

Sissy Hofer died on October 22, 2022 in her sleep on a train toward the beginning of her travel back to Vienna from Las Vegas.

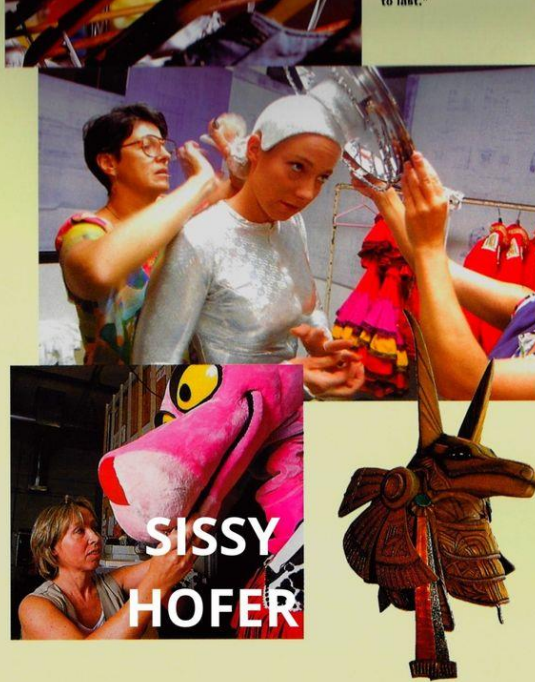


Sissy Hofer, Costume Shop Manager

Sissy Hofer is recognized internationally for her costume design, execution, and supervision. One might say she comes by her ability naturally, being a fourth-generation member of the world-renowned Austrian costuming family, the Lambert Hofers. But with five years of schooling in costume design and more than two decades of experience designing and managing the creation of show costumes, hard work is certainly as responsible for Sissy's success as her family history. Sissy's previous experience with ice shows includes a decade-long association with "Holiday on Ice" productions, designs for Tom Scallen's "Ice Parade," the "Vienna Ice Revue," and numerous film, theater, and opera credits, both in America and abroad. Sissy has directed the production of costumes for the former Ice Capades Company since 1987.

Crafting the Costumes

- The work sometimes involves more artistry than sewing, Sissy says. Case in point: the Pink Panther costumes, which are made from different densities of foam for the head, feet, and body. After covering the foam with fur or fabric, wardrobe artists airbrush it to give it dimension and help it “read” better from a distance.
- Almost every costume has l-o-n-g zippers. This allows skaters to change quickly between numbers, slipping costumes on and off without removing their skates.
- The wardrobe artists create duplicates of the most critical costumes. Those extras can be lifesavers: Last year, during the tour of *Cinderella*, the prince’s costume disappeared and was never found. Luckily, a back-up took its place, and the show went on.
- Costumes are made to last for years, since many Ice Capades shows tour for up to three successive seasons. The costumes must be lightweight, yet strong enough to last for literally hundreds of performances.
- And what happens once a production is completed? The costumes are retired to a large storeroom—“almost a museum,” Sissy says, where they’re carefully preserved.



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