

Skater mimics Cindy Lauper

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By Ethel Simmons
staff writer



Pam Parker of Franklin is an Ice Capades skater, coming to Joe Louis Arena.

Posing as Cindy Lauper, with green hair, yet, will be one of the appearances Pam Parker of Franklin makes during the Ice Capades when the show "Hurray for Ice" comes to town next week.

During the production number "Chiller," "I skate as Cindy Lauper," the young performer said by phone from Philadelphia. "I wear sort of a poodle skirt. I'm in green polka dots, with lots of jewelry."

Parker said the show will return to Pittsburgh before coming to Detroit, where it will open Tuesday at Joe Louis Arena downtown. Ice Capades will stay until Sunday, March 17.

A line skater with the show, she was asked if it was difficult to perform the precision routines. In other words, is it tough to be a member of "A Chorus Line" on ice?

PARKER REPORTS no problems there. The rough part is, "Coming from amateur status you've got to learn how to work with everybody. There are a lot of different personalities to adjust to, but you learn to adapt."

During 1981-82, she was awarded Gold Medals in local, state and the Ohio, Indiana and Michigan Tri-State competitions. Parker joined Ice Capades in August 1983, mainly because it offers "an opportunity to travel all over the United States and Canada. Actually, I just decided to try out for the fun of it."

She said two other Detroit-area skaters are in the show, Judy Gatin of Rochester and another skater from Lapeer. The three get together to talk about home. "We know all the skaters (in the show) from the Midwest," Parker said.

This year's Ice Capades theme is a "Salute to Show Business," through

a variety of production numbers. Parker appears in a European number, wearing a Spanish costume, to the music of Ravel's "Bolero." She also is a "flyer," lifted off the ice, during a skate waltz. Other numbers where she performs as one of the Ice Capades are the opening, a show-business number; a kiddie number called "Snorks"; and the precision-number finale.

DAUGHTER OF Marie and Ronald Parker of Franklin, she said, "My whole family used to skate." She has one brother and three sisters — two in college and two in high school. Parker graduated from Groves High School in 1981 and taught at an ice rink at the Berkley Figure Skating Club for a year following high school.

She's filling out college applications now, but of her work with Ice Capades she said, "The experience is great."

Concert features Cap'n Kangaroo

Captain Kangaroo, host of TV's longest-running children's program, will appear at the season's final programs of the Detroit Symphony's Young People's Concerts, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at Ford Auditorium in Detroit.

Both performances will be led by DSO Assistant Conductor Michael Krajewski. For ticket information, call the Ford Auditorium box office at 567-1400.

Captain Kangaroo, the character performed by Robert

Keehan, uses costumes, comedy skits, dance, dialogue and audience participation in his orchestra appearances. He narrates the concert, introduces musical selections, demonstrates instruments of the orchestra and enlightens children on classical

music sounds and techniques.

Bob Keehan began his TV career on "Howdy Doody" as Clarabelle the Clown and created the

character of Captain Kangaroo for CBS television in 1955. Through the years, the program received five Emmy Awards.

Folk ensemble offering 'tour'

The Slavic Folk Ensemble of Oakland University will provide a musical tour of picturesque lands including Slovakia, Croatia and Macedonia in concert at 3 and 8 p.m. Saturday, March 16, and at 7 p.m. Saturday, March 17,

at Varner Recital Hall on campus near Rochester.

General admission tickets are \$2 for students and older persons and \$3 for others. Tickets are available at the door or by calling 370-2020 or 370-3013.

Israeli arts to be discussed

Ahava Meron, former actress with Habimah, the National Theater of Israel, will discuss the evolution and future of the theater and arts in Israel at noon Wednesday, March 20, in the library of

the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.

Guests may bring a brown bag lunch. Coffee and tea will be served. Admission is \$1.

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