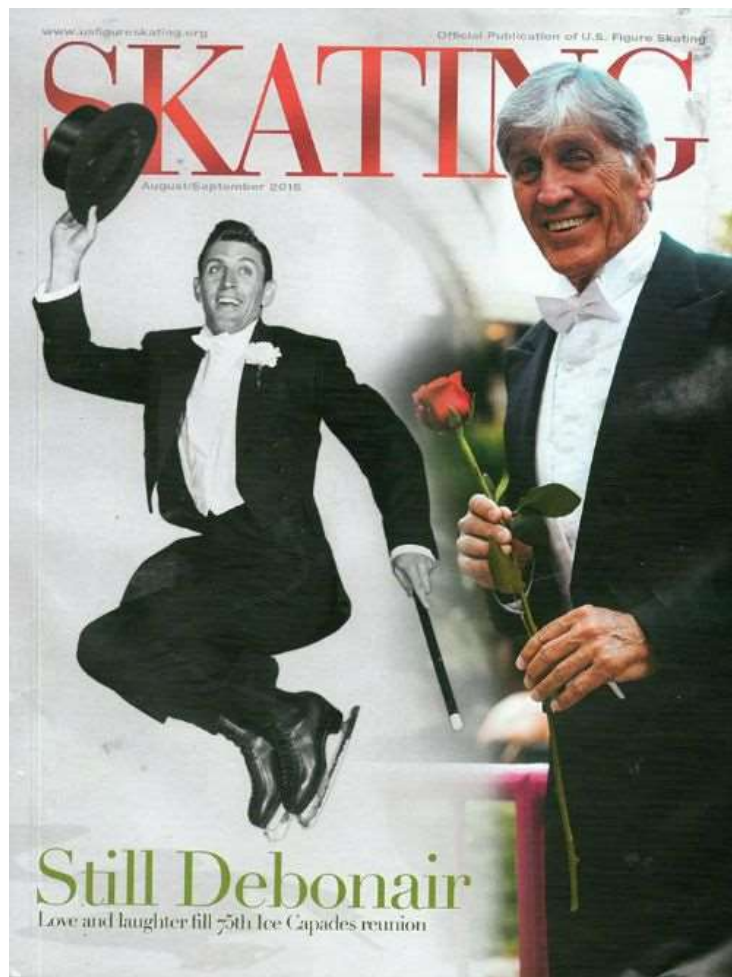
The judges noted her interpretive dance, which she joked she'd been making up at home for years. Choosing her performance music, which she did with her father, was one of her favorite parts of competing.

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

In Case You Missed It

Skating Magazine's Article on the 2015 Reunion

featuring our lovely Ice Capets from the '40's



[Skating Magazine Article](#)

Picture of the Month

Ice Capades 1992



Carol Condon Lourie,, Kandice Shannon, Denise Daniel, Shanyyn Presley Vallon, Sibylle Gasser, Stacy Bloomquist Myers, Blair Koski-Klein, Carla Schulz-Oyster, Chris Jones, Angelique Gandy Conte, Mary Ann Pedley and Fiona Kirk

Videos of the Month



Entertainment reporter Tim Estiloz takes an extremely rare and candid look at the Ice Capades from "Behind the Scenes"... interviewing the skaters and production staff. For over 50 years, Ice Capades was synonymous with quality family entertainment - and exceptional Olympic and champion skaters like Dorothy Hamill, Scott Hamilton, Peggy Fleming and many, many more.

Part 1 - Behind the Scenes - <https://youtu.be/rE-ouAkSGgM>

Part 2 – Behind the Scenes - <https://youtu.be/bvxtKeYnqbM>



Launching a new Website (NOT the Facebook page)

This does NOT replace "The Blade" that you receive each month

BUT an added bonus for your reading pleasure

www.Icecapadestheblade.com

Wanted to create another outlet of information for our alumni. This site will be more informational & historical, containing Ice Capades memorabilia, all in one place for easy access.

It will have **REUNION AND EVENT UPDATES** when they are received so [bookmark the link](#) and check back often.

Included in the website:

- In Memorium – our alumni who have passed since 2010
- Show Rosters, Show Itineraries
- Cast pictures, program covers, historical pictures, etc.
- Past reunions – pictures & videos. [Pictures from 2015 reunion are still available through a photo link.](#)
- Past issues of The Blade
- Show videos – have compiled as many as I could find

You are welcome to copy and take any information posted.

It's still a work in progress and will be adding items as I receive them but please feel free to let me know if you see something missing or would like to add to this site

If you know if someone who would like to receive The Blade, please send me their email address.

Email me directly at gspoden@rogers.com

Not to worry, The Blade will still be sent to you every month.

A Glimpse of the Past

The New York Times

Published: January 9, 1955

FIGURES: The computing machine at Madison Square Garden has just disclosed that the new edition of the "Hollywood Ice Revue," bowing there on Thursday, uses 624 costumes executed by thirty-six dressmakers and four costume companies. Total cost is supposed to have come to \$421,000, the most expensive items being the \$7,000 costumes worn by Gundi Busch and Barbara Ann Scott. Cheapest item: Clown Freddie Trenkler's beat-up old hat, for which he probably couldn't get more than \$5.50 in the current hock-shop market.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Sep 26 1947

"Ice Capades" grossed a phenomenal \$314,000 for its three-week engagement at The Gardens, \$5,000 better than last year, when there were two performances more. However, in 1946, the show had to buck the power strike at the tag end of the run. . . .

Variety Wednesday, January 22, 1969

'ICE CAPADES' HITS \$1,200,000

BOX OFFICE AT GARDEN THE LARGEST ICE

SHOW GROSS IN N.Y. HISTORY HAS BEEN REGISTERED AT THE N.Y. MADISON SQUARE GARDEN WITH THE ENGAGEMENT OF "ICE CAPADES" WHICH SCORED A HUGE \$1,200,000 IN 13 DAYS, DURING WHICH 19 PERFORMANCES WERE GIVEN. LAYOUT WAS SOLD OUT VIRTUALLY BEFORE THE OPENING ON JAN. 7.

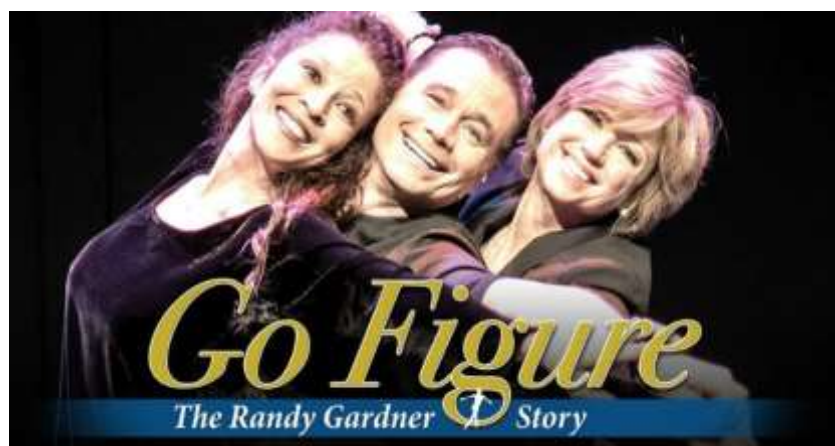
Comments from September Blade

Thanks so much and so much sad news - so many gone from this life. My heartfelt condolences to all the families and friends of these so talented and wonderful people. Thanks for the memories. – *Loraine 'Lani' Hudelson*

I especially liked Dawn's article, this edition. *Mark Beck*

Let me add my thanks for all that you do producing The Blade and everything else you do to help keep the show alive! – *Joey Tetreault*

Upcoming Events





Richardson, Texas

[Click here for ticket details](#)

Appearing Sat. October 27, 2018



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. Make sure to include in the email the show name, year, and location.

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



<http://www.icetheatre.org/>

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