



Robert "Bob" Turk, 1925-2017

U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Famer Bob Turk died Feb. 1. He was 91.

Turk, a talented figure skater, musician and dancer, is best remembered as the director of Ice Capades from 1965-1986. In a 2014 Facebook post, Turk wrote "those were the happiest years of my entire career." He began his Ice Capades career as an understudy to 1942 U.S. champion Robert Specht and later became a producer and choreographer for the world famous ice show.

Turk, who spent his life in and around Los Angeles, was a choreographer for various television specials and even produced a one-hour ice show that was televised live weekly by local station KTLA. He eventually brought many Ice Capades shows to television and also worked with Walt Disney Productions. His lavish shows were so loved that he was invited to produce, conceive and direct five full ice shows for the famed Lido de Paris.

Turk, who grew up in Hollywood, began skating as a boy after seeing Sonja Henie perform in 1937 at the famed Polar Palace, which was just four blocks from his home. He returned to the Polar Palace and began skating on his own until the mother of Eugene Turner, who would go on to become the 1940-41 U.S. men's champion, encouraged him to join the Los Angeles Figure Skating Club.

Turk's competitive career never had the time to develop as he entered the military in 1941 to fight in World War II. After the war, he returned to perform in hotel shows, which were popular with guests at the time. Turk skated in shows at the New Yorker Hotel, the Stevens Hotel in Chicago, the Roosevelt Hotel in New Orleans and the Netherland Plaza in Cincinnati. After a wildly successful show in Havana, Cuba, Turk began doing more and more choreography.

Turk was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 2010. Services are pending.