

## Sad News



Deborah Ann Jones, age 52 of Franklin, TN formerly of Harrogate, TN was born October 13, 1967 and passed away peacefully Saturday, January 11th at 6:10 AM.

Debbie was a very caring and loving wife, mother, sister and friend. She attended Powell Valley High School where she was a member of the cheerleading squad and graduated from Lincoln Memorial University with an Associate of Science degree in Nursing. She had a calling in life to care for others as she was a registered nurse for over 20 years. Debbie had a true love of life and it showed in everything she did. She always had the brightest smile and lit up the room.

She loved fishing, attending concerts and her 80's music, of which she was a huge fan.

She was in East Company in 1988 as the Company secretary and was still in East in 1991. Her husband Howie Jones was also on tour, starting out as Lead Driver and eventually ended up as Audio Supervisor.

She was preceded in death by her father; Jack Miller. She is survived by her mother; Rowena Miller, loving husband; Howard Jones, son; Daniel Jones, Sister; Jackie Slaven and husband Rick. She is also survived by several nieces, nephews, and a host of other loving relatives and friends.

The family will receive friends Saturday, January 18, 2020 from 1PM until 2PM with funeral services to follow at 2PM in the Arnett & Steele Valley Chapel with the Rev. Dale Turner officiating. Eulogy will be provided by Kimberly Johnson. Interment will follow in the Harrogate Cemetery.

[Click here for further funeral details.](#)

## Pat Clohessy – Feb. 2019



Just received notification of the passing of Pat Clohessy sometime in Feb. 2019. Unfortunately there is no further information except she skated with Ice Capades from 1956 to 1964, and then with Holiday on Ice from 1965 to about 1971. She was a line skater, and married to and skated with Comedian Eric Waite from 1956-1964.

## Updated Reunion Information



[Click here for all 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion Information](#)

[Click here to see who's coming](#)



## OUR ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

### Kawahara Creates Movie Magic:

### Hall of Fame Choreographer has Crafted Iconic Film Moments



**Editor's note:** Late last winter, SKATING magazine conducted an online poll of fans' favorite ice skating movies. Results of that poll will appear in the June-July issue of SKATING magazine, which hits mailboxes the first week of June. In addition, several members of the skating community tell their backstories of what it was like to work on the set or behind the scenes of some of these popular movies.

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Lois Elfman - 6/3/2019

When depicting sports in a film, authenticity is key. Before actress Margot Robbie, who received an Academy Award nomination for her lead role in the film *I, Tonya*, began filming, she spent four months working with the film's choreographer, Sarah Kawahara.

Not only did Kawahara teach Robbie to figure skate, she meticulously re-created Tonya Harding's skating programs. This involved teaching Robbie's two skating doubles, Heidi Munger and Anna Malkova, the actual choreography as well as working with Robbie to realistically portray the former skater, fully utilizing all the skills the actress had learned.

"Margot is athletically inclined," Kawahara said. "I took her basic abilities and tried to put them into the forefront and nurture it so that she would have an advantage when she had to skate. She's a hard worker and she embraced the idea of being able to skate beyond just going in and out of a frame. That was advantageous."

An Emmy Award winner for her work choreographing the opening and closing ceremonies at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games in Salt Lake City, Kawahara is a member of the U.S. Figure Skating, Skate Canada and Professional Skaters Association Halls of Fame. She worked with Scott Hamilton for decades, creating some of his iconic routines and choreographing the TV specials "Scott Hamilton Upside Down," for which she won an Emmy, and "Scott Hamilton and Friends".

Renowned throughout the skating world, Kawahara has created many individual programs and choreographed multiple television specials. She also choreographed and directed numerous ice shows for Willy Bietak Productions, including the cruise ship shows. Her first film was the 2005 Disney movie *Go Figure*.

"There is so much detail in what I do as a choreographer and director for shows, but when you do film the level of detail is so infinitesimal," Kawahara said. "It's broken down into tiny bits and then magnified. What may take five seconds [in a film] might take an entire day to shoot. There are so many different ways they need to cover the movement. It's broken down into such tiny bits to get the emotional hit that they want."

Many of Harding's programs are captured on video or film, and Kawahara studied everything she could find. While keeping as close to the original as possible, she had to adapt some things to suit Robbie's abilities, such as switching which leg Robbie used in one of Harding's trademark high kicks.

The doubles were closer in height to Robbie, who is 5 feet, 6 inches, than Harding, who is 5 feet, 1 inch. They all wore body padding, which was particularly challenging for the doubles when doing triple jumps. Kawahara said the simplicity of 1990s-era skating took Munger and Malkova a bit of time to get comfortable with as they've grown up with the IJS.

"Tonya's style of skating at the time was not decorated at all," Kawahara said. "She was a fast skater and she spun really fast. I was lucky with Malkova because she's a really fast, good-centered spinner. As young people who weren't around in that era, it was interesting to hear their take on what they were looking at because I made them study the films as well.

"It wasn't about just doing the tricks; it was about emulating the skater. Even though you're a double, you have to be an actor and skate and stroke like this person."

While *I, Tonya* required precise attention to detail and re-creating actual competitive skating, Kawahara's work on *Blades of Glory* (2007) involved over-the-top comedy and a decidedly tongue-in-cheek approach to skating. She oversaw all the skating lessons for the actors, hiring Judy Blumberg, Susan Austin and Lisa-Marie Allen to work on their skating skills as per her specifications.

"I have my own set of shortcuts for teaching actors to skate, because I know what they're going to need and what we're going to shoot," Kawahara said.

It varies from film to film how much skating the actors do, which is usually connected to the abilities of the actors. By example, in *Blades of Glory* actor Will Arnett (Stranz Van Waldenberg) was a good skater, and at points he skated with Amy Poehler's (Fairchild Van Waldenberg) double, Tiffany Scott.

"Jon Heder ([Jimmy MacElroy](#)) really took to the ice and was a natural at it," Kawahara recalled. "It was harder for Will Ferrell (Chazz Michael Michaels), but comical every day and he worked hard at it. He would look at me

and say, 'Backward crossovers are the most unnatural thing I have ever experienced in my life, and I consider myself an athlete.'

"Amy Poehler didn't really like to skate, but she did it. With the small amount of skating — she could skate on and off — she could act up a storm and really sell it. I did this whole move where he lifted her and then she went down in between his legs, she reached between and he pulled her up. She could act her way through it. It was amazing."

Kawahara used multiple skating doubles for the male leads — four for Ferrell, two each for Heder and Arnett — selected for their physical similarities to the actors because in some instances computer-generated images were used to put the actor's face on the skater's body. Also, ability to perform certain script-driven maneuvers came into play.

"In their narrative they wanted some crazy tricks," Kawahara said.

Kawahara had the doubles on the ice with the actors several times, so each could see the other's rhythm and movement.

"Actors are natural mimics, so it helped them," she said.

One day, they were filming in an arena with about 800 people plus 1,500 "stuffies" (blow-up dolls) in the seats, and Heder and Ferrell performed a 90-second routine from start to finish. Kawahara said it was a wonderful moment because that was the one and only time they got to skate an entire program.

"It's not just about the skating," she said. "It's about the lighting and the shadow and the angle and the actor's expression."

Recently, Kawahara has been working on the upcoming Netflix series *Spinning Out*. Season one consists of 10 episodes, seven of which will have skating. As opposed to a film that has one director, a series involves multiple directors and crews across the episodes.

"There are lots of skaters," Kawahara said. In addition to Johnny Weir and Dylan Moskovitch, who have speaking roles, many skaters are involved in the action sequences. The film centers on a senior ladies competitor who has lost her nerve and is planning to quit when a Russian coach convinces her to become a pairs skater.

"It's a lot of pairs skating," said Kawahara, who in addition to skating programs choreographed dramatic moments that unfold on practice ice. "She's a singles skater first, so I have singles skater doubles and I've got pairs skater doubles to reflect different levels of her pairs skating. When she starts to get better, there are different doubles. I have all those different layers."

The Canadian pairs team of Evelyn Walsh and Trennt Michaud went immediately into filming after competing at the 2019 World Figure Skating Championships.

"In *Spinning Out* the skating choreography is bound to the story and what part of the story we're telling," Kawahara said. "For me, it's music-driven and dramatically driven by dialogue. The skating is as integrated as I've ever seen it in a production. It is presented as an integral part of the story. They really wanted to get the emotional beat of the moment."

"It's nice to have a learning curve at this point in my career."

## An open letter from Marilyn & John Bate

**JOHN & MARILYN BATE**

January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Gloria,

Just a quick note to let you know Marilyn and I will not be attending the Ice Capades 80<sup>th</sup> Reunion this year due to health issues.

We have always enjoyed meeting and greeting the "Old timers" from years ago. We often think and relive the many fun times we all shared while on the road. We think of how we all hated 3 show days, a good meal between shows consisted of a Baloney sandwich and coffee at Stan Belliveau's Canteen backstage. We also think of the many good times with the people we met on the road. We still correspond to many of them and share many laughs and fun we had together.

I am sending you a picture that was taken at the annual Halloween Party at the Gunter Hotel in San Antonio Texas in 1959. Doug Austin made the Carmen Miranda costume but decided not to wear it at the party. He then asked me if I was interested in wearing the costume, and of course I jumped at the opportunity. In the picture, left to right, I am Carmen Miranda, Leonard Perry is Jane Mansfield, Bob Chaney is Dorothy Lamour, Jack Mattison is in the "Yellow Polka Dot Bikini". A great night for Hollywood Celebrities and a great party.

Another picture was taken at the Manhattan Hotel in New York prior to leaving for Russia in May 1961. Some of us decided we would dress in style for our trip to Moscow.

Left to right in picture, Bob Norrland, George Verbiwski, (Bussey), Bill Rudolph, Mickey Squire, and John Bate.

The sad thing about the picture is that 3 of the 5 members have passed away and are looking down at us from the big Ice Rink in the sky.

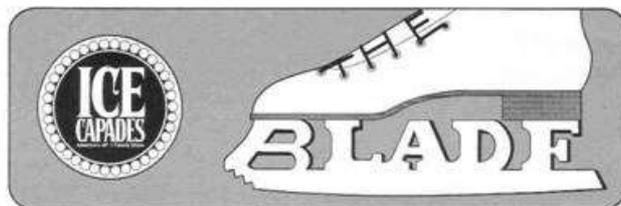
I was fortunate enough to end up in Victoria with my wife Marilyn. I was the Manager of the Victoria Memorial Arena home of the Ice Capades annual visit to Victoria. I still remember the annual "Broomball" games. Ice Capades vs. Arena staff with Pizza and Beer served after the game.

Ed Pierce the show Manager was always upset the next day when he viewed all the broken Dash lights, but those were the fun days in Ice Capades.

We will miss you all at the Reunion, but our hearts are with you all,  
Yours truly,

John Bate and Marilyn too!!!





The website, [www.icecapadestheblade.com](http://www.icecapadestheblade.com) has been revamped and more information has been added. It's still a work in progress. If you have something to add, please send them.

Look here for **2020 Ice Capades Reunion** information, including the list of **who's coming**

**Cast, Precision & Production Pictures** – Relive some memories.

**Rosters** – Looking for someone or remembering who you skated with in the show?

**Video links** – have been collecting skating 'You Tube' links from the early years.

**Program Covers** – we had the most beautiful covers

**Past Issues of The Blade** – just in case you missed an issue

**Past Reunion Pictures** – relive the times you attended the reunions

**In Memorium** – remembering those who have left us too soon

Check it out!

## Upcoming Events



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

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