

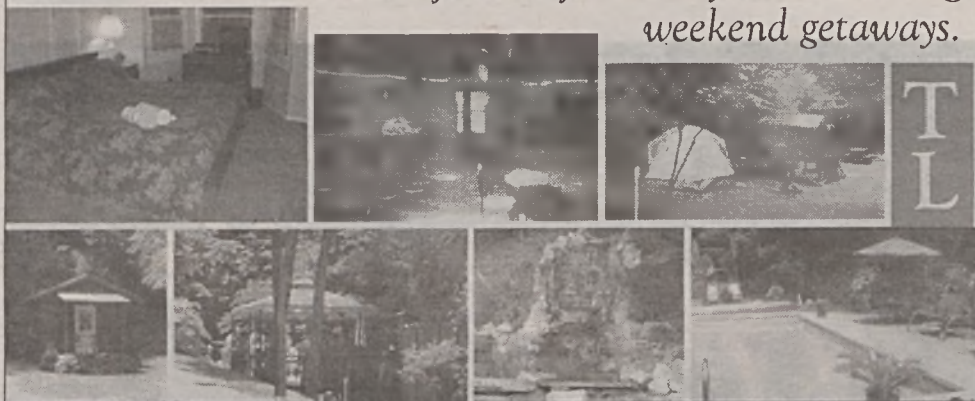


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Seven fabulous, out gay men of figure skating

A new skating season is upon us

by Stan Kimer :: guest contributor

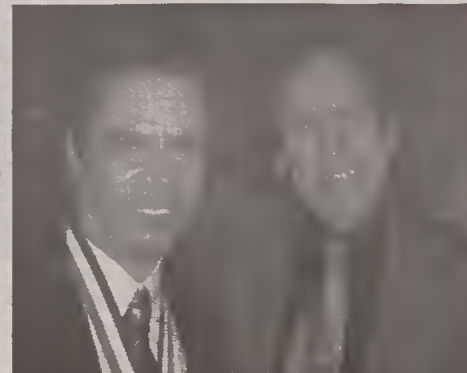
Last spring, *Out Magazine* came out with their list of "100 Hot Out Gay Men" which included people in entertainment, sports, politics, business, etc. What?! Not a single figure skater was on the list! Therefore, since the new ice-skating season is now upon us, here is my own list of seven hot out gay men of Figure Skating.

And before going any further, I am going to quickly dismiss any discussion about figure skating not being a true sport. I challenge anyone to give it a try — figure skating requires a tremendous amount of balance, stamina and flexibility. And figure skaters look calm, cool, collected and fabulous while competing.

My list of outstanding men include skaters from the past and present. In alphabetical order:

Brian Boitano. This 1988 Olympic Champion continues to be a perennial spokesperson for U.S. Figure Skating and has hosted his own popular cooking show. President Obama appointed Brian, as an out proud gay man, as one of our American delegates to the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, in 2014 to counter some of the close-minded anti-gay rhetoric of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Rudy Galindo. This skater of Mexican descent overcame economic and personal



Me with Rudy Galindo at his induction ceremony into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 2013.

hardship to win his senior U.S. championship on his eighth try, in 1996, becoming the oldest men's champion in 70 years. And he won the world bronze medal that year! He also was a pairs national champion with his skating partner Kristi Yamaguchi. Rudy is the first openly gay U.S. champion and also later shared about being HIV-positive. He went on to a stellar professional career with his entertaining "YMCA" program, and was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame in 2013. Rudy is now making his mark as a coach and choreographer, including working with current U.S. Silver Medalist Polina Edmunds.

Randy Gardner. Randy Gardner was a five-time U.S. and one-time World Champion in the late 1970s with his skating partner Tai Babilonia. Randy had remained active in the skating world, continuing to skate in shows and coaching at Dorothy Hamill's Adult Figure Skating Camp. Randy has now embarked on a new venture, starring in his one man show "Go Figure!" about his fascinating personal and skating life.

Brian Orser. Brian Orser of Canada finished second in the 1988 Olympics to Brian Boitano in the famous Olympic "Battle of the Brians."

see next page ►



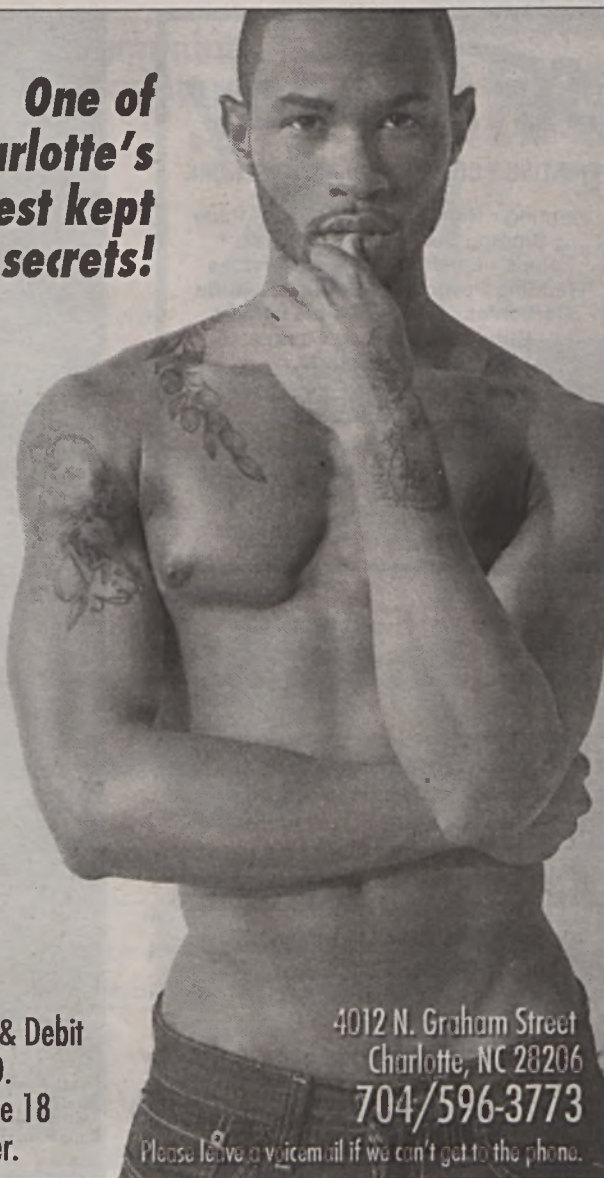
I have so much enjoyed being coached by World Champion Randy Gardner at the past two Dorothy Hamill Adult Fantasy Skating Camps.

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