

Joni puts Toller on ice for her TV special



A fan: Joni Mitchell's a Toller Cranston fan from way back. She used a photo of him on her Hejira album.

What a flashy windup to Toller Cranston's brief Canadian tour with Ice Capades the other night at Ottawa's Civic Centre!

The enthusiastic audience gave him an ovation and went home, unaware that Joni Mitchell was waiting in the wings with a camera crew. She's taping her first TV special for PBS in the United States and flew into Ottawa secretly from Los Angeles to have Cranston as a guest. After the crowd filed out, she and Cranston performed together (him on the ice, not her) until what Cranston says was "the very wee hours of the morning."

Mitchell's a Cranston fan from way back. She used a photograph of him on her *Hejira* album.

She came to him because he's got such a busy schedule: A solo show this week in Zurich, a headliner spot with *Holiday On Ice* in Germany from Dec. 4 to Feb. 10, another *Ice Capades* gig in Philadelphia in mid-February, and again in Germany with *Holiday On Ice*, starting March 4 for a month.

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CTV may give us the first and only TV movie of the week about the Mississauga evacuation. Writer Jim Purdy is into a second draft of a script he pitched to CTV about the near disaster and a yes or no awaits the results. But CBC-TV doesn't seem to be in the race.

"I'm sorry to say we don't have anything planned at the moment," says drama executive producer Stan Colbert. "We threw the idea around and felt that the evacuation had been so covered by the newspapers that the sub-



SID ADILMAN
Eye on entertainment

ject might have been exhausted." Purdy and writer Peter Such are at work on CBC-TV drama pilot about a doctor's family in Toronto's Annex area between 1939 to '45. Purdy and the NDWT acting troupe, on their own hook, financed a \$15,000 video drama about Annex life and on the basis of it came CBC interest in a possible 13-week series.

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Rae Corelli, who left *The Star* for a news anchor spot at Global, joins CBLT's *Newshour* Jan. 1 as special assignment editor and at least two on-camera reports per week.

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Dancin', Bob Fosse's big Broadway hit that's still running there, comes to the Royal Alex Feb. 11 for five weeks on subscription.

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It's true that CBC-TV's variety department has been in charge of its New Year's Eve shows in the past but there hasn't been one for four years. Now the news department

is in charge for the end-of-the-decade show.

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Garth Drabinsky, the movie producer-showbiz lawyer and co-owner of Cineplex, keeps on expanding. Now he's opened a movie house in Vancouver, delivered the news that an 11-theatre Cineplex might be built out there, and taken on two full-time publicists, Linda Friendly and Liz Bradley (formerly of Theatre Plus). And he and his Cineplex partners have applied to put up a 10-unit movie theatre complex near Maple Leaf Gardens.

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Local actor Donald Ewer knows where to go when winter strikes. He's got three months lined up at the Coconut Grove Playhouse near Miami, starting in December — playing in *Ashes*, *The Imaginary Invalid* and *Ten Little Indians*.

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