



## EVENTS SCHEDULE

**SATURDAY, 7/3:** SKATING DAY  
 DJ Julio & RC Larock

**SUNDAY, 7/4:** SKATING DAY  
 DJ Rikky Rivera

**MONDAY, 7/5:** SKATING DAY  
 DJ Rob Scott

**SATURDAY, 7/10:**  
 SKATING DAY  
**SUNDAY, 7/11:**  
 SKATING DAY

**SATURDAY, 7/17:**  
 SKATING DAY  
**SUNDAY, 7/18:**  
 SKATING DAY

**SATURDAY, 7/24:**  
 NO SKATING -  
 Conservancy Health Day  
**SUNDAY, 7/25:**  
 SKATING DAY

**SATURDAY, 7/31:**  
 SKATING DAY  
**SUNDAY, 8/1:**  
 SKATING DAY

### THE CENTRAL PARK SKATE CIRCLE

takes place every Saturday, Sunday and major holiday in 2003 from April 11th to October 31st. The music plays from 2:30pm to 6:30pm.

### OFFICIAL CPDSA CONTACTS:

**Lezly Ziering:** 212-777-3232  
**Bob Nichols:** 212-246-1344  
**On the Web:** [www.CPDSA.org](http://www.CPDSA.org)

### CPDSA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Lezly Ziering - Chairman  
 Bob Nichols  
 Bill Levy  
 Muhammed Abdul-Aziz  
 Calvin Coleman  
 Carol Spalding  
 Steven Myrick  
 Charles Threatt

## “Into Character” features *Xanadu*

by Lezly Ziering

At the beginning of June, I was contacted by Axial Entertainment. Their casting director explained that they were producing a reality show called, “Into Character,” and were looking for a skate teacher who could teach the star of their production of *Xanadu* to skate and to do the choreography for the skaters, in effect recreating the big production number that was featured in the finale of the film *Xanadu*, which starred Olivia Newton John and Gene Kelly. I only vaguely remembered the film from the 80’s but was fascinated by the dual role of mentor & choreographer. Happily they felt that I was right for the job and asked me how they could contact the skate community to set up auditions. I proceeded to contact as many skaters as I could via e-mail and phone calls to come to the Roxy, Central Park and Empire to show their skills. Time was of the essence since both

training for Amanda Ritchie (playing the lead role in *Xanadu*, of Kira, the Muse) and filming was to start on Friday, June 11th.

The theme of “Into Character,” basically, is the realization of a person’s film fantasy. Many people had submitted their dream - a movie they are obsessed with, whose star is their idol. A young man who was a fat kid, who got pushed around as a child, idolized *Rocky*, and always longed to achieve the physical prowess of Stallone in that film. Or a girl who yearned to sing like Loretta Lynn in *The Coal Miner’s Daughter*. In Amanda’s case she idolized Olivia Newton John from an early age, having seen her skating in *Xanadu* many times over and had her idol’s photos on her wall. As a child, she would send Olivia Newton John invitations to her birthday parties and always dreamed of owning white skates with red wheels. The producers sifted through the many

submissions and selected 13 people whose fantasies they would bring to life, the first of which, “Rocky,” aired on Wed., June 16th at 10 PM on the AMC channel, which will be the time slot for this truly interesting and well made series. Roxy skaters set your VCRs.

In each segment they reveal the selection of the individual to be featured, in a surprise setting & whisk him/her away in a limo to begin 2 weeks of vigorous training. Other makeovers include *La Bomba*, *The Natural*, and *Saturday Night Fever*.

Here’s the challenge - the idea is to do this intensive makeover in 2 weeks on a shoestring budget & film the whole grueling training process, culminating in the big scene from the movie. They told Amanda that she was to come to an outdoor cafe for a final interview to determine whether she would be selected

*(Continued on back)*



Jackie and Mike feel the music and show the crowd their skills on Memorial Day Weekend.



Michael and Jeanne practice some choreography at the south end of the Circle.

Photo ©2004, Darryl Thomas

# WANTED

**Members**   **Supporters**   **Contributors**  
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To perpetuate this highly valued and much loved source of recreation, relaxation and spiritual sustenance, we need your backing and your assistance, we cannot continue without your help!

and one of our CPDSA t-shirts. We will have t-shirts on sale at the Circle this July 4th weekend. Membership checks will also be accepted at the fundraising table at the south end of the circle.

This season we are emphasizing the importance of your membership in our organization. If you are not already a member please join. If you are already a member please renew. Individual memberships are a bargain at \$15 for the entire season. For \$25 you can get a membership

Your dues money helps defer the cost of Parks Dept. special events permits, police amplified music permits, transportation and storage costs, equipment maintenance and repair and all the other expenses we must cover to keep "our thing" alive.



Michael F. Kelly L. Ac., ADS

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914.548.7585  
 mkelly\_tcm@hotmail.com



To My Skate Family,

Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!

For the best 70th birthday Skating party. All of you made me feel so loved! I am overwhelmed with your generosity.

I cannot thank you enough. It was wonderful. I love you all.

Sincerely,

Dilta

Photo ©2004, Bob Nichols



If you would like to contribute stories or photos for consideration in our next newsletter, please contact: [marci@cpdsa.org](mailto:marci@cpdsa.org)

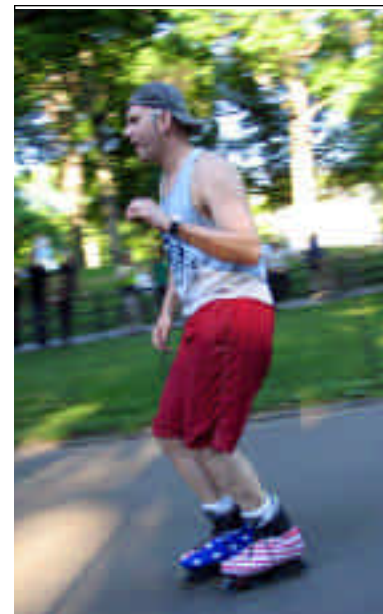


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Somebody's ready for the 4th of July!

Photo ©2004, Ken Nelson



Dr. Janis Brody  
**Your Body:  
 The Girls'  
 Guide**

(St. Martin's Press)



Janis' book has been recommended by Publisher's Weekly, Jump Magazine, and Amazon.com's Top 10 Family List

# The View from Skaters Road

by Bob Nichols

Things are changing. The mayor has proposed new legislation controlling sound in New York and we are still unsure of how it will effect us out on Skaters Road. This new initiative stems from the huge number of calls made to the 311 phone line; there were more complaints made about noise than any other grievance. Loud night clubs in residential areas, loud car radios, construction noise, loud trucks, loud radios, loud car alarms ...you name it and if it makes noise, it drives people crazy!

Over the years, we dance-skaters at the Circle have learned that the same wonderful music that brings us so much joy at our weekend skate parties, can be irritating to some other people. The whole reason that the CPDSA exists is to find legal and technological solutions to the problem of how to bring music to the park for our events without annoying other park users.

We do this because we are civilized; we try to solve problems, we make compromises in order to get what we really want without infringing on other people. If we try to be fair we usually find that other people are willing to be fair to us in return - once we earn mutual trust and respect. None of this is easy; if you step on someone's toes, they are going to be more sensitive; they'll be watching your feet instead of enjoying the dance until you earn their confidence once again.

Our sound system makes use of wireless FM signals broadcast to self-powered peripheral speakers that point into the center of the Circle to contain our music in our area without disturbing the "quiet areas" of the Sheep Meadow and The Lake. Setting up a working broadcast antenna, FM transmitter and a DJ booth - complete with turntables and CD players and a wireless mike - every day that we come out to the park and having them work reliably is a minor logistical and engineering miracle. We take it for granted, but it really is amazing!

Just a few years ago none of this

would have been possible. The technology was there, but it was too bulky and expensive to be practical for us. The first few years of our existence, our DJs played pre-mixed cassette tapes; the idea of coming out to the park and mixing live, using vinyl and turntables was a dream. Now, we expect an expert, talented DJ to be there for us every session, even when there are thunderstorms predicted and we would be better off having a small system that would allow us to make a quick getaway.

Along with this sophisticated sound system comes the possible seeds of our destruction, because our equipment is capable of playing louder than our legal limits. What keeps us within legal bounds is the self-discipline of the DJs and the watchful eyes and ears of our designated sound monitors. Our ears tell us when the music is getting too loud, that fact is quickly confirmed by looking at the db meter and a gentle reminder is issued to the DJ to stay within the legal limits.

Some people think that we in the CPDSA are there for our own self-aggrandizement, what we do looks so easy and on days when we are not allowed to set up, other DJs often come in with smaller more compact systems and operate a smaller, less well-organized Circle - they are wrong!

This year, we are once again starting to see stricter enforcement of regulations concerning amplified music in the Park. This makes the efforts of the CPDSA that much more important, because we are the ones who make the effort to get all the proper permits and permissions to keep dance skating legal and alive in the park while the powers that be crack down on what they call "Rogue DJs." In the meantime, all we can do is continue to operate within the legal constraints placed on us and wait for a more moderate enforcement policy that will eventually allow us all to once again operate below the radar, where we don't bother anyone and no one bothers us.

The Skate Circle Lives!

# Padlock your Backpack

The Central Park Police Precinct has advised us not to allow any unattended bags. The police also advise you to not bring valuables into the park. Leave your new digital cameras, video cameras, palm pilots, cell phones, jewelry and other expensive items at home, unless you intend to keep them in your possession at all times. This is difficult if you are skating, because we insist that skaters not try to dance in the Circle while wearing backpacks.

We recommend that you keep your wallet and house keys on your person - in a pocket or a small belt bag worn around your waist. We request that each of you bring a small padlock and

use it to lock your backpack to the chains that will be attached to the benches in the baggage area next to the DJ booth. An added benefit of locking your backpack is that it will stay in the place where you leave it instead of being shifted around to the bottom of the pile every time someone searches for their bag. It also guards against someone taking the wrong bag by accident - something that happened several times last season.

We hope this new policy will mean that none of us has to suffer the loss of our property this season. After all, we come here to play and forget our worries.



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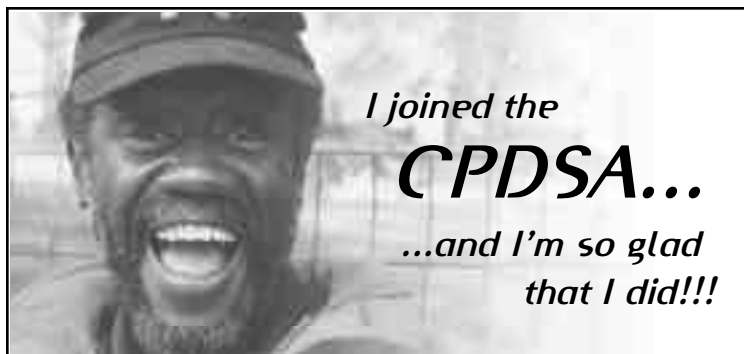
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The CPDSA  
would like  
to thank



for their  
generous  
support.





("Into Character," continued from cover)

and she was sitting there with her mother when 2 bizarrely dressed skaters (James Singley and Derrick Harrison) came barreling wildly down the street and handed her a cell phone. She was told she had been selected & a limo pulled up and whisked her away to the Skate Key where I waited to introduce myself as her skate master and presented her with the white skates with red wheels she had always dreamed of owning and an outfit to change into. She returned in the skates and rolled onto the floor, stiff as a board, with an expression of abject fear on her face, not even able to put one foot in front of the other - having never skated before - just rolling at me with straight knees - and her training began - lasting just one week (the entire makeover takes 2 weeks but her skate training - half of that), 6 skate classes and 2 lessons to learn her choreography. Amanda was a surprisingly quick study and our skaters were duly impressed by what

she absorbed. Since in the film she is a Muse - she also went for Muse training with a spiritualist, called the "Muse Master," and she gets to do a tandem jump from a plane to get into character. Why, you ask? Well, because - like - Muses totally fly! Hello?!!

I taught Amanda the choreography in one day with 2 days for practice and did the choreography for the other 6 Muses - her "sisters," the featured skaters who dance around her. They were some of the best of our N.Y. skaters - Lynna Davis, Julia Martin, Sara Martinez, Jeanne Moss, Polly Nugent and Lisa Reich. They learned most of it in one 2 hour rehearsal and the last part, after Amanda's minute & a half solo, I set just before the shoot - filmed at The Roxy on 35mm to give it the authentic movie look.

The filming of the big scene was completed on Saturday, June 19th - it took 10 hours, with rehearsals & blocking for the

numerous skaters of all levels that they used. Just after the final practice take on the day of the shoot, tragedy struck - Jeanne Moss, who had been indispensable, fell & shattered her wrist. Fortunately for the production, Ida Dupont, who was one of my original first choices, was on the set and I taught her the choreography in an hour. They held the shoot till she could be costumed and made-up. The production went very well and all my girls did me proud.

*Xanadu* was quite a blast, though I'm still trying to get the music out of my head - it's there when I sleep & when I wake - it's driving me nuts!!!! But it was a heady experience for us all and Amanda has become an avid skater - hopefully, a new member of our skate community. We are all still on a cloud. The *Xanadu* segment will air in early September. We can hardly wait!!



Paola and Jeff dance a duet during the sunny Memorial Day weekend.

Photo ©2004, Darryl Thomas

## Join us! CPDSA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Fax \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Contribution

\$15     \$25     \$50     \$100     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Check     Cash     Money Order

New Member     Renewal

Please cut out this membership application and mail it, along with your contribution, to the CPDSA headquarters address listed below.

You can get additional applications and more information from Lezly Ziering at the CPDSA Skate Circle, located mid-park at the foot of the bandshell. You can find us by entering Central Park at 72nd street and walking along Olmsted Way toward the center of the park. Just follow your ears. Listen for our dance music. You can't miss us.

Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



**CENTRAL PARK DANCE SKATERS ASSOCIATION**  
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