

Cranston: A Magician On Ice...

When the unique theatrical production of Toller Cranston's "A Musical Experience On Ice" opened in Broadway's famed Palace Theatre, the hard-nosed New York critics went overboard in acclaiming Cranston for lifting skating into a higher level of theatrical entertainment.

Toller Cranston is terrific, magnificent, a Nureyev on skates! . . . N.Y. Times

One of the most enjoyable shows I've ever seen! . . . WNYC

Fascinating! Toller Cranston has immense theatrical flair. . . N.Y. Post

This is an extraordinary show, simply incredible. . . Newhouse Newspapers

An evening of delight, danced superbly by 16 champions! . . . WPIX TV

Exciting! Splendid costumes and lovely scenery. . . N.Y. Daily News
A superbly refreshing entertainment. Cranston. . . stunning virtuosity. . . Newsday

16 Skaters in all - the best ice show in the world! . . . ABC TV

Due to the incredible success of the show, the Broadway engagement was held over, and then held over again. But contracted commitments to tour Canada brought the engagement to a sold out end.

The same show will now tour Canada, starting in Ottawa on Mon Sept 12, and will criss-cross the country playing a total of 75 performances in 36 cities.

Cranston who is the star and creator of the show was World Free Skate Champion 1973, 1974, and 1975, Canadian Men's Champion six consecutive times from 1970 thru 1976, (a feat yet to be duplicated by any other skater) and Third Place at the 1976 Winter Olympics in the Men's Singles Division.

"I've always considered ice skating to be an art form as well as a sport. We are presenting a concert on ice, which incorporates the three concepts of art, form, sport, and entertainment.

"We hope to dazzle the audience. We want to leave them with the idea that they've seen a show that is as beautiful as any other dramatic presentation they have ever witnessed."

Among the other stars in the Company with Cranston on the cross-Canada tour are Barbara Berezowski and David Porter, who were Canada's Champion representatives in 1976 for the first Ice Dance Championships ever held in the Olympics. They have also won the Junior Dance Championship of Canada, and hold Gold Medals for

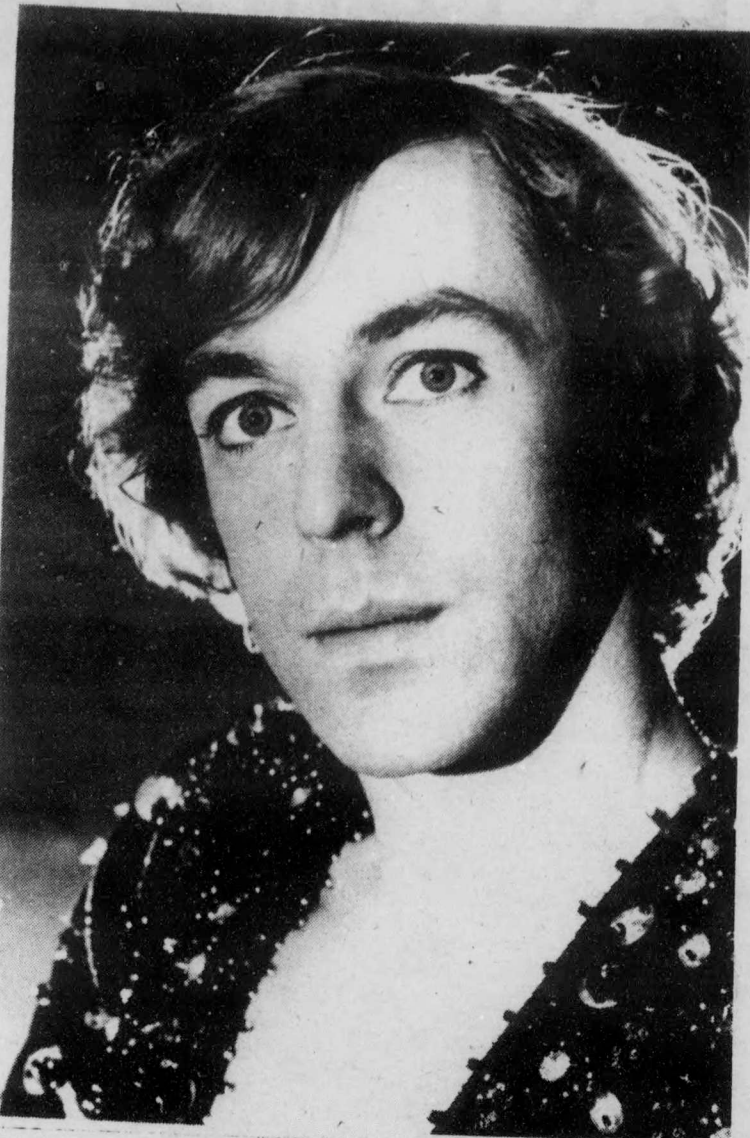
Dancing in the Ontario Championships, Silver Medals in the Senior Canadian Ice Dance Championships of '72 thru '76, and Double Gold Dance Medals in Canada and the United States. Barbara Berezowski has won the Miss Toronto title in 1975, Miss Moscow in '75 and '76, and was crowned Miss Winter Olympics in 1976.

Don Fraser and Candy Jones were members of the Canadian World Figure Skating Teams in 1975 and '76, and also won the Senior Canadians Championships in those years. Candy Jones is one of the youngest members of the Company.

Janet and Mark Hominuke, another Canadian pair featured in the show, have won more than 16 pairs competitions in Canada. Bob Rubens, who was Runner-up Silver Medalist in the Senior Canadian Men's competition, and a member of the 1975 World Team at Colorado Springs will also be featured.

Gordon McKellen, Jr., a favorite of U.S. audiences and 3 time U.S. Senior Men's Champion, is often called the "Chaplin of the Ice".

Also featured in Toller Cranston's "A Musical Experience On Ice" is U.S. Ice Dance Champions Jim Millns and Colleen O'Connor,



Elizabeth Freeman, Emily Beneson and Jack Courtney, Kath Malmberg, and Freestyle Gold Medalist Wendy Burge.

Normally when "art" is mentioned in relation to Toller Cranston, one thinks of his exceptional skating ability, but there is another Toller Cranston, that of illustrator, lithographer and painter, who has exhibited his works in New York, Amsterdam and Toronto. Cranston's prints are presently in high demand on the Canadian market.

As dramatic as he is in dressing black, his artwork reveals the

colorful eloquence that abounds in his creative imagination.

His paintings, like his skating, are sharply different from those of others. They are crowded with colour, detail, symbolism and strong emotion. Cranston feels the structure, form, shape, space, movement and line in a painting are just as important as in his skating, but certainly more of a challenge because "it will be more difficult to attain international ranking."

Cranston is the founder of the Canadian school of mystic symbolism, an art form which shares his personal theory on life. The art is based on the symbolic flavour of the subconscious, but not overtly symbolic. As he puts it, "The emphasis is on the magic which exists in life, art, everything . . ."

Cranston is an artist living his magic.

With every facet of Cranston directed towards expression, it is only logical that he would define his personality through his wardrobe as well.

"Basically, I'm a black and white person . . . black seems to be dramatically correct for me. Several years ago, I wore a beautiful blue outfit at the Olympics and I had letters from many people, total strangers, writing in broken English - things like 'Don't wear blue dress, wear black dress.'

Toller carries the wardrobe preference through "A Musical Experience On Ice" with a dramatic contrast of the skater opening performances in white costumes, whereas he opens with a black sequined jumpsuit.

"My whole life is tuned to the classics, to drama and the ballet and I feel very much more comfortable when I dress as I feel. . . but I am not superstitious, it has nothing to do with it."

Cranston is as unique in his expression through skating as he is in his wardrobe and art.

