

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Fire and Ice on the Rocks

US National skate medalists and world wide competitors from Shipstad Entertainment, performed live at Colorado Springs World Arena surrounded by the beautiful Rocky Mountains. This 2 hour event hosted a rink side sit down dinner for Selective Insurance and 330 of it's executives on July 12th, and again on July 21st for the McKinsey Group, with an audience of 380. Show Director and Choreographer – Eddie Shipstad collaborated with international lighting supplier – 4Wall Entertainment to execute a magnificently lit ice show.



Colorado Springs World Arena in Colorado Springs, Colorado

Photo Credit: Todd Mertz, 4Wall Entertainment

Eddie's goal for the ice show was to make it a finale event every attendee would remember. To succeed Shipstad knew he had to use the best in the industry. His said "Dream Team" of behind the scenes players consisted of internationally acclaimed Skating Choreographer -Simone Grigorescu, Lighting Programmer – Peter Jackson, Lighting Technician – Tom Buddingh (both from Las Vegas), and 4Wall Entertainment Lighting.



Shipstad Entertainment – Selective Show Cast
Photo Credit: Robert Linn

In his own words, “I had a very detailed vision of what I wanted with this production. I spent over a year planning and working on it, so I had very specific looks that were required for each number. Peter brought a large amount of pre-programmed looks with him after meeting with me and hearing the music of the show. He listened to my suggestions and then gave me his additions. The results were exactly what I had envisioned and much more. Tom Buddingh was amazing as well. The load-in, load-out, and equipment repair were all flawless. I felt extremely confident during both shows, that the lighting would be amazing.

I used 4-Wall strictly for two reasons: one, because of their extensive inventory (Vari*Lite specifically) and secondly, because of their exceptional customer service. Todd Mertz, whom I've worked with multiple times while directing shows for the University of Denver, consistently provides service that's second to none. The largest challenge we faced was making sure that we had enough fixtures to light the 600' of pipe and drape that surrounded the ice, along with the 38 tables on the ice for dinner lighting, and have lights available for the Children's Chorale or the ice sculpturing group...all at the same time. Todd put together a package that gave us the high performance we needed, while maintaining a reasonable budget. The 22 Vari*lite 2500 spots along with some 26 Studio Color 575s, and 8 MAC 2000 WASHs and 8 'MAC 250 ENTOURs to wash the ice surface. The lights were in great shape and all of the equipment performed extremely well. In past shows that I've directed, there were multiple issues with lights not working so the quality of equipment provided by 4Wall was key for a successful implementation.

The show consisted of 4 group numbers and multiple solos and featured US National medalist and Olympic Team member, Emily Hughes. We also had ice sculpturing group "Fear No Ice" and the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale. The guests had dinner while Fear No Ice did a 15 foot high ice sculpture of an electric guitar while professional violinist – Christian Paetsch skated table to table for playing through the remainder of dinner. One of the highlights of the production was a number with 4 nationally ranked pair teams skating together to U2's Vertigo called "Vertigo 8". The number consisted of throws, twists, death spirals, and other great pair moves.



Shipstad Entertainment – Olympic Skater Emily Hughes
Photo Credit: Robert Linn

The combination of extraordinary skating, quality equipment, spectacular lighting, and a powerful team and vision mapped the undeniable success of these events. Thank you Todd and 4-Wall for everything!”

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