



NEWSLETTER

May 2023

Editor: Dagmar Munn

These outstanding individuals have been selected for their excellence in their specific disciplines with many continuing to stay involved in a professional and exemplary manner. In addition, they have contributed to society and the growth of acrobatics on a national and worldwide basis.

JOIN US in honoring these talented individuals at the World Acrobatics Society 2023 Congress & Hall of Fame Banquet, September 8-10, 2023, at the Tuscany Suites & Casino in Las Vegas.

World Acrobatics Society Hall of Fame - Gallery of Legends



Ryan Doyle
Action Sports



Daniela Silivas
Artistic Gymnastics



David Boudia
Diving



Masayuki Watanabe
Lifetime Achievement
Award



Flying Españas
Professional Acrobatics



Rich Kenney
Golden Achievement
Award



Morgan Stanley Smith
(1950-2000)
Acrobatic Gymnastics



Tracy Kontur-Richter
Tumbling-Trampoline

Class of 2023

2023 Congress & Hall of Fame Banquet

2023 Congress Schedule

Friday, September 8th

3 -5 p.m. Executive Board Meeting

7-10 p.m. Welcome Reception

Saturday, September 9th

9-11 a.m. Annual Membership Meeting

1-3:30 p.m. Congress Presentations

Featuring our Class of 2023 honorees; giving each time to share a little more about themselves and what contributed to their great accomplishments.

6-7 p.m. Banquet Reception Hour

7 p.m. Hall of Fame Induction Banquet

Sunday, September 10th

9-11 a.m. WAS Board of Directors Meeting

Full WAS Congress - \$125.00/per person

Register online at: worldacro.com

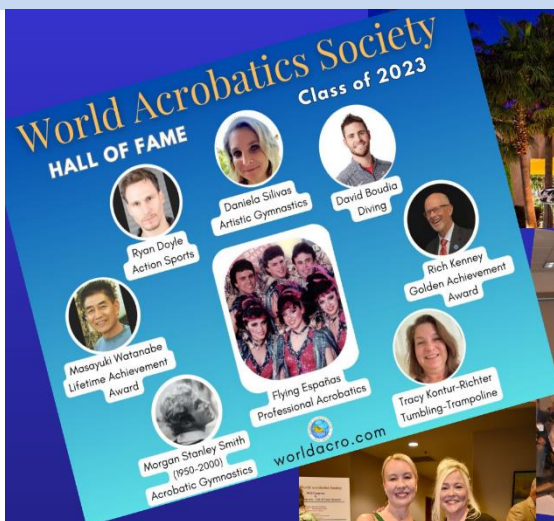
Includes:

Friday: Welcome reception

Saturday: Membership meeting and afternoon presentations

Saturday: Hall of Fame reception and banquet

[CLICK HERE for hotel details and Congress registration](#)



REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

WORLD ACROBATICS SOCIETY
2023 CONGRESS & HALL OF
FAME BANQUET

SEPT 8-10, 2023

Join us at this
3-day event
celebrating our
Hall of Fame
Class of 2023

worldacro.com



Bobby Dickson's Comedy Corner



Bobby Dickson is a World Acrobatics Society 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient and was a diving, tumbling, trampoline, and gymnastics champion. He recently retired from 40+ year career performing comedy acrobatics throughout five continents.

"The Royal Gala Story"

A prime example of a showbiz SNAFU... or ...

How DO some shows ever get made?



Several years ago, my wife Anoushka and I were at home enjoying a relaxing evening when the telephone rang. It was Naomi, an agent from one of the largest TV production agencies in Europe asking, "Bobby, are you available on such-and-such date?"

I quickly responded in the affirmative and inquired as to what kind of show it was. Naomi said it would be a dinner gala for the Dutch Prime Minister plus a few other high-ranking politicians - - along with the Dutch Royal family!

...THAT raised my eyebrows!

Then we began talking money and I figured that with all these very important people attending they must have a dynamite budget, so I gave her my price. There was a short pause in the conversation before she said, "Oh ... that's quite a lot. Can I call you back?"

"Sure," I replied, but I'm thinking, *well that was that. I just priced myself out of another job!*

Lo and behold, several minutes later, Naomi called back and said, "Bobby, I just spoke with KLM, who is the main sponsor for this show, and they asked if they could pay you with KLM flight tickets in the amount that you asked."

I thought about it - - for about a millisecond, "Sure, why not?" And the deal was done. Then I asked how long they wanted my diving act to be for this show.

And Naomi says, "Oh, we don't want your diving act. The main dance number in the show is *Let's Get Physical* by Olivia Newton-John, and we want to feature you doing some spectacular tricks on your trampoline in the middle of the stage during this number. You **can** do something spectacular, can't you?"

"Absolutely! No problem," I answer. She then explains that on one side of the stage will be the Dutch national trampoline champion and, on the other side, the European champion, and in the middle will be me - - all of us bouncing at the same time.

When I hung up the phone, I looked at Anoushka (in a full panic) and told her, "We need to find a practice gym...PRONTO!"

Practice! ... Practice! ... Practice! ... Bounce! ... Bounce! ... Bounce! And suddenly it's 'show rehearsal' time.

So, we set up everything on the stage and the organizers immediately noticed that the three trampolines are taking up way too much space - - making the dance number totally impossible. *Hmmmm...problem!*



We have a production meeting and they suggest we put the two champions on one trampoline at one side of the hall in front of the stage and me with my tiny tramp on the other side. There would be curtains that could hide us until it was time for our performances. Then they asked us if we had any ideas to make our part of the show more 'spectacular'...and I shout out, "Black lights." The two other trampolinists look at me like I am completely nuts...and the director enthusiastically says, "Great idea!"

(Comedy Corner Continued)

Now I am much calmer because I know how to move in black lights to get the best visual effects and the other two bouncers most likely do not. It's a safe bet.

I tell the costume designers what I need on my costume (fluorescent strips) and where to put them. And then I start putting my 'black light' routine together.

It did turn out to be a good bet. The choreographer and the director both liked my idea and I saved myself the embarrassment of having to perform my 'spectacular tricks' alongside two excellent trampolinists, which would have been a disaster...for me, of course.

After a couple more weeks of intense show rehearsals, the great gala evening finally arrives...and the catering (remember, this *is* a dinner show) begins to decorate and set the tables.

One small problem now raises its ugly head. The choreographer has been having the dancers dance from the stage down a ramp, up onto the tables for a short dance bit, then down, and back onto the stage. But now, the tables are covered with plates, glasses, silverware, etc. And it is only a couple of hours before the show begins. *Oops!!!*

Of course, the dancers saw this problem long ago, but their attitude was "It's not my job." Now the choreographer goes into full panic mode. The dancers go into 'whatever' mode!

Also just discovered, is that, because of something that the director 'absolutely had to have' attached to the ceiling above the stage, the curtains on stage now cannot close all the way. But that is another horror story.

Miracle of miracles, the show begins on time. Now comes the *Let's Get Physical* dance number, so we bouncers get ready for the curtains to open so we can show off our 'spectacular tricks.' The music is playing...and we are bouncing in anticipation...and bouncing...and bouncing...and the curtains are not opening...and we are bouncing...and bouncing.

The song is almost over and, all of a sudden, the curtains open and I begin my 'sensational' black light routine. I make it to my 3rd or 4th trick before the song is over and the curtains close again. The whole thing took about 5 seconds!

If you convert those 5 seconds into an hourly wage, it would translate into the highest salary I ever made in my 47-year career.

All part of the glamor of show-biz!



And in this edition of *Comedy Corner*, we also have a trivia trampoline question:

Who are the oldest living U.S. National Trampoline Champions?

.....And remember, "When in doubt ... barani-out."

Until next time,
Bobby Dickson

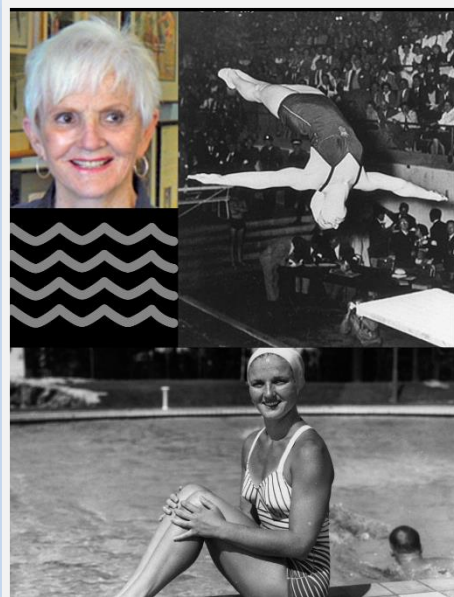
YOUR Stories:

Lately, you readers have been a little lax in sending in your funny stories, quips, one-liners, superstitions, and memories to dixoncomedy@gmail.com.

I am almost positive that I am not the only competitor/performer who has had oodles of fun during their career! I suspect that there are hundreds of great stories waiting out there. So stop procrastinating and start getting more of them to me.

Answer to the trivia question: Glenn Wilson, Larry Snyder, and Ron Munn.

In Memoriam



~ IN MEMORIAM ~

Pat McCormick

May 12, 1930 - March 7, 2023

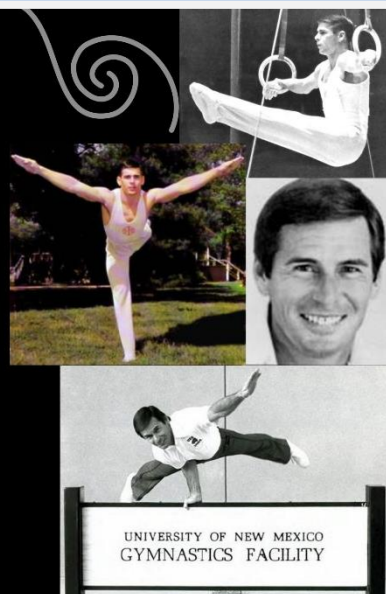
World Acrobatics Society
Hall of Fame
2001 Legend
Diving

~ IN MEMORIAM ~

Rusty Mitchell

June 1, 1942 - February 25,
2023

World Acrobatics Society
Hall of Fame
2013 Legend
Artistic Gymnastics



Display Your Support
Elegantly
World Acrobatics Society



1" Pin
\$10.00 Includes delivery

2023
Memberships



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