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## Stars on Ice at Times Union Center, 4/24/2010

April 25, 2010 at 3:09 pm by [Mark Ramirez](#)

### Stars on Ice less lustrous than usual

By Amy E. Tucker  
Special to the Times Union

ALBANY — A crowd of 4,953 reveled in the performances of past and current top figure skaters Saturday as the 2010 Smucker's Stars on Ice tour passed through Albany. Seasoned regulars, however, were disappointed by the overall lack of theme, cohesiveness and pacing of this year's production.

Opening with a subdued cast introduction number followed by three slow musical pieces, the show finally showed some spark when Todd Eldredge got the crowd chanting to Cheap Trick's "I Want You to Want Me." Things got mellow again for Sasha Cohen's "España Cani" instrumental piece.

The show lacked the props and extensive light show of prior seasons and muted costume choices failed to excite. Dominated by black fishnet and silver sequins, there was little in the way of color and the men's outfits primarily resembled business casual attire.

When amateur skaters join the seasoned professionals of they typically perform their competitive programs producing a lack of continuity with the show's theme. Poor use of the four, large-screen televisions and the skaters' hokey attempts at humorous transitions between performances completed the out-of-sync vibe.

The amateur skaters' presence upped the technical difficulty of the programs with more triple jumps and intricate footwork, which inevitably resulted in atypical stumbles and falls throughout

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the show. And, noticeably absent was a successful pairs team to provide that wow-factor to the crowd with their fancy lifts and throws.

Special guest 2010 Olympic medalist Evan Lysacek's only skate to "Man in the Mirror" tanked, with his sequined glove the only semblance of a true Michael Jackson portrayal. His gangly size and robotic arm movements made a mockery of the deceased icon: his rendition paled next to the superbly researched and executed choreography of Viktor Petrenko's 1998 Michael Jackson medley number.

Choreographer Cindy Stuart, in her sixth year with the revue, saved the cast numbers and duets with complex and imaginative interplay between the skaters. Movements sometimes mirrored, but often showcased the individual skaters' unique talents and the music selections were exquisite.

Standout moments included the Cohen and Alissa Czisny number to Lakme's "Flower Duet" and the warm-up copy cat segue number between Eldredge, Michael Weiss, Jeremy Abbott and Yuka Sato. The pairing of former training partners and ice-dance teams Tanith Belbin and Ben Agosto with Meryl Davis and Charlie White to the soulful "Brave" by Leona Lewis also proved ethereal.

Act I's closing cast number — a flashy contemporary medley of Adam Lambert's "Strut," Pink's "So What" and the Black Eyed Peas' "Boom Boom Pow" and "I Gotta Feeling" — was also widely accepted by the crowd.

Act II delivered additional audience enthusiasm with two backflips from Weiss, during his Georgia Satellites' "Keep Your Hands to Yourself" program, and an electric riff from Jimi Hendrix's "Little Wing" played by budding blues virtuoso Agosto.

With the focus off of the Olympics next year, fans should look forward to another cohesive, Emmy-winning production for the 25th Anniversary Tour of Stars on Ice in 2011.

Amy E. Tucker is a freelance writer from Clifton Park who has been covering the sport of figure skating since 1996.



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- [TH](#): My eyes and ears loved every minute of that show! Joe Bonamassa played with heart and soul – I've...

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- [Laura](#): That's a great quote: "That is one nice specimen of an individual."

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