

Kathy Gates



Kathy started skating as a little girl. She was watching skating on TV and she knew what she wanted to do. At 10 years old she told her mother that she wanted teach ice skating. She started skating late, but quickly found her stride by the time she was 12 years old. She grew up skating for the Skating Club of N.Y.

As Kathy's Ice-skating skills progressed her parents could not keep her off the ice. She just loved to skate. The feeling of gliding, spinning, and jumping was just incredible. She competed up and down the North East from New York to Maryland, as a teenager. She kept her dream insight of becoming an Ice Skating coach. She became a Gold Medalist in both Figures and Freestyle. She joined a skating show in Lake George, NY.

Kathy started her coaching career in Fairfax, VA. She moved her family to Maryland in 1994. She joined the coaching staff at the Gardens Ice Arena when the doors opened. She loves to teach the joys of skating to everyone who joins on the ice. Sharing her skating knowledge with skaters of all levels still drives her today.

Jacques Gilson



Jacques began skating at the age of 3, starting in group classes. He was trained using the Lussi Method and reached the ISI level of Freestyle 9 and USFS level of Novice Freeskating at age 10. After medaling regionally in singles skating for 6 consecutive seasons (Gold in 1998 earning him in Bernice Hiltzig Memorial Trophy on display at the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame) and pairs skating for 4 consecutive seasons, he competed nationally and at the North American Challenge Skate for the United States. At age 18, Jacques earned his USFS Gold Medal. Throughout his competitive training, he was continuing a rigorous high school education, graduating 6th in his class of nearly 400 students before earning a degree in Chemistry (Film Studies minor) from The Colorado College. After graduation, he reintroduced skating to his life and moved to Laurel, Maryland in July of 2004 to teach at The Gardens Ice House. In addition to training and choreographing for skaters from basic skills to senior levels, he has coached and choreographed an internationally travelling Theatre on Ice team and directed and choreographed for over 20 local figure skating ice shows in 11 years. In 2015, Jacques earned a Level III ranking from the Professional Skaters Association and the PSA named Jacques the inaugural recipient of the Don Laws Memorial Scholarship based on dedication to coaching, sound character and ethical practices. Jacques is a Junior National and rated PSA professional in Freeskating, Moves in the Field (Senior), Choreography and Group Instruction.