

The Cutting Edge

SPRING 2005

Ice
Theatre
of
New York

Ice Theatre of New York

"...Alyssa Stith made me think of 'Cry', Alvin Ailey's signature solo for Judith Jamison..."

— **Eva Yaa Asantewaa**

Villagevoice.com/Dance Magazine.com

"Watching [Liu] perform El Duende...was an eloquent, seamless meeting of dance and skating. [His] movement unfurled with intensity and inevitability."

— **Susan Reiter, Danceview Times**

"David Parsons made a fiercely complicated duet called TWIST for the Ice Theatre of New York, which celebrated 20 years under the inspired leadership of Moira North."

— **Francis Mason, WQRX 96.3 FM**

SAVE THE DATE

BENEFIT GALA 2005

2005 Honoree Aja Zanova &
2004 Honoree Moira North
at the 2004 Benefit Gala.



Please save the date for Ice Theatre of New York's October **Performance and Benefit Gala** at Chelsea Piers in honor of **Aja Zanova Steindler**.

Aja is a two-time World Champion and spent many years as one of Ice Follies and Ice Capades' top stars. She has continued to be an avid supporter of figure skating and she has been a patron of Ice Theatre of New York since it's inception.

The event will begin at 7 PM on Monday, **October 17, 2005** with a performance by the Ice Theatre of New York ensemble and guest stars at Chelsea Piers' Sky Rink. We will then adjourn to the fabulous Lighthouse (the event center directly below the ice rink) for cocktails, dinner and festivities honoring Aja.

Dear Friends,

As we continue to celebrate our **20th Anniversary** season, we are concluding a very productive year of performances, classes and outreach activities. In the pages of this newsletter you will see that we have had an extraordinary season and are already in the process of preparing for a very busy autumn.

Looking to the future we hope to deepen and develop our performance programs as well as all of our outreach programs for children. We will also further explore collaborations with dance choreographers and other artists to produce new works and eventually, full-length ballets on ice.

I feel that we are poised to realize many more of our ice dreams than in the past.

With our Board of Trustees' increased commitment to Ice Theatre's infrastructure that includes Executive Director, Jirina Ribbens, Director of Development and Marketing, Paddy Kennedy and the ongoing involvement of Associate Director, Douglas Webster we will surely reach our goals.

One of our objectives is to perform on the proscenium stage and I am delighted to announce Ice Theatre's upcoming performance at the **Staller Center for the Arts** at S.U.N.Y at Stony Brook on Long Island on Saturday, October 15, 2005.

With **YOUR** support we will not only maintain and sustain the important work that we are doing but we will be able to provide the means to significantly increase our exploration of the endless possibilities of movement on ice.

Please help us enter our 21st season with renewed enthusiasm and support! We look forward to the exciting performance opportunities and the realization of a skating school and theatrical "home" in our future.

Thank you!

Moira North

Founder/Artistic Director

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Ice theatre's 20th Anniversary year was a big one in many ways. The third annual **Jamestown Residency** took place for three weeks last August. Once again, the Company was very well received by the community. Katherine Healy, Heather Harrington, and David Liu crafted new pieces for the 20th anniversary year at the Residency. The Company performed a free Open Rehearsal Performance for the Community (with about 500 in attendance) followed by a light lunch for our sponsors and town dignitaries.

The Company, with funding help from **NYSICA**, commissioned renowned New York choreographer **David Parsons** to



Vera Wang, Dick Button,
Palmer Baker and Moira North

create his first piece for ice. Performed by Company skaters **Line Haddad** and **David Tankersley**, *Twist* previewed at the Gala Benefit and was premiered at Winter Festival.

The 20th Anniversary Benefit Gala last October 13th was a great celebration of the Company's history. Founder/Director **Moira North** was the honoree, along with Company members past and present. The Gala began with a short performance at Sky Rink and was followed by a silent auction, cocktails, dinner and celebrations at the Lighthouse. Skating that night with the Company were former Ice Theatre skater, **Gia Guddat** who performed her unique and acrobatic *4 Skates* with skates on both hands and feet, **8-time Georgian Champ Vakhtang Murvanidze**, and **Olympic Champion Oksana Baiul**. Many renowned names from the skating world were in attendance on Gala night, a great tribute to the dream and hard work of our Artistic Director Moira.

Home Season 2004 was called **Winter Festival** and was co-produced with Sky Rink / Chelsea Piers during the last (and coldest) week in December (27 - 30th); the temperature inside the rink was only one degree warmer than the outside temperature. Nonetheless, **CBS-TV** came out early one morning to tape a rehearsal and our fans and supporters braved the frigid temperatures to cheer the Company on. **Suzanne MacDonald, Vakhtang Murvanidze, Jennifer Wester & Daniil Barantsev, and James Yorke** joined the Company as guest skaters at the Festival. We would



Ice Theatre skater, Trina Pierre, and
Cirque du Soleil star, Oleg Ouchakov,
performing at the cocktail party.

like to acknowledge our new company members and apprentices who performed with us: **Heather Cookson Rothman, Aidan Daley-Hynes, Jessica Hunt, and Raye Levine.**

Ice Theatre recently finished another year of dynamic performances with the **Rockefeller Center Concert Series**. The season concluded with a prized performance at the world's most famous **Rink** by one of the world's greatest ice-dancers, **Ms. Judy Blumberg**, skating a piece called **Reminiscing** that looked back at her work with **Michael Seibert**. Judy created this piece with Douglas Webster for the 25th Anniversary Reunion of the 1980 Lake Placid Olympics. Judy will always enchant us with her quality skating.

You will find references to Ice Theatre's plans for the fall in other sections of this newsletter.



Ensemble Director, Judy
Blumberg, and Board Member,
JoAnna Mendl Shaw



Ice Theatre founding members Cecily
Morrow (with son Prime), Moira North,
Marjorie Kouns, and Jirina Ribbens



Board Members Caroline
Moore and Joan Erdheim



Aja Zanova and
Nicole Bobek

HIGHLIGHTS



Michiko and Angelo Grasso
on their wedding day.



ICE THEATRE PAST & PRESENT AT THE 2004 GALA



2005 World Junior Dance Champions
Morgan Matthews & Max Zavozin.



Children's Performance Club at the NYC2012 pep rally.



Our Company members as the
Hot Chocolate waiters in Polar Express.



Olympic Champion **Oksana Baiul** performing with ITNY.

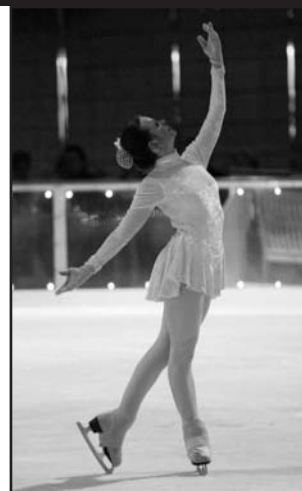
ICE THEATRE'S LEADING LADIES



Judy Blumberg



Alyssa Stith



Katherine Healy



Kim Navarro

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Ice Theatre of New York would like to take this opportunity to thank our home rink, **Chelsea Piers**, for its enthusiasm in helping establish a new beginning for our **Performance Club**. We now have two ongoing programs: an adult and a children's division that are connected with the Chelsea Piers Skating School. The classes are on Saturday mornings and have a rolling admission. Both classes performed on May 13th at the Chelsea Piers' show **Celebration**.

In addition, Chelsea Piers is promoting Douglas Webster's edge and turn class **Let it Flow**, which has been ongoing on Tuesday afternoons at 1:30 and continues through May.

Broadening our seminar division, Ice Theatre created a department called **Master Class**. Seven well-known choreographers have each created a master class to be taught in seminars around the country. The first **Master**



Ice Theatre Children's Performance Club.

Class group includes: **Judy Blumberg, Rory Flack-Burghart, Stephanie Grosscup, Jamie Isley, David Liu, Cindy Stuart,** and **Douglas Webster**.

Our **Outreach Program** continues to flourish. Ice Theatre is proud of its eleventh season of the **New Works and Young Artists Series** at Riverbank State Park. This year reached more than 2,000 pupils from public schools in Upper Manhattan, and with the help of **The Skating Club of New York**, we were able to showcase the **2005 Junior World Dance Champions, Morgan Matthews and Maxim Zavozin**.

We also supervised another successful

series of teaching inner city school children during spring break for the **JPMorgan Chase Sports and Arts Festival**. Participation in the skating portion of the Festival was up again this year and serviced in excess of 500 children.

Continuing to provide other organizations with skating talent for their own causes, Ice Theatre participated in shows for **Figure Skating in Harlem** and **The Boys and Girls Club of the South Bronx**. Special thanks to **Angela Chiang, Kim Navarro, Vakhtang,** and all the skating teachers and youngsters for their participation.



SPECIAL EVENTS

We have signed on with **Industrial Artists Management** who will represent us for non-ticketed events. We are looking forward to enhancing many corporate events worldwide with our portable shows. Please check us out on their website at www.industrialartistmanagement.com

Otherwise, we had a busy Holiday Season skating at many functions including the opening party for the movie **Polar Express**, tree lightings at **Rockefeller Center** and **Riverbank State Park**, holiday parties for **Merrill-Lynch** and **Lincoln Mercury**, and a very social evening at the **Plaza Hotel** for the **Food Allergy Initiative**. We also performed at the **Holiday on the Hudson** celebration at our home rink, produced by Chelsea Piers.

This winter, our children's division took part in the **NYC2012 Rally** at Rockefeller Center with Olympic champion **Oksana Baiul**, in support of

Ice Theatre of New York with Katarina Witt in Times Square.

New York's bid for the 2012 Olympics.

A major highlight this past season was performing in the middle of **Times Square** with two-time Olympic champion **Katarina Witt** at an event promoting the health drink **Tahitian Noni Juice**. **Samantha Adams** (producer of the event) wrote about Ice Theatre: "They truly are professionals, and take pride in their work. Everyone thought they were brilliant. They are fantastic people, and I'm thrilled that I had the pleasure of working with all of them. Our client was absolutely ecstatic!"

Special thanks to everyone who took part in these events.

Mark your calendar for **Thursday May 19th** from 5:00-7:00pm when Board member Dana Schiff and Ice Theatre of New York will host a benefit for the **Children Affected by AIDS Foundation** at Chelsea Piers. Performing will be the **Children's Performance Club**, Olympic Bronze Medalist **Timothy Goebel**, and the professional Company.

Ice Theatre of New York

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COMPANY NEWS

*"Enchanted Evening...
choreographed by
Douglas Webster...
is a great ensemble work."*

— B. Jennings
Attitude Dancers' Magazine

Last May, in an effort to increase audience awareness of the Company, Ice Theatre hired **Paddy Kennedy** to work as a marketing and development consultant. Paddy is a former figure skater (a triple gold medalist — from the olden days) from Vancouver.

Michiko Simanjuntak, the Company's General Manager for the last four years, was married last June and left for other horizons in December. **Jirina Ribbens**, no stranger to Ice Theatre at all, assumed the role of Executive Director just as Michiko was leaving, right in time to help navigate the Company through Winter Festival. Although we miss Michiko terribly, we wish her and Angelo all the best in the years to come. Thank you to **Melody Champion**, **Beth Hurwitz**, **Marilyn Meyerson**, and all of our volunteers and interns who have helped out this past year. We couldn't do it without you.

Alyssa Stiith not only has completed her **Masters Fine Arts / Dance from NYU** but also got engaged to one great Dane, **Christian Melsen**. Alyssa and Christian will be married this summer and then will move to Denmark. Don't panic! As part of her pre-nuptial agreement (drafted by Ms. North), Alyssa will still perform with Ice Theatre.

Judy Blumberg is receiving her certification as a Holistic Health Counselor through the **Institute of Integrative Nutrition**. She is currently working with up and coming ice dance team, Maia & Alex Shibutani. In March Judy was profiled on ESPN's Worlds coverage in connection with **Tanith Belbin & Benjamin Agosto**, who placed second in Moscow and achieved the best results for US ice dancers since 1985, when Judy and Michael won the Bronze.

Douglas Webster will be the Associate Choreographer on **Disney on Ice's** 26th production, which will open this September and tour the States.

David Liu has been producing skating shows in China and recently took **Ice Theatre** friends **Greg Wittrock** and **Gia Guddat** over with him to

perform. Ice Theatre guest skater and World Champion, **Lu Chen**, joined them in her native country.

Kim Navarro has found herself a dance partner, **Brent Bommentre** and will return to the world of competitive ice dancing. A true Ambassador for Ice Theatre, Kim will still perform with the Company, training schedule permitting. **Tyrell Gene** left New York late last summer to take up the role of Head Skating Coach at the Bozeman Figure Skating Club in Bozeman, Montana—Big Sky Country. **Daphne Johnson** will be graduating with honors from the **Steinhardt School of Education at NYU** and earning a BS in Communication Studies. **David Tankersley** is singing and dancing in **Seven Brides for Seven Brothers** at **The Goodspeed Opera House** in Connecticut. Ice Theatre wishes to welcome back to NYC former member **Chika Maruta**. Former Ice Theatre member **Kenny Moir** is now the **Director of Figure Skating** at Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers. **Marni Halasa** has recently joined Amira Mor's International Belly Dancing Company!

We lament that **Susan Wilsey** won't be joining us this fall but we celebrate the upcoming addition to the family, due in October. Also, former Ice Theatre skater **James Schilling** and his wife **Amanda** are expecting their first child. Congratulations! The future is looking good for Ice Theatre recruits.

Board Members: **Dana Schiff**, is performing on Broadway in **Fiddler on the Roof** through September; **Rhea Schwartz**, is developing the first ISU Adult Competition in Oberstdorf, Germany, June 10–12th; **Peter Eurich**, is skating with **Men n Sync**, receiving standing ovations everywhere they go and even landed on the front page of the Metro section of the NY Times.

Dance and skating choreographer, **Heather Harrington**, will premier her new evening length work, **Devil's Playground** at Danspace Project at St. Mark's Church, November 17-20, 2005.

Thank you to **Melody Champion**, **Beth Hurwitz**, **Marilyn Meyerson**, and all of our volunteers and interns who have helped out this past year.

Ice Theatre of New York

Line Haddad & Tyrell Gene in David Liu's "2:1"



STAGE PERFORMANCE AT STALLER CENTER

One of the most exciting ways to see Ice Theatre perform is on the proscenium stage! Join us at the **Staller Center for the Arts at S.U.N.Y. at Stony Brook** on Saturday October 15th at 8 PM for our show **"Dance Visions on Ice."** We will be profiling repertory highlights including "Departures", "Tango", and "The Draughtsman's Contract", as well as David Liu's exquisite "2:1."

For tickets call the Staller Center box office at (631) 632-ARTS or order tickets online at www.StallerCenter.com.



Line Haddad & Tyrell Gene in David Liu's "2:1"

To learn more about the Company and its upcoming activities, please visit our website at www.icetheatre.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

STAGE PERFORMANCE @ Staller Center

Stony Brook University
Saturday, October 15, 2005

2005 BENEFIT GALA

The Lighthouse, Chelsea Piers
Monday, October 17, 2005

2005 HOME SEASON

Sky Rink, Chelsea Piers
October 19-21, 2005

Subject to change. Please contact the office at (212) 929-5811 to confirm.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ice Theatre of New York wishes to thank all of its supporters for their contributions, and acknowledges the continuing support of:

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The Cutting Edge

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