

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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'Cinderella' glides into Lincoln with Russian Prince Charming

By Paula Lavigne

Senior Reporter

Although the Ice Capades boasts a 54-year-old history as America's premier ice show, it is a foreign home for one skater.

Vadim Shebeco, a native of Moscow, joined the Ice Capades two years ago and stars as Prince Charming in the current production "Cinderella ... Frozen in Time."

Under the direction of Dorothy Hamill, world and Olympic figure-skating champion, the Ice Capades will skate into Lincoln this week.

Shebeco will perform with 1988 Olympic Silver Medalist Elizabeth Manley, who plays Cinderella.

Shebeco said he, unlike Manley, never competed as an amateur athlete. He moved into the professional world of figure skating when he was 18 years old.

He competed professionally in a few international competitions in Russia before he heard about the Ice Capades.

The skater said he noticed how Hamill improved the company's image and decided he wanted to join the show, so he sent a tape of his past performances.

Shebeco soon was on his way to America, with few regrets.

"Ice skating is not popular in Moscow. It was popular 10 years ago," he said. "Now, people have to pay for ice skating, and they didn't before."

Shebeco does miss his family back in Moscow, but he gets to see them on occasions. His mother came to see him last April, and his father is coming to see him this season.

Shebeco said he felt great about living in America.

"Working with the Ice Capades is a great opportunity," he said. "I can show more of what I can do."

The Ice Capades also allows him to see the United States. Out of the 30 towns in which the company stopped last year, Shebeco named Seattle, San Diego and San Francisco as his favorites.

"San Diego was really romantic," he said. "I liked the ocean because it was warm and enjoyable."

Lincoln may join his list of favorite cities.

"I went downtown, and I loved it," he said. "I want to go and explore and investigate it now."

Shebeco may not have much time to tour Lincoln because of his rigorous practice schedule. No matter how many times he practices and performs, though, he said

Quik Facts

Show: Ice Capades, "Cinderella ... Frozen in Time"

At: Pershing Auditorium

Times: 7 p.m. today, Friday and Saturday; 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Tickets: Between \$20 and \$5.50, available through Ticketmaster

he could never let his performance become boring.

"It's a lot of acting. You have to do the same thing day after day with the same emotions," he said.

Shebeco said he would stay with the Ice Capades for a few more years. He plans on participating in a professional competition next year.

"Cinderella ... Frozen in Time" opens at 7 p.m. today at Pershing Auditorium. Additional performances are at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

Tickets are \$20, \$10.50 and \$5.50 for the Thursday performance and \$20, \$14.50 and \$9.50 for the other shows. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.



Courtesy of Ice Capades

Elizabeth Manley, left, stars as Cinderella and Richard Swenning as Buttons in Dorothy Hamill's Ice Capades.

'Flintstones' lacks punch, fat Barney

By Gerry Beltz

Staff Reporter

There's not many new video releases this week, and none too spectacular — one cartoon which goes to live-action with a big budget, one remake for the kids to enjoy and one failed attempt at CD-ROM horror. The pick-of-the-week is an Academy Award-nominated action-mystery from 1985.

"The Flintstones" (PG, available 11/4) — John Goodman was perfectly typecast for Fred Flintstone, but there must have been a brain meltdown somewhere, evidenced by casting skinny Rick Moranis as barrel-shaped Barney Rubble and Rosie O'Donnell as his skin-and-bones wife Betty.

Some great special effects help the transition from animation to live-action, and kids will like the film, but the adults probably will be playing pitch in the kitchen.

"Black Beauty" (PG) — You know the story. Beautiful black horse forges a special relationship with small child, and they go through a series of adventures together.

The kids will get sleepy watching it. Play more pitch.

"Brainscan" (R) — Edward Furlong ("Terminator 2") just cannot seem to get a break.

First, "Pet Semetary 2," which was dubious at best, and "American Heart" barely made it to the theaters at all. Now, in "Brainscan," he plays a lonely kid who plugs into the ride of his life with a virtual-reality game that turns into real horror.

Don't rent this at all, send the kids to bed early for no good reason and play even more pitch.

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Dresher Ensemble pushes boundaries

By Paula Lavigne

Senior Reporter

By dissolving traditional musical concepts, the Paul Dresher Ensemble continues to break and defy artistic boundaries.

Paul Dresher, artistic director, said he refused to let his music be tossed into a record-store bin.

"Our work, in terms of what's experimental, is basically asking questions of your art form and trying to push the boundaries of your art form," Dresher said.

The ensemble will perform this weekend at the Lied Center for Performing Arts.

Jazz, rock, classical and world music show a commonality that Dresher wants to bring into his creations, which he defines as "simply good music."

"You have to blend those styles together to make it convincing," he said.

As a teenager, Dresher said he had a "voracious" appetite for many different types of music.

"I'd find something, and I'd say, 'This music speaks to me at a deep level,'" he

Quik Facts

Show: The Paul Dresher Ensemble

At: Lied Center for Performing Arts

Time: 8 o'clock tonight

Tickets: \$14 and \$10, student tickets are half-price; available at the Lied Center box office

said. "You have to find out what reaches you."

Dresher's eclectic tastes in music include Ministry, Skinny Puppy, Bill Evans, J.S. Bach and a variety of Indonesian classical music. Dresher said the work he would present at the Lied Center was heavily influenced by Asian culture.

"Most people, when they look at that list, find nothing in common," he said, "but I tend to disagree."

He said he strived to break traditional boundaries and find a common ground for what is now perceived as distinct styles.

"We storm the bastions of musical style," he said.

On stage, the Dresher Ensemble resembles both a rock band and a classical chamber ensemble.

It features Dresher on electric guitar and also includes electric keyboards and percussion instruments as well as a violin, bassoon, clarinet and piano.

The performers in his "dream ensemble" have diverse backgrounds, he said, but they manage to find a common ground. Many of them have worked with him for several years, he said.

Although his performers change from project to project, Dresher said he wanted to stay with his current ensemble.

Dresher's work outside of the group carries him into experimental musical theater and opera, chamber and orchestral compositions, live instrumental electric music performances and electro-acoustic taped scores for theater, dance, video, radio and film.

The Paul Dresher Ensemble will perform at the Lied Center at 8 p.m. today. Tickets are \$14 and are half-price for students. Dresher also will speak at 9:30 a.m. today to an Arts Today class.

Band combines Russian heritage and rock 'n' roll

By Jill O'Brien

Staff Reporter

When Limpopo, a four-Igor Russian combo, hits the Culture Center stage at 7:30 tonight, the audience will be hard pressed to sit still for long.

The group, named after a river in Africa, originally formed in 1984 when Igor (Yuri) Fedorko, an accordion player, teamed up with guitarist Igor Yuzov in Moscow. The two combined their Russian heritage with American and British rock 'n' roll and created the first incarnation of the mock rock band.

Seven years and several musicians later, four Igors united in California: Fedorko,

Yuzov, Igor Khramov, an accomplished jazz trombone player and Igor (Oleg) Bernov, a balalaika player.

"We're not just a musical act — we don't know what to call ourselves," said Bernov, who has been playing the mega-balalaika, a giant triangular stringed instrument, for three years.

"It looks funny, and it's not comfortable to play, but it sounds like a gigantic bass or acoustic guitar. It looks funky," he said.

America also knows Limpopo as the crazy band on the Kit Kat commercial, Bernov said.

"We were playing at somebody's party here in Los Angeles when we found out about the audition," he said.

The band tried out for the part and was hired almost immediately, he said.

"It happened so fast, all within a week ... And now we're sort of being sponsored by Hershey."

The band, which plays everything from comedy clubs to funerals, will be selling its self-titled, self-produced compact disc at the Culture Center, Bernov said.

Most of the songs on Limpopo's 20-track record are rock covers or Russian folk songs.

One of the songs, "My Husband the Sailor," an operatic cappella with accordion interruption, is an original composition

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