

FOCUS

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1999 The Portland Observer

World's Finest Ice Skaters

Will Perform at the Rose Garden

The all new Champions on Ice show will feature some of the world's finest female skaters and potential competitors at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.

Michelle Kwan, who just won her fourth World Figure Skating Championship in Vancouver, B.C. will be joined by Nicole Bobek, the 1995 U.S. titlist, World Silver Medalist Surya Bonaly, World Silver Medalist Irina Slutskaya, Sasha Cohen, the 2000 U.S. Silver Medalist and Sarah Hughes, the 2001 U.S. Silver Medalist.

Born and raised in Torrance, California, Michelle Kwan began skating when she was five, after watching her brothers play hockey. She won her first competition two years later and has continued her winning ways ever since.

Kwan has been on the podium in every event she has entered since 1995 and is the most decorated woman's skater of her era, winning an unprecedented 29 championships.

But it is the artistry and technical perfection of those winning performances that set her apart from the rest. She has received over 40 perfect marks of 6.0 in her career so far, more than any of her contemporaries.

During her fifth national championship performance last January, Michelle garnered a total of nine scores from the judges in Boston.

An incredible cast of male skaters will also perform. Brian Boitano, the 1988 Olympic Champion, and Victor Petrenko, the 1992 Olympic Gold Medalist, take the ice along with Todd

Champion; Stojko, the two-time Olympic Silver Medalist; Timothy Goebel, the 2001 U.S. National Champion; Michael Weiss, the two-

time U.S. Champion and World Bronze Medalist Philippe Candeloro, the two-time Olympic Bronze medalist; Rudy Galindo, the 1996 U.S. Champion and U.S. Bronze Medalist who charmed audiences last year, will be returning for the 2001 tour.

The incredible cast will also include 1998 Olympic Champions Oksana Kazakova & Artur Dmitriev, two-time Olympic Bronze Medalists Isabelle Brasseur & Lloyd Eisler, 1998 World Champions Elena Berezhnaya & Anton Sikharulidze, U.S. Dance Champions Elizabeth Punsalan & Jerod Swallow, two-time Canadian Champions Jamie Sale and David Pelletier and 1999 World Professional Champions Maya Usova & Evgeny Platov.

Crowd favorites Vladimir Besedin and Oleksiy Polishchuk will be back to delight tour audiences with their unique brand of ice



delight tour audiences with their unique brand of ice comedy.

Champions on Ice will be held in the Rose Garden on Thursday, April 26 at 7 p.m. Tickets can be purchased online at www.rosequarter.com or www.ticketmaster.com or by phone at 503/224-4400.

Michelle Kwan is scheduled to appear at the John Hancock Champions On Ice show, April 26 at the Rose Garden. To date, she has won her fourth World Figure Skating Championship.

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Kingdom Come Opens Nationally Wednesday, April 11th