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**GUSTAVE LUSSI:  
THE MAN WHO  
CHANGED SKATING**  
9 PM **57**



**PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE  
LAKE PLACID MASTER TEACHER**

*If I can't be a champion myself, I'll make them*

—Gustave Lussi

Profiling one of the foremost figure-skating teachers of the 20th century.

A Swiss native, Gustave Lussi began coaching skaters in 1920, after an accident ended his ski-jumping career. The success of his innovative and widely influential teaching method, which combines elements of music, art and physics, is documented in archival footage, including newsreels. Bearing witness to Lussi's impact are testimonials from many of his champion skaters, such as Dorothy Hamill, Eileen Seigh, Robbie Robertson, Tenley Albright, Hayes Allan Jenkins, John Curry, Toller Cranston and Dick Button.

These former students recall how their teacher's determination and demands for perfectionism affected their performances and won their lasting respect. Several credit the lessons Lussi taught with producing success not just in the skating rink, but also in the arena of daily life. "We hated to settle for anything but perfect," Dorothy Hamill recalls.

Despite his surgically fused hip, the 91-year-old Lussi still coaches students each summer at the arena that bears his name in Lake Placid—a place he and his wife Thelma have made their home because it reminds them of the Swiss Alps.

*Advertisement*

**The Man  
Who Changed  
Skating**  
**TONIGHT AT 9**

**A wcfе television production**

**profiling the career of  
Lake Placid skating coach**

**Gustave Lussi.**

**wcfе 57**