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Theatre  
of  
New York*

Gala 2002

"TO ACCOMPLISH GREAT THINGS, WE MUST NOT ONLY ACT,  
BUT ALSO DREAM, NOT ONLY PLAN, BUT ALSO BELIEVE."

*Congratulations to*

JOAN SCRIBNER

*and*

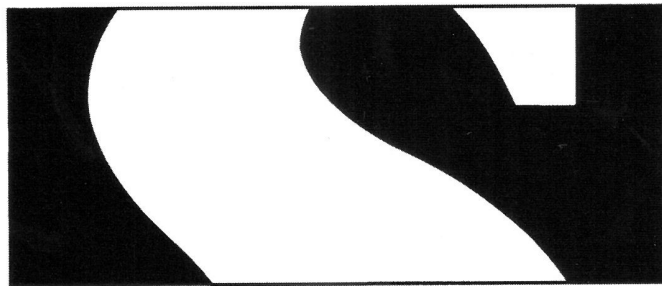
ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK

*also...*

*Best wishes to*

ROSALYNN SUMMERS *and* TOLLER CRANSTON

*For their Artistry and Inspiration*



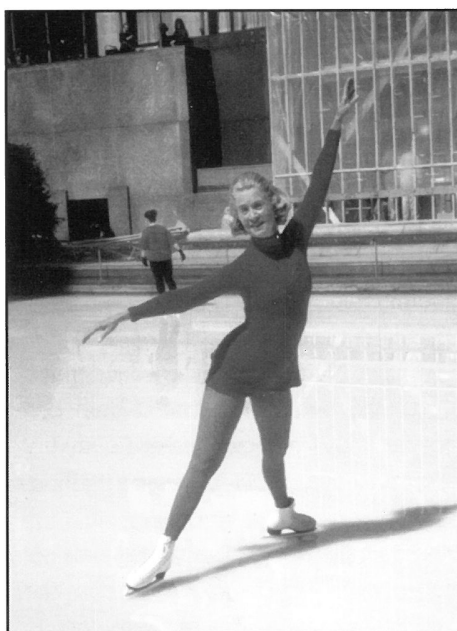
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Ritchie & Charlie  
Blair & John  
Charlie & Christopher*

# A Love Affair With Skating

starring

## Joan Scribner

by EDWARD Z. EPSTEIN

When I first saw Joan Scribner, one sunny morning in the mid-nineteen eighties at Sky Rink, I thought for a moment that she was the actress Dina Merrill. There was not only the physical resemblance; Joan, wearing bright green, was center-ice, working with a flowing piece of multi-hued chiffon, experimenting with it as a prop for a program she was working on. I smiled – leave it to a gifted actress to think up such a theatrically effective concept.

Joan has always displayed the instincts of an artist, a flair for the dramatic. Her romance with the ice began at a young age: "I was around seven. My parents enrolled me in the Junior Club at the

Skating Club of New York," she recalls. Classmate Nancy Streeter, the same age, shared Joan's enthusiasm (they were close friends; their fathers were partners in the same law firm, *Davis Polk*). "That's how one started skating in those years," recalls Nancy. "You joined the Club, which, back then, was organized in a more traditional way than in later years."

A native New Yorker, Joan Sunderland "from the beginning, was a born performer," says Nancy Streeter, "and very single-minded about it."

Interestingly, competitive skating was not Joan's *raison d'être*. Joan's coach, the renowned Pierre Brunet, was accustomed to pupils who were fiercely competitive. "I never concentrated on that," states Joan. "I've always been interested in interpreting the music; the artistic side of skating always appealed to me, expressing myself on the ice, communicating with the audience. I loved the audience."

Joan and fellow club members had golden opportunities to perform annually, for thousands of people, at Madison Square Garden (at its original location, 50th Street and Eighth Avenue) whenever the Ice Capades and Ice Follies came to town. "Junior Club skaters opened the show," recalls Joan.

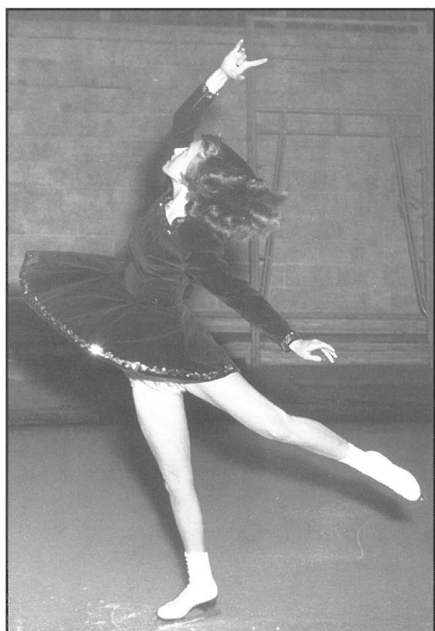
"We'd perform an elaborate number, then the Senior Club did its routines, and then the ice show came on." Yvonne Sherman (later United States champion) and Lucy Brennan (later a distinguished judge) were among other young club members who performed at these events.

"Those were fun times," recalls Joan. "Afterwards, we'd mingle with the stars of the ice shows and get their autographs."

When Joan attended Chapin, she told her mother she wanted to skate full-time. "Mother said, 'no,' and that was that!" Joan's passion for the sport never diminished. Nancy Streeter observes, "While I stopped skating in my teenage years (and came back to it later), Joan never stopped, not through high school and four years at Bryn Mawr. Even after she married and had children, she kept it up."

"There was a beautiful rink near Bryn Mawr," recalls Joan. "I love to skate very early in the morning. So, at dawn, I'd phone for a taxi (the ride cost fifty cents), go to the rink and train, then it was back to school and the task of getting an education."

Through the years, Joan skated many exhibitions, in many venues. "Performing at Rockefeller Center for





Peter Dunfield, was especially thrilling. At night, standing on that mirror-like surface of ice, waiting for my music to begin, looking up and seeing all those lights, the people – it was a dream. There was something spiritual about it. It inspired me."

No matter where she skated, spectators always remarked on how lovely she looked. Few realized that "I designed – and made – my own costumes," she declares with pride. And she edited her own music.

---

Joan married book publisher Charles Scribner, Jr., and the couple had three sons: Charles III, Blair and John. Joan's skating was an enthusiastically supported fact of family life.

At the old Town Tennis Club, on Manhattan's East Side, there was a period when "they flooded and froze their two courts," recalls Palmer Baker, "and a lot of New York Club members would go there to skate with their kids. I was there one morning with my wife Alma and our daughter, and Joan was there with her eldest son, Charlie. Young Charlie leaned across to Alma, and said:

'Mrs. Baker, I think Mr. Baker has eyes for my mother.' And I did! I think everyone did."

Joan laughs, remembering the occasion. Her eyes were strictly on her skating. Her positive attitude rarely faltered, but there were moments. When Joan's good friend (and legend in the skating world) Richard Dwyer, of *Ice Follies* fame, invited Joan to perform at the opening ceremonies of Central Park's Wollman Rink (newly renovated by Donald Trump), she declined.

"I can't, Dick," I told him. "I've got new boots! They're not broken in!" Dick

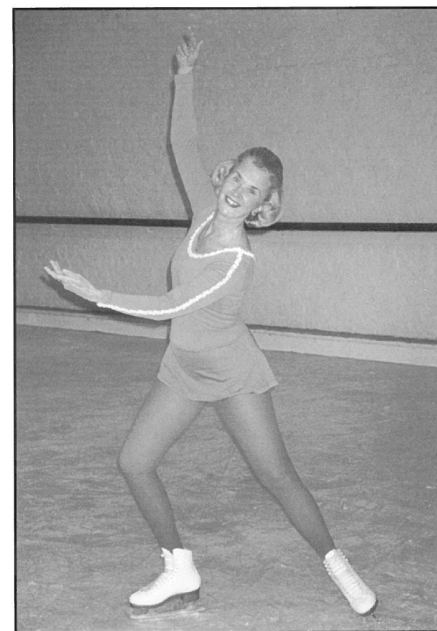
wouldn't take no for an answer. 'Look,' he told me, 'you won't have to do a whole program. I'll skate with you – you do half the program, I'll do the other half.' 'Dick, I'm not that great a skater,' I said.

'You are!' he said. 'I saw you skate at Sky Rink!' Well, I did it – and it turned out fine."

There was the time Joan promised Ice Theatre of New York's former Associate Director/Choreographer Rob McBrien she'd do a performance at Sky Rink. "I practiced at a public session, my blade got stuck on a piece of chewing gum, and I fell. I looked down, and there was blood all over the ice – mine! I'd slashed my leg. I stumbled over to the manager's office and called my son, Charlie. 'I'll be right over and drive you to the hospital,' he said. I was very upset – not because I was injured, but because I wouldn't be able to skate that night! They stitched me up at the hospital, and the doctor confirmed my fears: 'You won't be able to skate.' That did it – I went back to the rink, determined to perform but certain I'd give a poor performance. When I arrived, a great calm came over me. Instead of being afraid and worried, I said to myself, 'I can do this. I'm going to be alright.' And, thank God, I was. I skated very well that night."

In recent years, "Joan has done something very interesting," observes Palmer Baker. "She turned professional, and began appearing in commercials." "I was on an airplane a couple of years ago when the ads preceding the movie flashed on," recalls Nancy Streeter. "And there was Joan, on screen, part of a commercial for Rockefeller Center!"

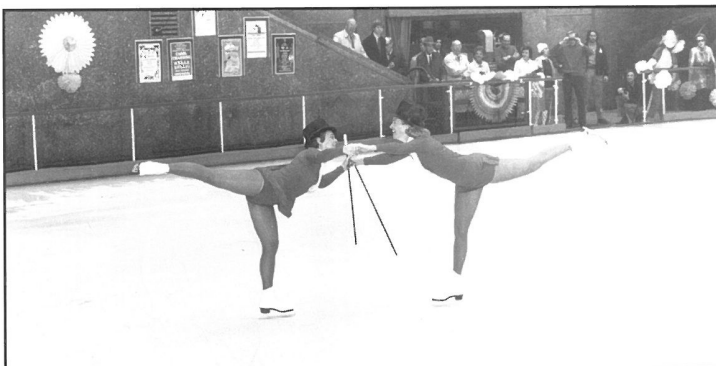
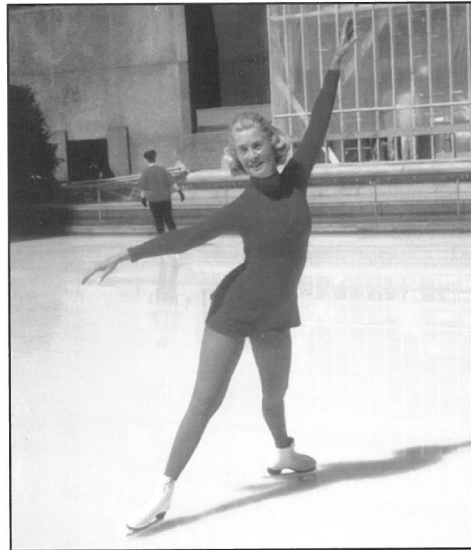
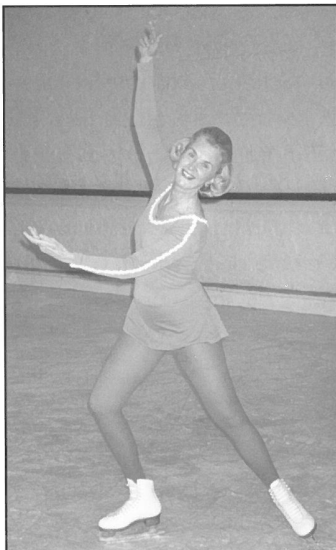
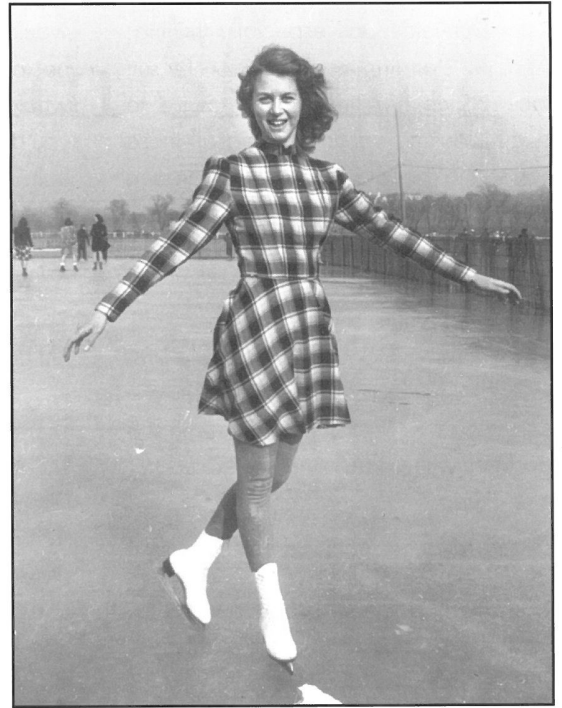
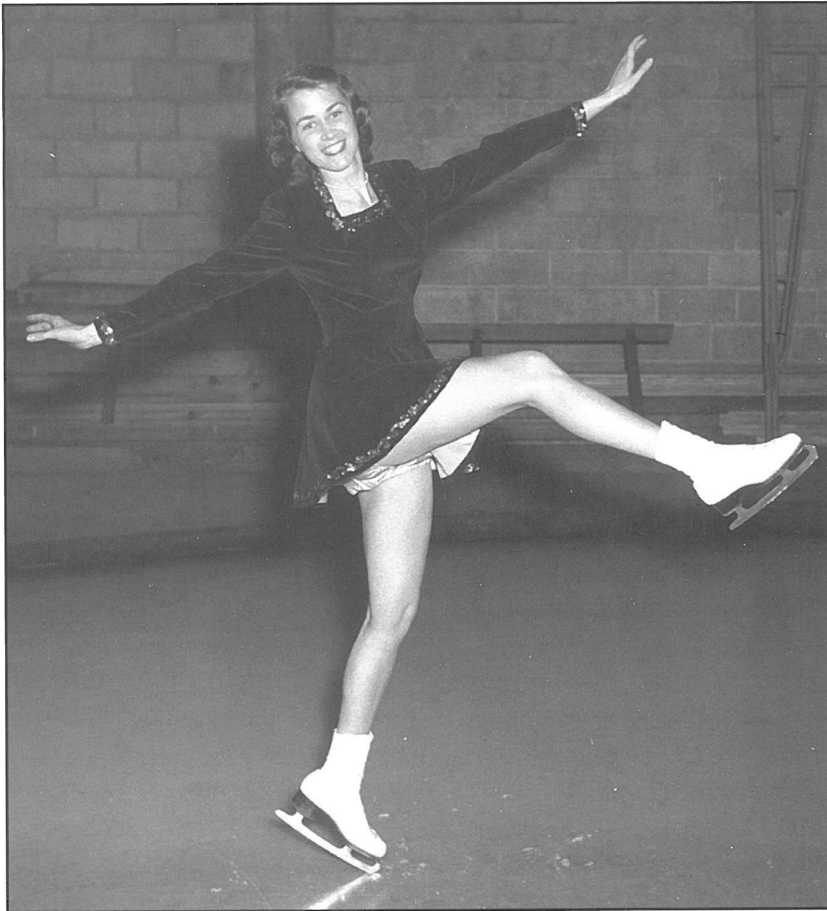
Joan's desire to explore all possibilities on the ice (she's added ice dancing to her repertoire) has enabled her to discover new ways to express herself.



"The dedication and concentration skating requires has such a positive impact in all other areas of one's life," she notes.

Joan has been a vital force in helping Founder/Director Moira North to launch and sustain Ice Theatre of New York. "Joan Scribner was one of those who was instrumental in bringing Ice Theatre to life, contributing on all levels – personal and financial. She has an innate understanding of what it takes to be able to create and perform with artistic integrity; of the importance of establishing a climate in which artists can function successfully. Her enthusiasm for the sport, and the joy it brings her, are contagious. And she is a wonderfully practical woman – on more than one occasion, she has been right there as a volunteer working in our office! To me, and to many others, Joan Scribner will always be a genuine star, on and off the ice."

EDWARD Z. EPSTEIN, a lifelong figure skating enthusiast, is a former Middle Atlantic States Novice Champion. He's the author of twenty books, including *BORN TO SKATE: The Michelle Kwan Story* (Ballantine), and *PORTRAIT OF JENNIFER: A Biography of Jennifer Jones* (Simon and Schuster).



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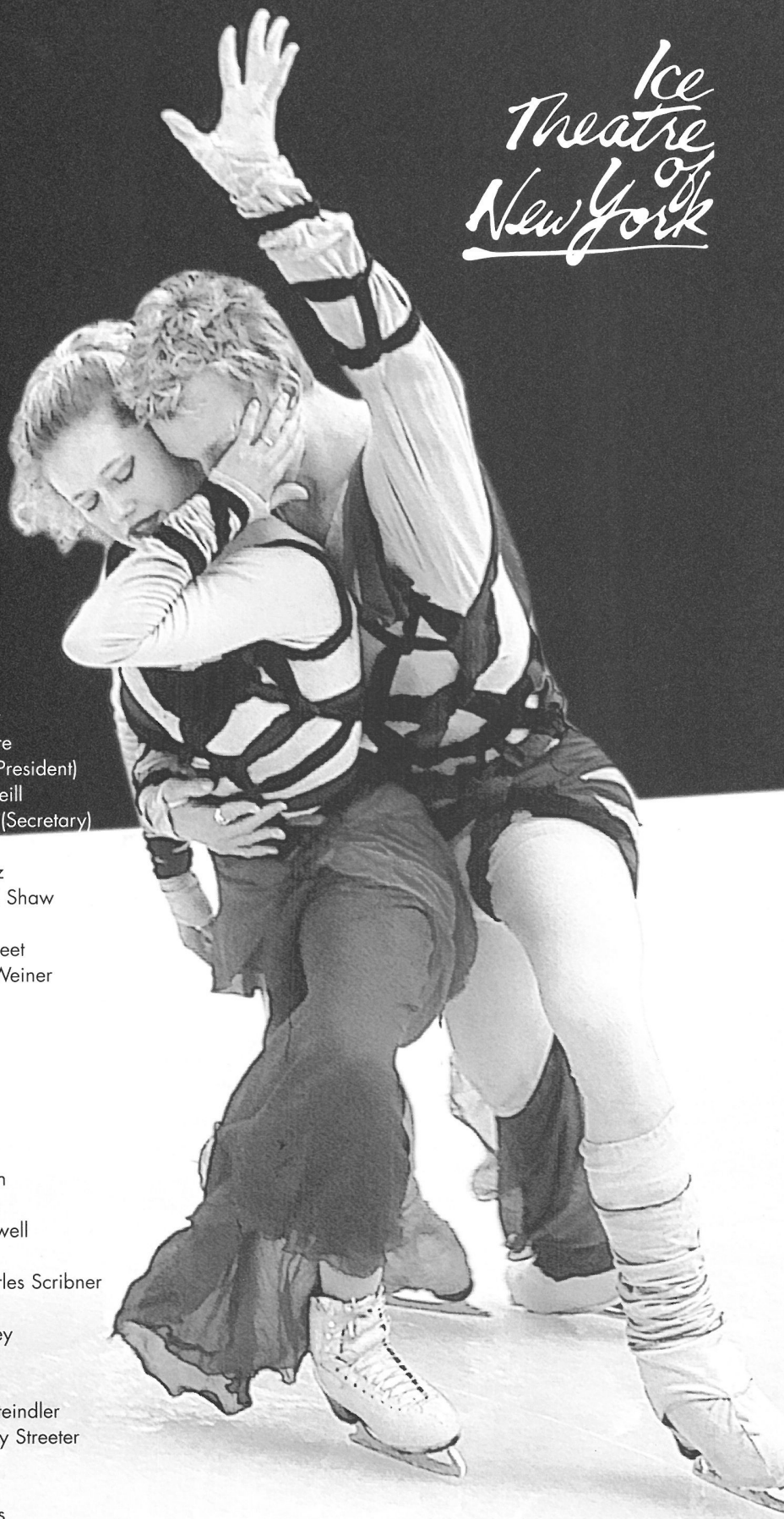
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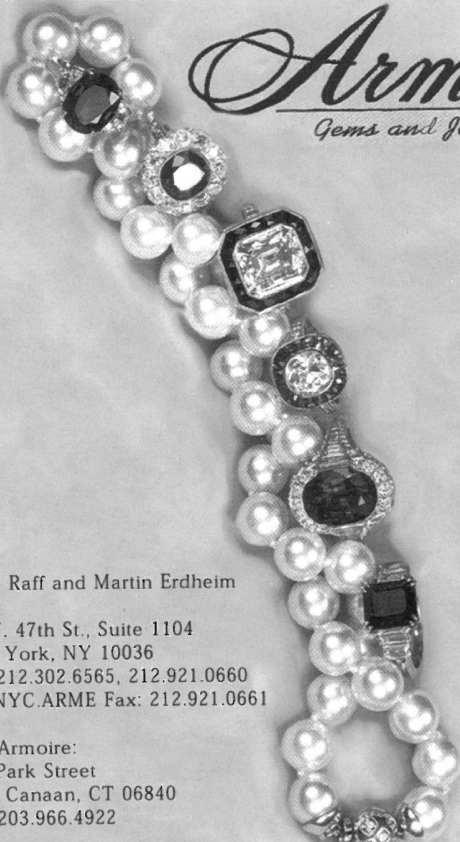
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And the joy and artistry

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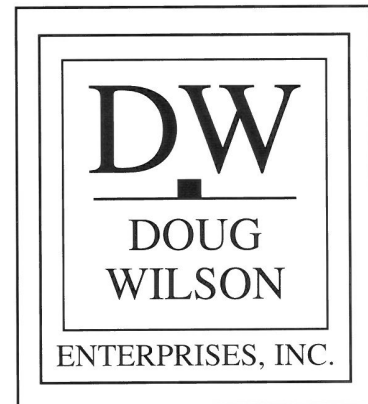
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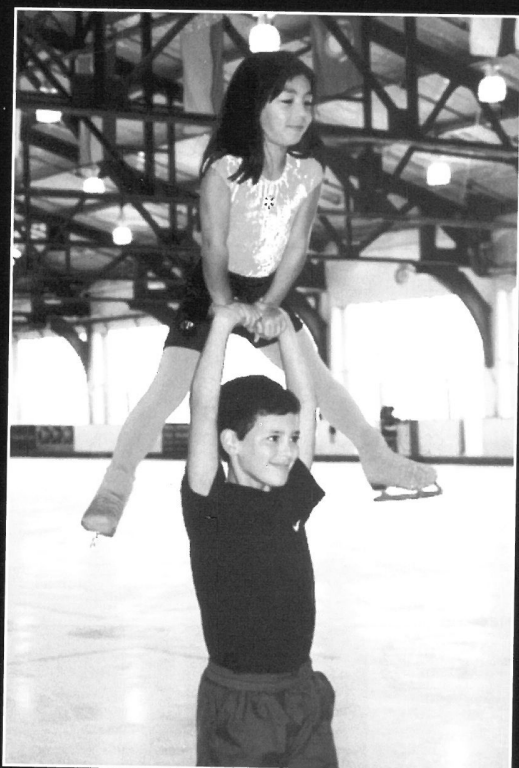
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THE BEAUTY AND  
THE ARTISTRY THEY  
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Best wishes to my coaches:  
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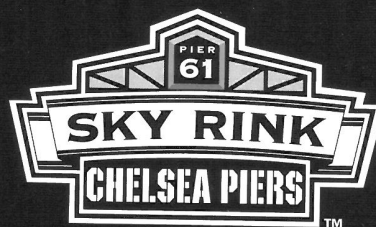
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Thank you –

Robin Wagner

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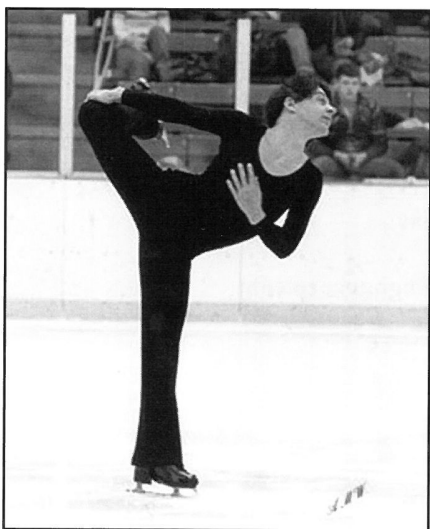
# TOLLER Cranston

by Sandra Stevenson

Larger than life — Olympic medalist, Member of the Order of Canada, internationally recognized painter, illustrator, author, designer, choreographer, a television commentator fired for outspokenness, creator and star of award winning television specials, and bon vivant — Toller Cranston's done it all. (Re the firing — he later sued successfully for wrongful dismissal.)

Now residing in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, Toller is making one of his rare forays north of the border to participate in tonight's Autumn Gala celebration. Explaining why he lives where he does, Toller contends in typical outrageous style, "Every thoroughbred reptile changes its skin eventually. I reinvented myself in Mexico."

At 53, the bronze medal winner from the 1976 Olympic Games in Innsbruck still keeps his skates in working order. In August of this year, he skated in Toronto for a Disney film called 'The One'. His fifth book, *Ice Cream*, recently was

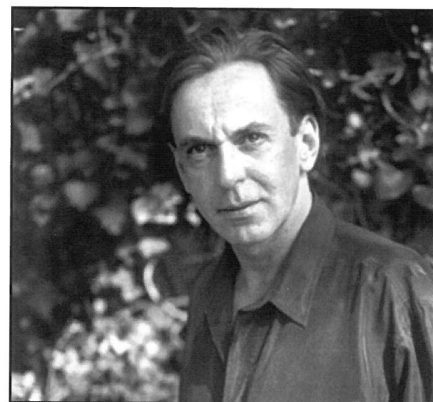


released in the United States by McClelland and Stewart. Toller has always been an entertaining raconteur and his comments in the book on yesterday and today's stars of the ice world are funny, relevant and controversial.

Competitive figure skating reeled when Toller first sailed through the drab confines of their misty, conservative rinks. Judges tut-tutted at his avant guard costuming — *Holy Moses* — He once appeared with a neckline open to the waist!! Equally, they did not like his experimentally strange, stretched positions though later they would concede his forward outside camel spins and Russian splits with skates above his head were magnificent and unmatched to this day.

He won the Canadian championship six times but although he often took first place in the free skating sections in international events, school figures were his achilles heel. After winning the short program, and taking second place in the free in the 1976 World Championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, but finishing only fourth because he was fifth in the figures, Toller left the sport.

He did so by flamboyantly flinging his figure skates, which were designed differently to those used for free, into a canal. "It was not true that I did so because I had not done well in the competition. I was so tired of carrying the bloody things around and treating them with such deference that the only real way to rid myself of the emotional burden was to dump them." (The method of determining results was sub-



sequently changed to lower the impact of figures, and later to take them out of competition completely.)

Those who witnessed the emotion and flexible fluidity he poured into his *I Pagliacci* exhibition number which debuted at the Olympia Halle in Munich, Germany, following the 1974 World Championships, will never forget the impact it made. Promoters, some of whom would later cheat him, knew they could make money from his showmanship.

He was also gaining recognition as an artist and in Munich had one of his first successful international showings.

Twenty three years later, in conjunction with the 1997 world championships in Lausanne, Switzerland, the International Olympic Committee presented Toller's one man show in its beautiful and famed museum. His paintings are incredibly intricate, often delightfully, innocently fantastical. "Jewel colors and exotic forms have always excited me."

He brought that rich imagination to television. His *Strawberry Ice* won numerous awards for the best television variety performance, and was sold for broadcast to 67 countries.

Sandra Stevenson has covered every Winter Olympic Games and figure skating world championships since 1968 for a British newspaper. She authored the *BBC Book of Skating*, and co-authored *Spice on Ice*, the autobiography of Karen Barber and Nicky Slater.

An ovation for Joan

Bravo to skating royalties  
Rosalynn and Toller

Applause for the continual success  
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Aja Zanova

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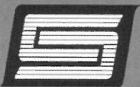
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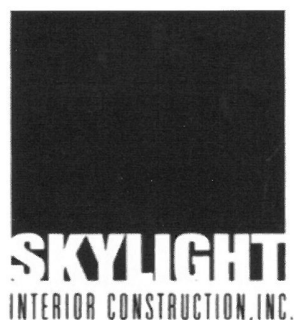
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your fine work and contributions  
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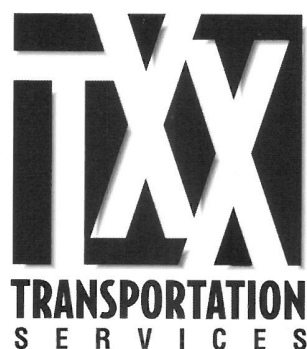
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# Rosalynn Summers

by Lynn Rutherford

In the early '80s she was America's skating princess; a blonde, green-eyed beauty Dick Button once called "the Grace Kelly of the ice." The Edmonds, Washington native skated like an angel, with light, graceful movements. But she was tougher than she looked. For when Rosalynn Summers' amateur career just missed having a storybook ending, she persevered to build a golden professional life.

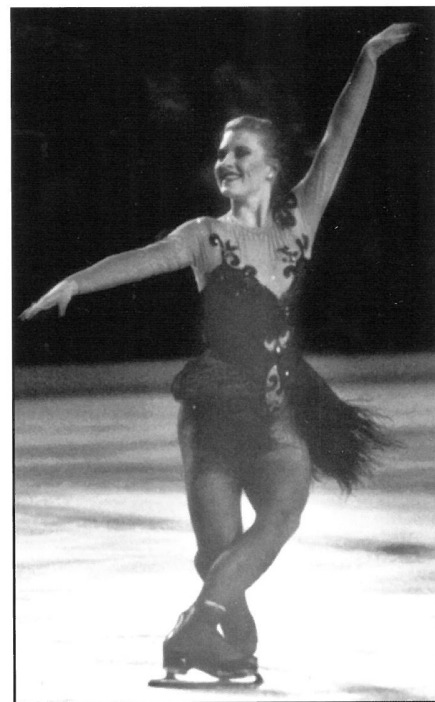
Coached by Lorraine Borman, Rosalynn rose swiftly. She won the 1979 U.S. novice championship and became World Junior Champion the following year. In 1982, she claimed the U.S. title, her first of three. When she captured the 1983 World championship on only her second try, many felt certain she would follow in the footsteps of ear-

lier American skating idols and claim Olympic gold. It didn't happen.

After finishing second by a whisper to Katarina Witt, Rosalynn took her silver medal and left the amateur ranks. "There was no option back then. You didn't stay in another four years...there was too much financial strain. As a 19- or 20-year-old, you knew that you moved on," she remembers.

There were but two choices: Disney's World on Ice or Ice Capades. Rosalynn chose Disney and spent two years supporting Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck. Her contract up, tired and bored, she seriously considered retirement. When Scott Hamilton called with an offer to join his start-up tour, she hesitated, but finally decided to give it one more try.

In time Scott's start-up became Stars on Ice, a skating show that actually centered on skaters, and Rosalynn thrived. For thirteen seasons, she was the tour's mainstay, never missing a performance, never delivering less than her best. She developed a versatile style all her own, by turns smoky and sensual in one program, pert and playful in another. Through it all, she participated in countless professional competitions and exhibitions, riding the crest of figure skating's boom. And while others may have had their names above the title, Rosalynn always arrived prepared, delivered meticulous performances and won over crowds.

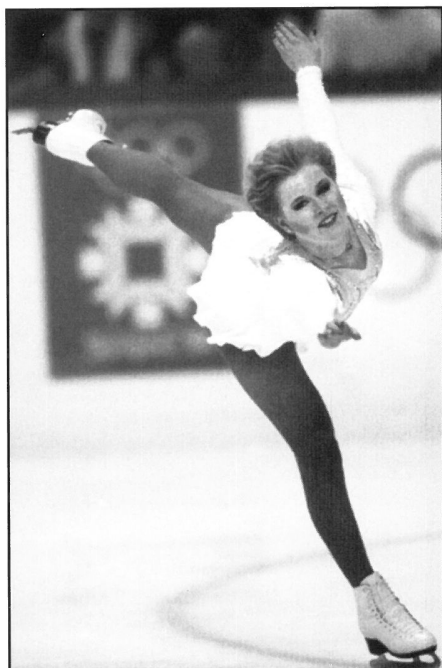


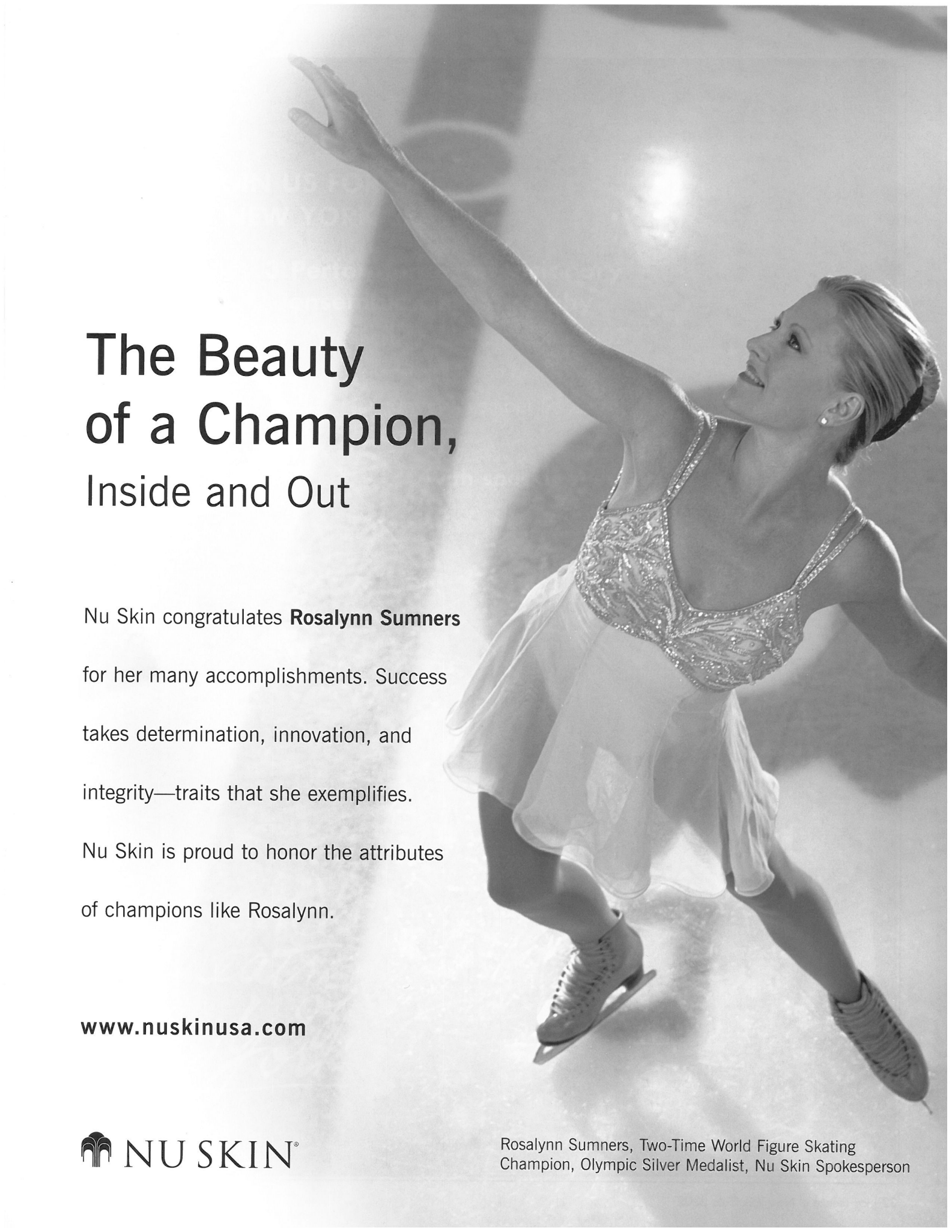
Her colleagues christened her "the consummate professional."

Off the ice, Rosalynn began a broadcasting career with coverage of the 1992 Winter Olympics for Seattle's CBS affiliate and now serves as a figure skating analyst with several networks. She has worked for corporations including Coca-Cola, Campbell's Soup and John Hancock, and is the current spokesperson for NuSkin. In demand as a performer nearly 20 years after her world title, she still lands powerful double Axels, executes blurred scratch spins and, far more importantly, entertains audiences. In 2001, she was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame.

One of Rosalynn's favorite numbers is *Remember Me This Way*, skated during the Stars on Ice 10th anniversary tour. Twenty years from now, how would she like to be remembered? "I hope that people saw how much I loved being out there. I never took it for granted. I hope it came out that I skated with my heart and my soul."

Lynn Rutherford, a native New Yorker, is the U.S. editor of *Spotlight on Skating* and a contributor to other skating publications.





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