



Theatre on Ice (TOI) is a form of competitive figure skating that is popular in Europe, where it attracts large audiences.

If you are interested in competing in Showcase or Theater On Ice events, send your name, age, and skating test levels to [webmaster@sdfsc-eneews.org](mailto:webmaster@sdfsc-eneews.org).

The USFS believes that helping organize these types of performance oriented events and perhaps hosting competitions helps provide the incentive for skaters to acquire the presentation skills necessary to pass tests and place higher in competitions.

Skaters are observed on practice sessions toe pushing and displaying poor posture as they skate around searching for a place to perform a jump, spin.

Is it any wonder that when it is time to test or compete, that these skaters exhibit the same behavior on their warm-ups at free skating competitions and on introductions to MITF elements and dances?

Despite coaches' attempts to get their skaters to skate with good posture, relaxed arms positions, and a self confidence that radiates from the body language of the skater, the message doesn't seem to sink in.

**Figure skating is a sport that is:**

- **Technically centered**
- **Physically demanding**
- **Presentation oriented**
- **Performance driven activity**

**Many young skaters do not naturally seem comfortable with the performance aspect of our sport, yet until they acquire presentation skills the skaters will not achieve their full potential.**

Skaters whose performance or "stage presence" doesn't come naturally, must make a conscious effort to practice their performance skills until they become an automatic part of skating every edge and turn into their jumps and spins. Presentation skills are part of all forms of figure skating – singles, pairs, dance, synchronized team skating, and showcase/theater on ice events.

Skating with elegance and self-confidence provides the timid and shy individual with the assertiveness skills to cope with stressful situations on and off the ice.

Why spend the time, money, and effort to have a choreographer work with a skater to enhance the performance in singles, pairs, dance, synchronized team skating, and showcase/theater on ice programs if the skater does not apply the lesson each and every time they practice?

Skaters, who enter artistic and interpretive events and place in the top four places, qualify to enter the National Showcase Competition held each summer.

***Participation in Showcase events provides an excellent introduction to the more demanding Theatre On Ice events.***