

# Small town skaters have big-time show

By Ivy Reeve  
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editor

UNIONVILLE — It didn't happen here; it probably doesn't happen anywhere now.

Some years ago, however, a skating carnival could be a community's annual showcase for "schlock". Hit-or-miss spotlights illuminated peeling paint on the barrier boards, popcorn in the bleachers, almost everything but the performers.

Loudspeakers wheezed out pretentious pop tangos and schmaltzy waltzes.

And the performers, poor things, usually were little girls wearing tattered cheesecloth tutus, fuchsia litstick, lopsided loops of tinsel and heaven-help-me expressions.

They wobbled and toppled while the pro stole the show.

Something else But Unionville's carnivals are something else.

Spectators don't come to see sweet, scared toddlers land on their backsides.

They come to see a show, a great show.

And that's exactly what they get.

This year, there'll be live music, top-notch stuff played by Kaleidoscope.

When it comes to costumes, the Unionville club doesn't compromise. If a routine calls for filmy, wadding fabric, it will be chiffon, not cheesecloth.

If glitter is wanted, the club won't settle for Christmas tree castoffs; instead, it will spend as much as \$1,000 on sequins.

Series As for the skaters, they're perfectionists all — from the three-year-olds in chorus lines to the championship-calibre soloists.

"Our pre-schoolers don't fall anymore," says a carnival organizer. "They're utterly serious about the show."

Canada's Junior Men's champion Vern Taylor will be a guest performer at this year's carnival. Taylor is the first skater since Donald Jackson to successfully land a triple lutz in Canadian competitions.

Other guest performers are Judy Jeffcott and Keith Swindlehurst, 1976 runners-up in the dance category, Central Ontario Section, and Eastern Divisionals champions, and Heather Kemkaren, Senior Ladies champion of the Central Section and Eastern Divisionals.

Fantasia '76 This year's presentation, entitled Ice



(Photo by Eibert)

## Spectacular carnival costumes

Costumes of satin and velvet, lavishly trimmed with embroidery, are featured in a routine based on Ukrainian dances. Per-

Fantasia '76, is being produced and directed by Hans Ahlgren.

Ahlgren, a master choreographer, skated with Holiday on Ice in Europe, and has been choreographer for shows in Japan and Hawaii.

The show's executive producer, Dorene Trunk, does a lot of travelling.

When she spends an evening at a Las Vegas nightclub or a Broadway theatre, it's not just for entertainment.

She's carefully analyzing themes, costumes, props, and thinking about what might be right — or what has worked — for

Unionville shows. Producers, skaters, behind-the-scenes volunteers make sure the show keeps its reputation for big-time glamor and expertness.

"A Unionville line is as good as any Ice Capades or Follies line," says Mrs. Trunk.

"Some of the steps we'll be using are considerably more difficult than those seen in professional shows.

About 300 volunteers have been working for many months to ensure Unionville's 25th annual carnival will be flawless.

Music, lighting, makeup, costumes, receive painstaking attention.

"Our volunteers are the cream of the crop," Mrs. Trunk says.

Ice Fantasia '76 is a variety show. The program includes a razzle-dazzle rock number, comedy routines, a Ukrainian dance, presentation, an elegant and nostalgic 25th anniversary sequence and an adaptation of Coppelia, a 19th century ballet based on a Swiss folk tale.

Starring in Coppelia will be Unionville's

award-winning skaters Karen Newton and Glen Laframboise.

Karen and Glen have won honors in European events and were second runners-up in the Canadian Senior Pairs competition.

There will be five performances: April 23 at 8:30 p.m.; April 24 at 4:30 and 8:30 p.m., and April 25 at 2 and 6 p.m.

Price range from \$1.75 to \$3.

Tickets are available at Crosby Memorial Arena; for reservations call 293-9592, 297-1233 or 633-9575.



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