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**ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK
CITY SKATE CONCERT CELEBRATING CANADA'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY
AT ROCKEFELLER CENTER
APRIL 5, 2017 AT 1:00 P.M.**

New York, NY: Ice Theatre of New York (ITNY) is proud to announce that as part of its annual City Skate Concert Series it will dedicate its April 5th concert in celebration of Canada's 150th Anniversary. Some of the skaters ITNY will be presenting include Elliot Halverson in "Alberta Biography" and Canadian ice artist Elladj Baldé. Two-time Olympic Silver Medalist and legendary Olympic coach, Brian Orser, will be in attendance.

"**Alberta Biography**" is an innovative piece choreographed to the sound of birdcalls from Alberta and was originated by renowned Canadian skater **Gary Beacom**. At this concert the work will be skated by **Eliot Halverson**.

The performance will also include Canadian ice artist and international competitor Elladj Baldé. The Company will perform "Crescendo" a class piece choreographed by ITNY Ensemble Director Elisa Angeli and Jessica Huot and Conor Wagar will perform "Power of Love" choreographed by celebrated ballet choreographers Gaiane and Akop Akopian.

The Concert will be held at Rockefeller Center on April 5, 2017 at 1:00 P.M. (Rain date is always next day at 1:00 P.M.)

BRIAN ORSER SKATING SEMINAR

Brian Orser and Doug Haw will conduct a seminar on Friday, April 7 from 10AM to 4PM for young competitive skaters at the Ice House in Hackensack, NJ. Registration and more information at <https://www.nycharities.org/events/EventLevels.aspx?etid=9622>

To schedule interviews with ITNY Founder/ Director Moira North, any of the performers, or to obtain high res photos of the previous performances please contact Jirina Ribbens at 212.929.5811 or email itny@icetheatre.org.

The **2017 City Skate Concert Series** is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council. Ice Theatre of New York receives funding from the Bloomberg Philanthropies, Dance/NYC, the Lisa McGraw Figure Skating Foundation, the Pioneer Fund, the Will Sears Fund and its generous private patrons.

About Ice Theatre of New York

Founded in 1984 by **Canadian Moira North**, Ice Theatre of New York (ITNY) has changed the face of figure skating by creating works that integrate the sensibilities of movement, music and art. Its mission is to elevate dance on ice as a performance art. Through its performances in both traditional and site-specific venues, ITNY presents ice dance that opens one's eyes to seeing skating in unexpected ways. ITNY was the first ice dance company to receive dance program funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. In addition to building and performing works of artistic merit, ITNY also reaches out to the next generation of skaters and audiences through education, community outreach and training programs.

PERFORMER BIOS

Elisa Angeli (*Ensemble Director*)

Elisa Angeli is an Italian ice dancer with recognition from the Italian Federation for Ice Skating, studied Ballet with Ludmilla Vlassova (Bolshoi) and Giovanna Franzosi in Milan; also with Christine Wright at the Gibney Dance Center. She also studied Modern and Contemporary Dance at the Open Dance Center and at M.A.S., Milan and Aerial Silks at Streb and Trapeze School in New York. Elisa had several years of contortion and extreme flexibility classes with J. Noan and O. Karmansky. Her expertise as a circus arts specialist allows Elisa to bring a unique element of excitement when skating as a principal performer and aerialist with ITNY. In 2009, Elisa participated at the Premiere of Wintuk by Cirque du Soleil at Madison Square Garden. In Italy she was an aerialist with the tour Italian Champions on Ice with Ghiaccio Spettacolo, and performed in Munich with Spotlight Productions. Elisa has been with ITNY since 2008, including on ITNY's 2008 tour in France. She became the Ensemble Director in the fall of 2015.

Elladj Baldé (*Guest Performer*)

Elladj Baldé is a Competitive skater and performer from Quebec, Canada and a frequent guest performer with ITNY. He was born November 9, 1990 in Moscow to a Russian mother and a Guinean father, Ibrahim, from the village of Tombon, near Labé. Elladj was introduced to skating at the age of seven by his mother. Though at first he would hide his skates in an attempt to avoid practice, he began to love skating when he was ten. He is a 7-time Canadian National Senior Competitor and is the winner of the 2015 International Nebelhorn Trophy. He speaks English, French, and Russian.

Eliot Halverson (*Performer*)

Eliot Halverson began skating at age six on a frozen pond behind his house. When the World Figure Skating Championships came to Minneapolis in 1998, Halverson skipped school for a week to watch them, which encouraged him to take private lessons and become a more serious skater. He landed his first triple at age eleven. Halverson is a U.S. Juvenile bronze medalist, 2004 Intermediate champion, and 2005 Novice pewter medalist. Eliot performs "Alberta Biography" choreographed by Canadian Frank Nowosad and originally performed by Gary Beacom.

Jessica Huot (*Performer*)

Jessica Renée Huot is the Skating Director and Skating School Director at Sky Rink Chelsea Piers where she also teaches private skating lessons. Jessica is a six-time Finnish National Ice Dance Champion and USFS quadruple gold medalist. She and her ice dance partner competed in the World and European Figure Skating Championships in 2002-2004 as well as the Junior and Senior Grand Prix competition circuits from 1999-2003. Jessica received her Bachelor of Science in 2006 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, majoring in Brain and Cognitive Sciences. She went on to earn her Master

of Music degree in Piano Performance from New York University in 2012. In addition to teaching skating, she teaches private piano lessons in the NYC area. She has performed as a principal dancer for Ice Theatre of New York since 2010.

Conor Wagar (*Performer*)

Conor Wagar first became interested in skating at the age of 10 and under the guidance of his coach, Doris Papenfuss, he competed at Junior Nationals with only two years of skating under his belt. Conor went on to compete at Eastern Sectionals and was an alternate for US Nationals. He also became a triple gold-medalist in moves-in-the-field, freestyle, and ice dance. Towards the end of his amateur career he went on to join the touring company of Disney on Ice and now performs with the talented, amazing cast of ice performers in Ice Theatre of New York.

For more information on Ice Theatre of New York or to purchase tickets for upcoming shows call 212.929.5811, or visit www.icetheatre.org.

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