

*Ice  
Theatre  
of  
New York*

THE NATION'S PREMIER  
ICE DANCE ENSEMBLE



DARE<sup>TO</sup><sub>BE</sub>  
DEBONAIR

2012 BENEFIT GALA HONORING  
**RICHARD "Mr. Debonair" DWYER**





Katie Boxwell and Will Sears. Photo: Michelle Harvath

**IN MEMORY OF WILL  
1982-2002**



STATE OF NEW YORK  
**EXECUTIVE CHAMBER**

ALBANY 12224

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
GOVERNOR

October 22, 2012

Ice Theatre of New York  
59 Chelsea Piers, Suite 5911  
New York, NY 10011

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for the 2012 Benefit Gala and Performance of Ice Theatre of New York.

Since its inception in 1984, Ice Theatre has been dedicated to the development and advancement of figure skating as a performing art. Through community outreach, it enables New York City's public school children to get out on the ice, and is widely recognized for "New Works and Young Artists," its innovative educational program that utilizes figure skating as an effective and empowering motivator and teaching tool.

Tonight, you pay tribute to a distinguished individual and I am pleased to join in congratulating Richard "Mr. Debonair" Dwyer, the longest ever professional ice skating performer. His joyful performances on the ice have inspired countless skaters, both young and old, to grow in ability, confidence, and leadership.

With warmest regards, and best wishes for an enjoyable evening.

Sincerely,

A stylized, handwritten signature of Andrew M. Cuomo, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

ANDREW M. CUOMO

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**SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

to these individuals and others whom we might have missed

Make up for Ice Theatre of New York  
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 Associate Producer: Jirina Ribbens  
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 the Documentary Film "The Fabulous Ice Age"  
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The Pioneer Fund  
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Ice Theatre of New York is supported, in part, by  
 public funds from the NYC Department of Cultural  
 Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

**THANKS TO ALL OF OUR ICE THEATRE VOLUNTEERS**





THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10007

October 22, 2012

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone to Ice Theatre of New York's 2012 Annual Gala in honor of performer Richard Dwyer.

Since its founding in 1984, Ice Theatre of New York has inspired audiences with its exciting mix of figure skating, dance, and theater. New York City is a cultural capital of the world, and ITNY continues to make innovative contributions to our thriving arts scene. This past year, our City welcomed a record 50 million visitors, and with its boundary-pushing work and dazzling collaborations, Ice Theatre of New York will be sure to draw many more residents and tourists alike to appreciate these performances. In addition, we commend ITNY for using all of tonight's proceeds toward their New Works and Young Artists Series, an outreach program for New York City public school children.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, congratulations to Richard Dwyer and the ITNY team on all of your accomplishments so far. I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable event and continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael R. Bloomberg".

Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor



Photo: Debbie Hickey

# Ice Theatre of New York

THE NATION'S PREMIER ICE DANCE ENSEMBLE

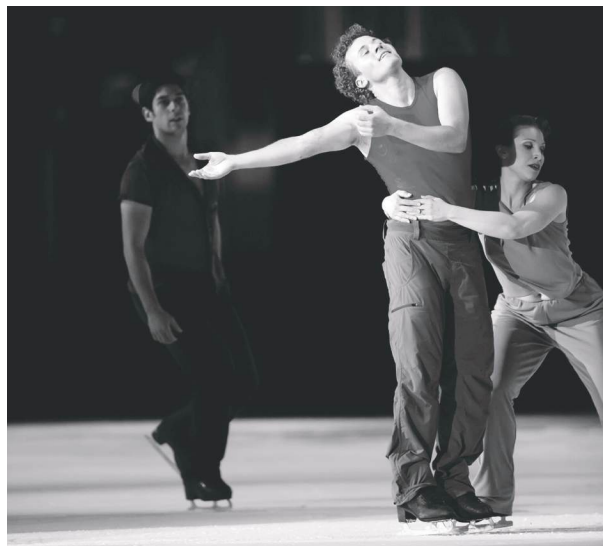


Photo: Julie Lance



Photos: Irena Sapilak

Founded in 1984 by Moira North, Ice Theatre of New York has changed the face of figure skating by creating works that integrate the sensibilities of contemporary dance, music and art. Through its performances on rinks, stages and site specific venues, ITNY presents on-ice dances that challenge the perceptions and conventional definitions of figure skating. For these efforts 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 its exemplary education, community outreach and training programs. ITNY is dedicated to the education of the City's youth and in the 18 years of providing these programs it has served over 30,000 children.

*"Since its establishment in 1984, the Ice Theatre of New York has combined the best of ice skating, dance and theater to create cutting edge performances that represent the very best New York's creative community has to offer."*

— Mayor Michael Bloomberg

This season ITNY will continue its tradition of collaborating with choreographers from both the dance and skating worlds, as well as exploring relationships with artists from theatre, music and new media disciplines. Looking ahead to the 2012-2013 season highlights will include a Benefit Gala and Performance honoring Richard "Mr. Debonair" Dwyer, continued collaborations with Improv Everywhere, Juilliard Dance Program and Fashion Week, free performances as part of the *City Skate Concert Series* and the *New Works & Young Artists Series* throughout the five boroughs as well as special holiday performances and corporate events. This next holiday season ITNY will again perform *Dollywood Christmas on Ice*.

Ice Theatre of New York is supported, in part, by public funds from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.



ITNY also receives funding from The Lisa McGraw Figure Skating Foundation, The Pioneer Fund, The Will Sears Fund and its generous private patrons. Make-up provided by MAC.

**59 Chelsea Piers, Suite 5911, New York, NY 10011**  
**(212) 929-5811 • [itny@icetheatre.org](mailto:itny@icetheatre.org) • [icetheatre.org](http://icetheatre.org)**





Dear Friends,

Tonight we are here to celebrate Richard Dwyer, Debbie Gordon and the ISI for their considerable contributions to the world of skating — and to thank all of you, from the bottom of our hearts, for helping us to continue to follow our creative path toward fulfilling our mission.

It's amazing to think that for twenty-eight years, skater/dancers, choreographers, and other collaborators have given their time and talent to help challenge and enchant audiences; to help develop ensemble skating; and to break barriers between the dance, art and ice worlds.

We've accomplished so much — and there is still so much to be accomplished! Our focus is on long-term goals: founding a Performance-on-Ice School; establishing a world-class Performance-on-Ice facility for theatrical ensemble skating; creating evening-length Ice Ballets; commissioning original works from renowned dance choreographers; expanding the Troupe's international touring schedule, and performing at Dance and Winter festivals throughout the world.

To quote Anna Kisselgoff, writing in The New York Times: "The Ice Theatre of New York is onto something, and it deserves greater support."

You have all been incredibly generous, and supportive, and we need that support more than ever. We appreciate it more than ever — our goal, always, is not only to maintain Ice Theatre as the premiere ice dance company in the country, but to keep it moving forward.

With your help, we will!

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Moira North".

Moira North  
Founder/Director



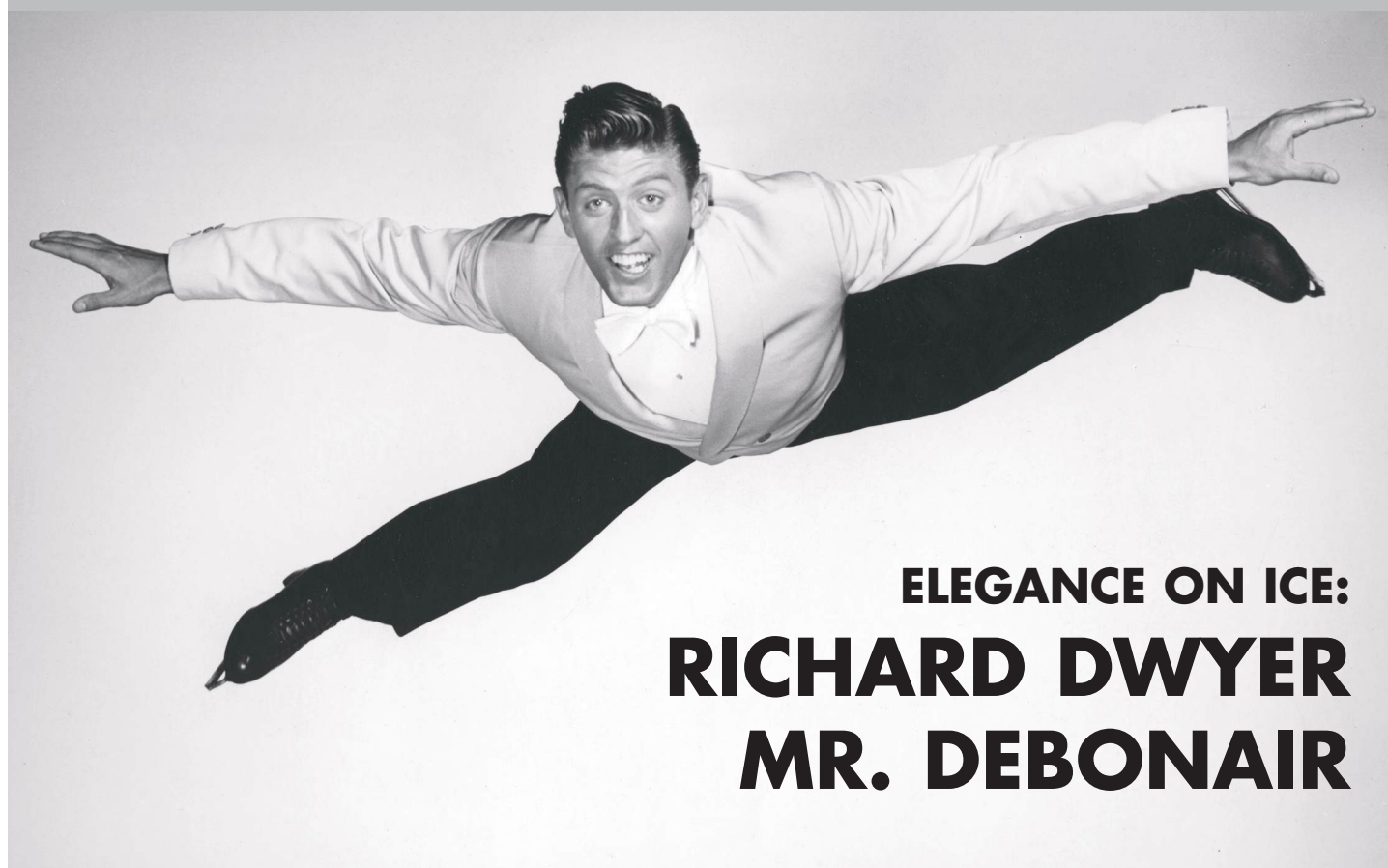
*Dear Richard,  
You've inspired  
decades of skaters to  
reach for the stars!*

*You are the  
consummate  
performer and  
professional...*

*Thanks for giving us  
so much to aspire to!*

*With Love,  
JoJo & Ken*





## ELEGANCE ON ICE: RICHARD DWYER MR. DEBONAIR

by EDWARD Z. EPSTEIN

When a performer succeeds in creating and communicating a character that audiences respond to and connect with, the result is often stardom. On screen, Bogart was the intriguing Tough Guy; John Wayne, the Hero; James Dean, the Rebel.

On the ice, Richard Dwyer brought his distinctive personality, and heartfelt enthusiasm, to “Mr. Debonair,” creating his own legend. Always impeccably groomed in tuxedo and top hat, he was charming, handsome and charismatic; with flair and finesse, he brought to American ice shows his own version of what Fred Astaire brought to the screen — elegance, artistry, showmanship and a seemingly effortless command of his medium. One quickly forgot about any superficial resemblance to Astaire once Dwyer’s performances were underway.

Power and speed, deep edges, long, dramatic slides across the ice, spread eagles — performed with an all-enveloping “Let’s enjoy ourselves!” smile — were among his trademark moves, skated to such romantic pop classics as “The Very

Thought of You” and “As Time Goes By.” He possessed an additional gift — the ability to enable audiences to share, as opposed to just observing, his joy of skating.

“Audiences adored him,” recalls former two-time World champion, European champion and four-time Czech champion Aja Zanova Steindler (2005 Ice Theatre honoree). “Pleasing an audience is an art unto itself, and Richard was a master at it — still is.”

Shipstad and Johnson’s Ice Follies was where Richard met Aja, and other skaters who would become lifelong friends — “We were a family,” he notes. The show, which was the first of all traveling ice shows, was a glittering in-person extravaganza, complete with its own live orchestra and breathtaking costumes by Helen Rose, who was concurrently head designer at MGM (Grace Kelly’s wedding gown, for her marriage to Prince Rainier, was among her creations).

Ice Follies was an entertainment staple for decades that played to millions throughout the country. “Mr. Debonair”

was a consistent highlight. Richard wasn’t only a soloist; he also partnered a number of “leading ladies” (thirteen over the course of his Ice Follies career). And there were “The Dwyer Girls,” a line of skating beauties.

“The Swing Waltz” ensemble was another hugely popular audience favorite. When, at the end of every performance, he presented an armful of roses to a lucky lady seated rinkside, it stopped the show. Afterwards, his dressing room was always overflowing with fans, who could count on receiving an autograph.

Female skating stars, with rare exception, were usually top-billed in ice shows; Richard occupied his own niche. Singer Tony Bennett and, yes, Fred Astaire, were among those who applauded his performances. Along the way, Richard accomplished the impossible: according to Guinness World Records, he has had “the longest career as a professional ice skater — sixty-two years.”

How did he do it?

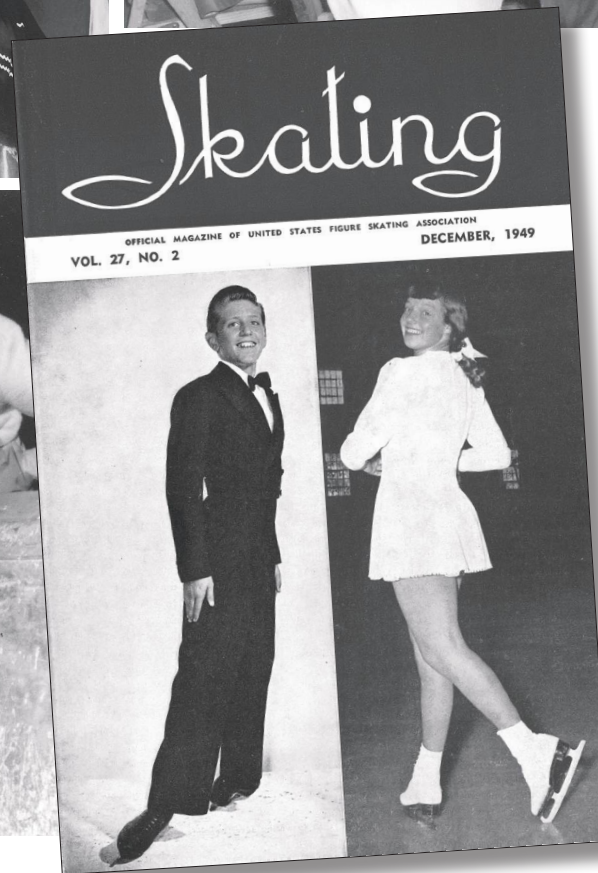
Richard is a classic example of a person doing what he was born to

Thanks for all the fun memories.



Fondly,  
Barbara Wagner  
Olympic and World Champion





Dear Richard,

With many fond memories of good times and winning National Jr. titles the same year.

You are the best — never stopped giving to our beloved sport.

Love always,

**Sonya Klopfer  
Dunfield**

do. Santa Monica, California, was his birthplace, and when he was nine months old the family moved to Burbank. Richard discovered skating — “My father *loved* to skate as a kid” — when his parents took him, his brother Ron, and sister Dolores, to see the Ice Follies at the Pan Pacific Auditorium in Los Angeles. It was 1943, and Richard was almost eight. He couldn’t wait to try skating himself.

There were family visits on Friday nights to the local rink. Richard was hooked. His parents, Mary and Tony, both mid-westerners (his Dad was from Nebraska, his Mom from Illinois), were

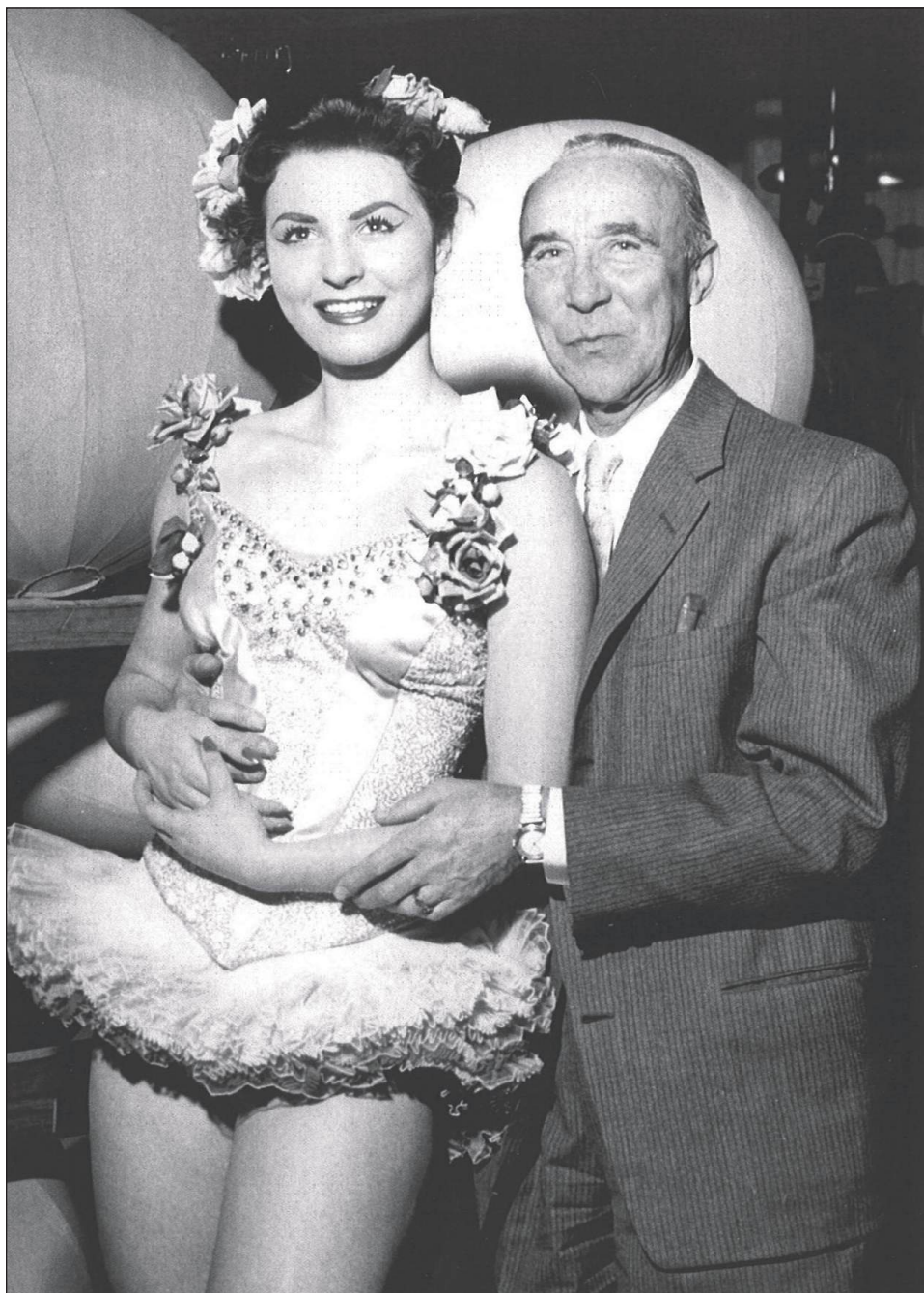
the antithesis of stage parents. Richard exhibited such an aptitude for the sport, and derived such enjoyment from it, that he had the unwavering support of his family from the beginning.

Richard’s Dad was head of the sheet-metal department at Warner Brothers studios, and Richard recalls that “I had support on the Warners lot, too. My parents were wonderful. My mother’s main concern was that I get a good education, and she wanted me always to be well-mannered, to be a ‘nice kid.’ She

wanted to be sure I turned out a gentleman!”

Skating was hugely popular in California. Television, as yet, was providing virtually no coverage, and ice shows were the venue where the public could flock to the sport in-person. As far as a potential skating career was concerned, all choices were Richard’s. He skated exhibitions in Chicago, the Rotary club in Seattle, in Vancouver. He became best friends with Roy Shipstad’s children, they all skated at the Sonja Henie Rink in Westwood (Sonja, thirty-three and still at the peak of her professional career, would

## Congratulations Richard



Wishing I could be there!

Judy Lawrence Gooderham

Photo with Oscar Johnson  
Sept. 1958 Pan Pacific Auditorium, Los Angeles





always remind Richard, "You got your start at my rink!").

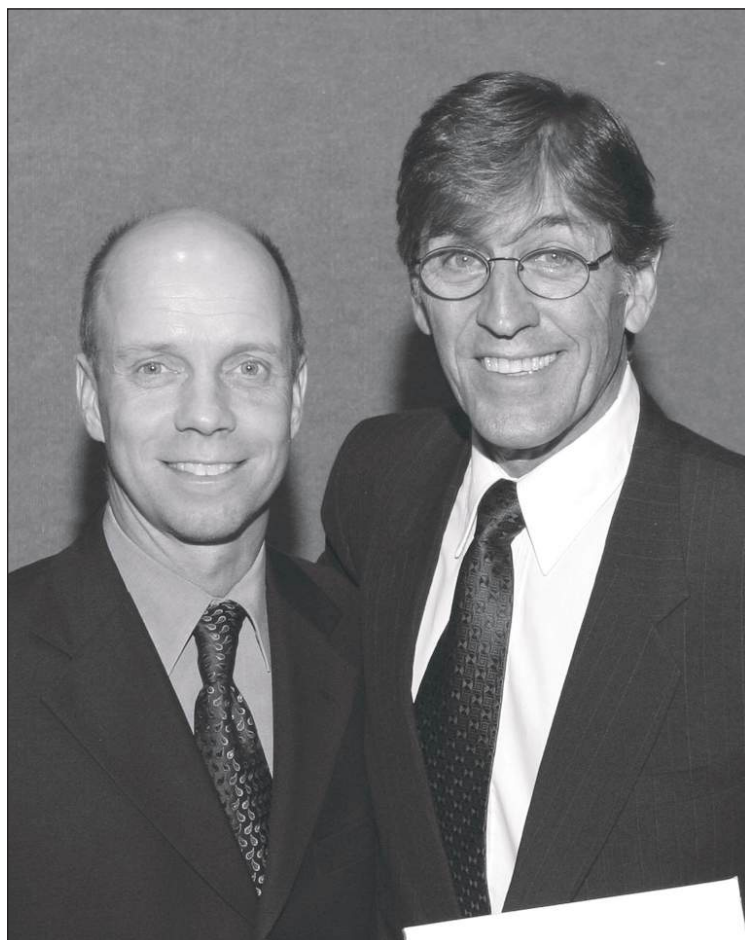
Later, he became friends with Ozzie and Harriet Nelson and their two sons, David and Ricky, when they all skated at the Polar Palace in Hollywood (across from Paramount studios).

Things moved fast. He entered the world of amateur competition. Not too long after that first Ice Follies visit, Richard, age ten, became Pacific Coast Juvenile Men's Champion. Two years later, in 1948, U.S. Novice Champion. The next year, U.S. Junior Champion. In 1950 he competed in the senior division of the U.S. Nationals. Dick Button, already a World and Olympic champion, won for the fourth consecutive time. Richard placed second in the free skate, fourth in figures, third overall (behind Hayes Jenkins). A major career as a competitor seemed certain. He was slated to compete in his first Worlds.

He has recalled that Shipstad and Johnson "made me an offer immediately after the 1950 Nationals in Washington." Turn pro at fourteen?! The Dwyers had the benefit of expert advice. Show business veterans Ozzie and Harriet, among others ("Harriet was a skater," recalls Richard), recommended to Richard's parents that he do it — he, like their sons, was a natural performer.

Competitive skating, with its mind-boggling rules and regulations, would greatly inhibit that aspect of his style. Skating-savvy friends also recognized that Dick Button was virtually an unbeatable champion, and would be competing for at least the next three years, through the 1952 Olympics.

(Button, tongue firmly in cheek, finally goes public with the reason Ice Follies offered young Dwyer the contract: "After watching Dick Dwyer progress from the Novice to the Junior to the Senior ranks at the Nationals, the other competitors and I got together, raised a lot of cash, and paid Follies to make him an offer he couldn't refuse. It was the easiest way to keep him away from challenging us in



*From one old timer  
to another  
an experienced  
youngster...*

*Congratulations!*

*You're the best!*

*Scott Hamilton*

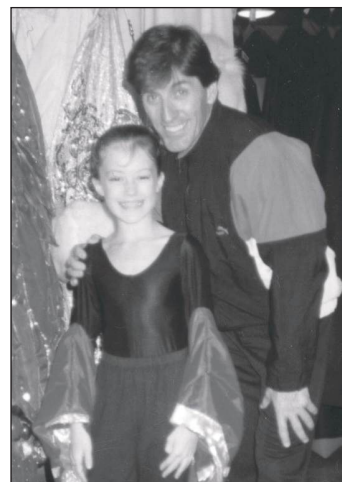
**Dear Richard,  
CONGRATULATIONS!**



**Cheers, here is to YOU and our  
wonderful 62 year friendship.**

Aja Zanova

Thank you for being  
an inspiration, entertainer,  
ambassador, role model and  
wonderful human being.



**Lisa and Kim Navarro**





amateur competition!”)

Roy Shipstad had something special in mind for Richard — Shipstad had created and skated the popular “Mr. Debonair” character, but he couldn’t skate the role much longer, and saw Richard as his likely successor. “Playing the young Debonair was an exciting prospect,” he recalled; in the beginning, Richard was billed as “The Young Debonair.” “I loved skating the role,” he says. “It gave me a wonderful feeling.”

His introduction into the world of big-time professional ice shows was not always star-like. An emergency arose that first year: Shipstad and Johnson had gone to great expense to engage eighteen-year-old Aja Zanova (then Vrzanova), fresh from winning her second World championship, to star in the 1950 edition of Ice Follies. To present her in spectacular fashion, an elaborate moving prop was constructed — a platform, around four feet high, seven feet long, with Aja, glamorously costumed, seated atop the platform alongside a glittering globe — the globe signifying that she was current champion of the world.

The problem: only a diminutive person could fit inside the platform — he wouldn’t be visible to the audience — in order to drive it around the rink. He would have to lie on his stomach, and look through a little window so that he could see where he was driving. “If you had claustrophobia,” laughs Aja today, “that wasn’t the job for you.”

Illness forced the man who had the job to cancel out. Who on earth could fill in for him? Since Richard was still a young teenager, he was small enough to physically do it. Would he do it? He not only would, he was *happy* to! “Aja was world champion! Twice! I’d be part of her act!” He recalls one worry — he kept

telling himself, “Don’t drive into the sideboards!” He didn’t. (Richard and Aja have remained best friends — “like brother and sister” — to the present day.)

The strict Dwyer family condition that Richard get a proper education was adhered to, no small feat. “I went to twenty-six high schools. I went to the Jesuit High Schools and where there wasn’t one in a particular city I went to the Christian Brother.” His Mom, taking no chances that other interests would intrude on Richard’s schooling, traveled with him until he graduated, at age eighteen.

The rigorous schedule paid dividends — since Ice Follies played the same towns year after year, “I made [and kept] a lot of friends in all those different cities.” And he became an “honorary member” of many families. (Dwyer received his college degree from the University of San Francisco in 1975, after over twenty years of taking summer courses between tours.)

Meanwhile, at the age of twenty-three, he had joined the Army Reserves, as a private, and served six months active duty. “I didn’t skate for those six months. Then I went right back to the Follies and made that season’s opening.” When he was called up, in 1961, when the Berlin Wall went up, there was a ten month gap in his skating career; he promptly returned to the show after fulfilling his obligation.

While an athlete’s professional lifespan is, with rare exception, extremely limited, Richard has certainly defied all odds. Of course, there have been physical strains, spills and injuries over the years, all managed with that unshakable Dwyer resolve that has enabled him to survive and flourish.

“Lots went wrong,” he noted. “I had my moments. Once,





Thank you Richard for helping inspire  
Moira and Ice Theatre with your qualities  
of professionalism and joy in performance!

Love,  
Margaret North

*P.S. I'm STILL waiting for my roses!*



during one of my numbers, I fell just doing simple back cross-overs — it was like something from a comedy film! I not only slipped, but slid under the gowns of a couple of the beautifully costumed girls, and kept going! I felt like a fool, but smiled every ‘step’ of the way!”

There was uncertainty, for years, regarding the future of Ice Follies. “It went through five ownerships,” recalls Richard, “and I never knew how it would work out.” “Mr. Debonair” survived each time, but finally the show succumbed. Richard felt the loss; he loved the show, the glamour, the fact that audiences knew the skaters. “They didn’t have to wonder, for example, as they did after the conglomerates took over, who was playing ‘Cinderella.’”

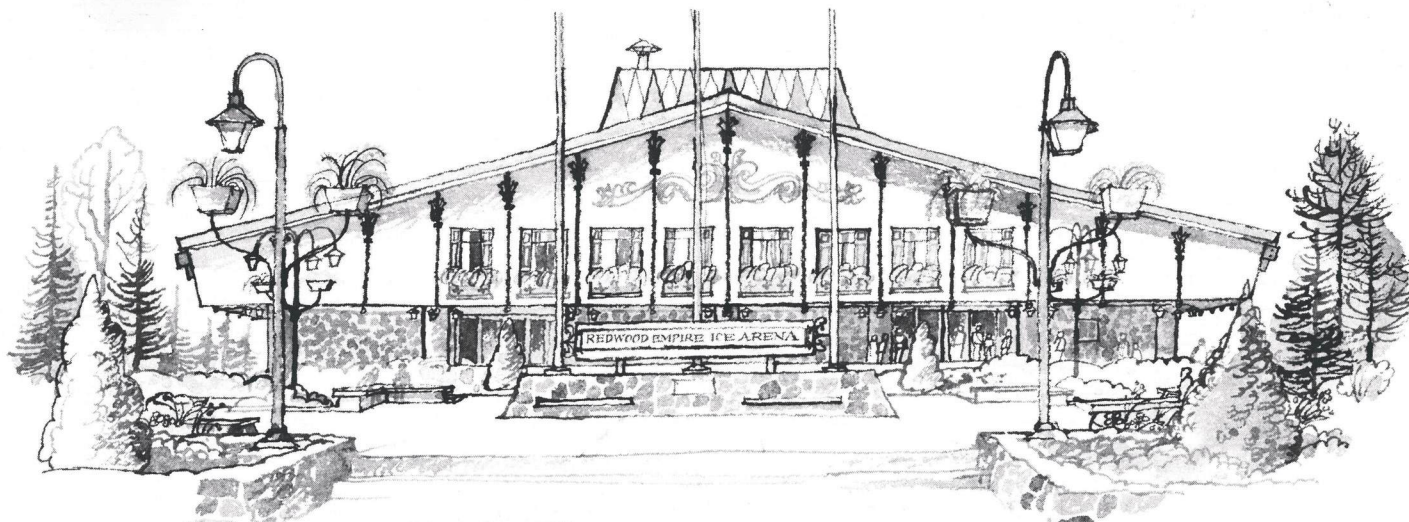
An attempt to become a television broadcaster, after he retired from skating at age forty, didn’t pan out. However, a call came from Charles Schultz, creator of the iconic “Peanuts” cartoon character, and a tremendous fan and supporter of figure skating. He wanted to know if Richard would be interested in bringing Mr. Debonair as a guest artist to Ice Capades. “So I was back on the ice, where I belonged,” recalls Richard. (To date, he’s given over 12,000 performances as “Mr. Debonair.”)

Beginning in 1989 — he was fifty-four — he skated full-time, for four seasons, with Ice Capades, which was celebrating its fiftieth anniversary. When he required rotator-cuff surgery — “from all those years of lifting and ‘throwing’ my pair partners” — he arranged for the surgery so that it would be performed between seasons, enabling him to be back on the ice in time for the next season’s opening. Everyone was amazed at his ability to bounce back.

Richard has worked with the Ice Capades Chalets, the ISI, he’s been a judge at skating events, and performed and coached in Hong Kong and Dubai. His expertise in ice arena management included managing New York’s Wollman Rink in Central Park. “I loved it all,” he says today.

Dick Button describes Dwyer as “a wonderful skater, a forceful theatrical personality, and someone who’s been





*Richard,  
Congratulations from  
the Schulz family,  
"Joe Debonair", and  
the Coaching Staff  
at Snoopy's Home Ice.*



, Skippy Baxter, William Abel, Tahlma Ahlers,  
Stephanie Ewing-Coretti, Faye Ghielmetti,  
Melissa Leonard, Judy Levesque, Ainis Lejins,  
Choeleen Loundagin, Lisa Navarro, Colleen Phillips,  
and Paul Spruell.







supportive and helpful to others both in and out of the skating world. I have the greatest respect for him, and am a huge fan; but I do have some complaints: How can I cheer on someone who has more hair, a thinner waist, and skates better than I can???"

Dwyer has been elected to the International Ice Skating Institute of America's Hall of Fame, and was inducted into the United States Figure Skating Association's World Hall of Fame in 1993. "That was a great moment, being recognized alongside all of the other great sporting champions."

People always wonder how he's been able to maintain such a high level of

skating over such a long period of time (he can still jump an Axel). "I've never stopped," he explains. "I've always found it a challenge to keep in shape. That, I believe, is the 'secret': *Don't stop*. I've worked diligently to keep my skating at a certain level. I've also been lucky — God has been good to me."

He's built up an incredible amount of good will over the years. There was a huge response to Richard's being named this year's Ice Theatre honoree, prompting company founder Moira North to exclaim: "It's going to be big!" "Richard is one-of-a-kind," states Moira. "He has succeeded in maintaining the highest of standards not only as a skater, but in life — he's

a wonderful human being. We're truly delighted, and honored, to honor him!"

Edward Z. Epstein's biography of actress Jennifer Jones, *Portrait of Jennifer*, has recently been published in a trade paperback edition by Simon & Schuster. He's written nineteen books to date; his other subjects have included Lucille Ball, Lana Turner, Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, Mia Farrow, and Michelle Kwan (*Born to Skate: The Michelle Kwan Story*, published by Ballantine). A dedicated figure skater, a former Middle Atlantic States Novice champion, he organized a festival of Sonja Henie's films for New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), and wrote the museum notes for the series. He's completed a novel, *KISS & CRY: Skating for Gold*, and has written a play, *Ava*, based on the life of Ava Gardner.



Dear Debbie,

Thank you for your selfless  
devotion to Ice Theatre of New York

*Ice  
Theatre  
of  
New York*

Board of Trustees

# A Passionate Angel: **DEBBIE GORDON**

by EDWARD Z. EPSTEIN



When a challenging project requires the charm of a diplomat, the fund-raising ability of a politician, along with the focus of a laser beam, Debra Lee Gordon ("Debbie" to all who know her) is the one to call. When she believes in something, or someone, she commits herself to them one-hundred-percent.

"A thousand percent," notes her friend Dorothy Hamill (they've been friends for over twenty years).

Over the years, Debbie's interests have been diverse — she's a wife, mother, businesswoman — and an ardent devotee of figure skating (ensemble skating in particular).

Her passion for the sport emerged at an early age. "I was five, and my father liked to skate. I loved it from the beginning, and still remember my first skating experience, on a pond near our West Orange, New Jersey, home. I can't tell you how much I looked forward to the Wednesday public sessions at the South Mountain Arena [since renamed the Richard J. Codey Arena].

"One of my fourth grade teachers — I remember her vividly, Mrs. Beninson — had a daughter, Emily, who was an up-and-coming skater. It was Mrs. Beninson who encouraged me to skate. Mom and Dad were the exact opposite of 'pushy parents,' when it came to skating!"

A college education was the family priority (Debbie had two older brothers), and it wasn't until she met her husband, Bob, that she was finally encouraged

to "Go for it!", to pursue her love affair with the ice. "I was twenty-six years old," recalls Debbie. "It was Sky Rink manager Guy Robinson who suggested that I get in touch with Moira North."

Moira was in the process of launching Ice Theatre. "Moira got me hooked," laughs Debbie today. "The whole concept appealed to me. It was very exciting. Had there been an Ice Theatre when I was a little girl, it would have made all the difference, it would have been an alternate path to take for a kid who yearned to skate. That's why I've worked for other skaters to have this opportunity. John Curry, too, and his skating company, had a big impact on me. Moira and John opened up a whole new world for everyone!"

"Debbie is a perfectionist in every aspect of her life, in a good way," notes Dorothy Hamill. "She's been a great friend. She's giving, loving, thoughtful to a fault. I don't want to paint her as 'Saint Debbie,' she's too much fun to be with to type-cast her in that role. But it's a great feeling to know that you can always count on her — she's not only an 'angel' as far as the skating world is concerned, but in life!"

"She stays under the radar, but she's amazing. She's got a great artistic eye. By the way, she happens to be a beautiful skater, although I don't think she really believes it. She should! She underestimates herself. She's a great student, too."

Skater Valerie Levine has confirmed this assessment: "Debbie is the best 'adult' skater I've seen, and you can quote me."

Debbie first joined the Ice Theatre board in 1983 (and remained a board member for seventeen years), and joined again in 2011, for the 25th Anniversary year. She became a Board member of The Next Ice Age (from 2002 until 2012). Other Board positions she's held have included Trump Palace (from 2003 until 2012), and she served on various committees for Ballet Hispanico (from 1998 to 2011).

She was invited to join the Accessions Committee (which selects pieces that will go into a museum's collections) of the Baltimore Museum of Art (a position she held from 2005 until 2007). "Bob and I had donated pre-Columbian textiles to the Metropolitan Museum, and to the Baltimore Museum of Art, so that's how that all started."

Debbie's commitment to the World of Skating continues in high-gear. "Debbie has been a key player in the ongoing development of Ice Theatre; she has also been a great friend to me personally," states Moira North. "Her dedication and enthusiasm are such a valuable asset, and I look forward to many more years of working with her. Our Ice Angel Award for 2012 couldn't be bestowed on a more worthy recipient."



Mom,

Congrats on your much-deserved honor.

Your hard work and dedication  
is a constant inspiration to us.

You've always been our Angel!

Love,  
Ali and Evan

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
DEBBIE GORDON  
OUR ANGEL OF A FRIEND

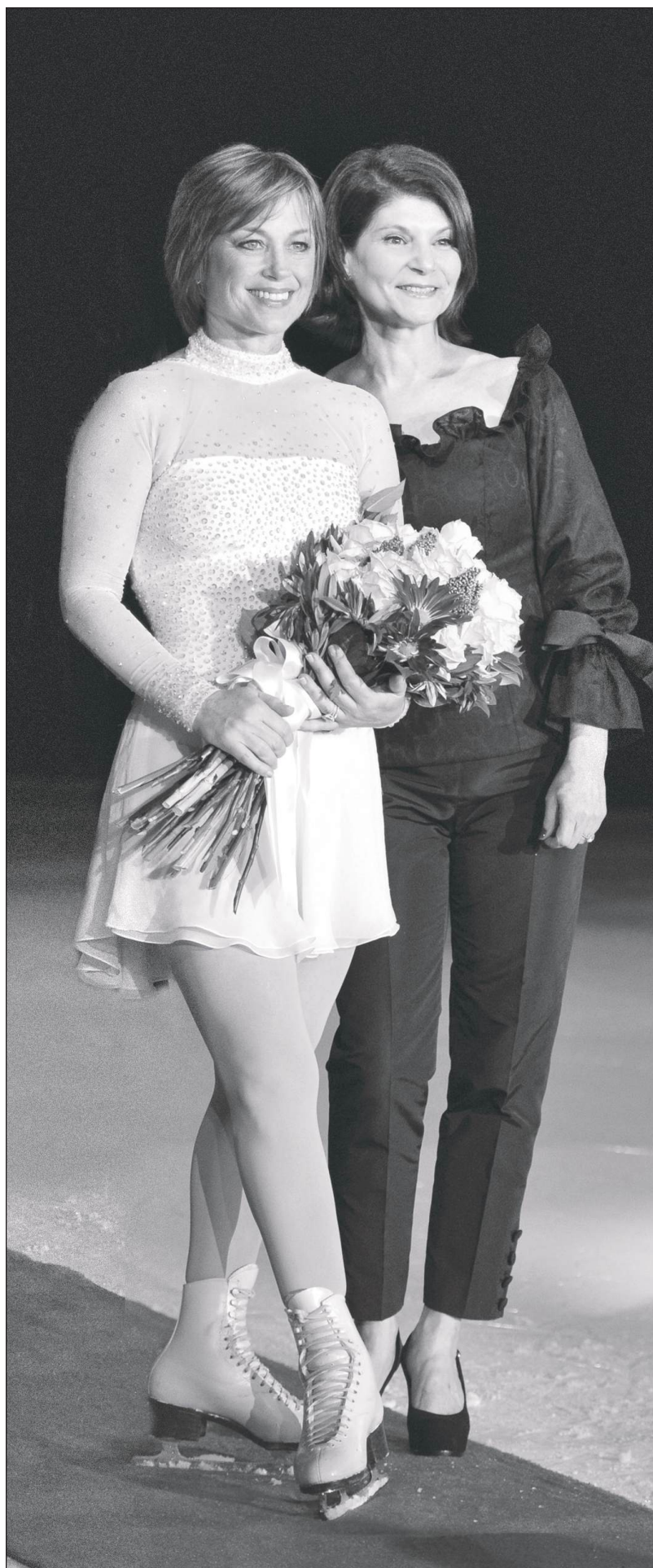
**Robin Wagner &  
Jerry Grossman**

Debbie,

Thank you for your exceptional  
devotion to family, friends  
and community.

You are an inspiration to us all.

**Toby & Jerry Wolf**



Richard,  
Thanks for a lifetime of  
glorious skating memories.

Debbie,  
Thank you for your passion  
and generosity for the art  
of skating and most of all  
for your dear friendship.

**Dorothy Hamill**





Debbie Gordon

We admire your elegance and skating artistry..

And all your contributions to Ice Theatre

Congratulations!

**Susie Gharib and Fereydoun Nazem**

**BRAVO**

Richard, Debbie and  
Ice Theatre of New York!

Stephen G. Epstein | Edward Z. Epstein

*Congratulations*



TO THE LEGENDARY  
**RICHARD DWYER**

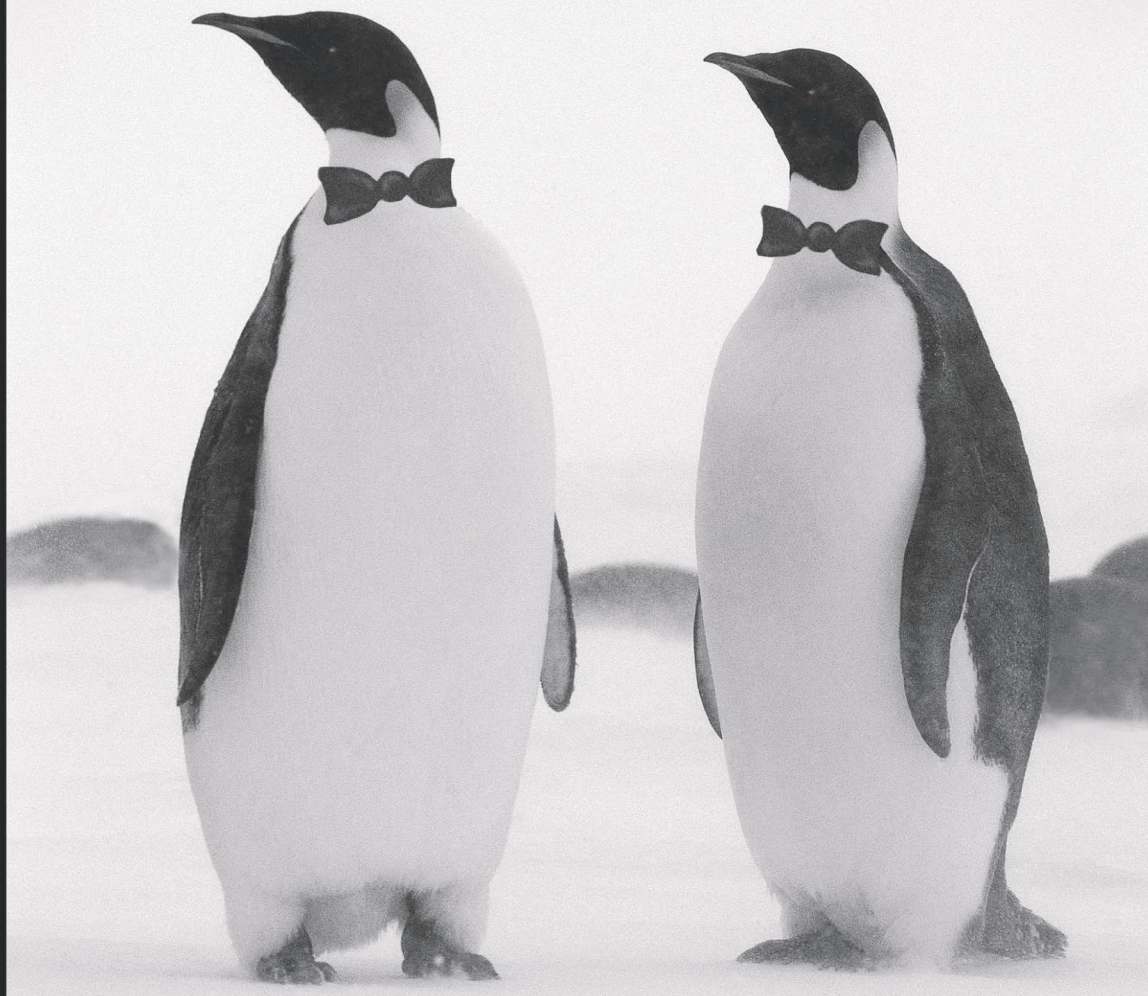


THE FABULOUS  
**DEBBIE GORDON**

*Bob Metcalf*



## LEADING THE WAY FOR OVER 50 YEARS



Since 1959 the Ice Skating Institute has been the leader in promoting ice skating as both a business and a sport. ISI has introduced more than 5 million individuals to the wonderful world of ice skating through the country's first national learn-to-skate program.

ISI also pioneered the concept of recreational skating competitions, encouraging participation rather than elimination, giving skaters of all ages and abilities a chance

to experience the thrill of competition. Many national and world champions got their start in the ISI program.

In addition, ISI provides quality educational programs, publications and professional services for skaters, coaches and arena owners and operators.

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## ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK'S 2012 ARTS &amp; BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENT



The Ice Skating Institute (ISI), Ice Theatre of New York's 2012 Arts & Business Partnership Award recipient, is the original international trade association representing the ice arena industry.

"Ice Theatre of New York is honoring the ISI for its pioneering of programming for recreational classes, tests and competitions, serving tot through adult skaters. The first to structure competition to provide encouragement and reward participation, the ISI emphasizes en'joy'ment of skating, which is why it is a fitting match with our other honoree, Richard Dwyer and with our Ice Theatre of New York mission," says Moira North, Founder/Director of ITNY.

Founded in 1959 as a nonprofit organization for owners, operators, and developers of ice skating facilities, ISI's mission is to promote ice skating as a participant sport and recreation, and encourage the development of ice skating facilities and programs.

Today, ISI remains the industry's only independent national trade association. Its membership has expanded beyond just ice arena owners and operators, to include individual skaters and hockey players,

skating and hockey professionals, and rink builders and suppliers.

The association serves as the leading source of ice skating education, programs, and services; provides a national test registry as well as local event endorsements; and sponsors five national competitions annually throughout the country.

The ISI's learn-to-skate and recreational competition programs are designed to encourage continued participation by skaters of all ages and abilities. Each year, ISI endorses more than 300 local skating competitions, and since 1980, has produced the world's largest recreational team championships, hosting thousands of participants. ISI provides an avenue for skaters who want to be competitive and still have fun. It has also served as a breeding ground for many national champions and Olympians

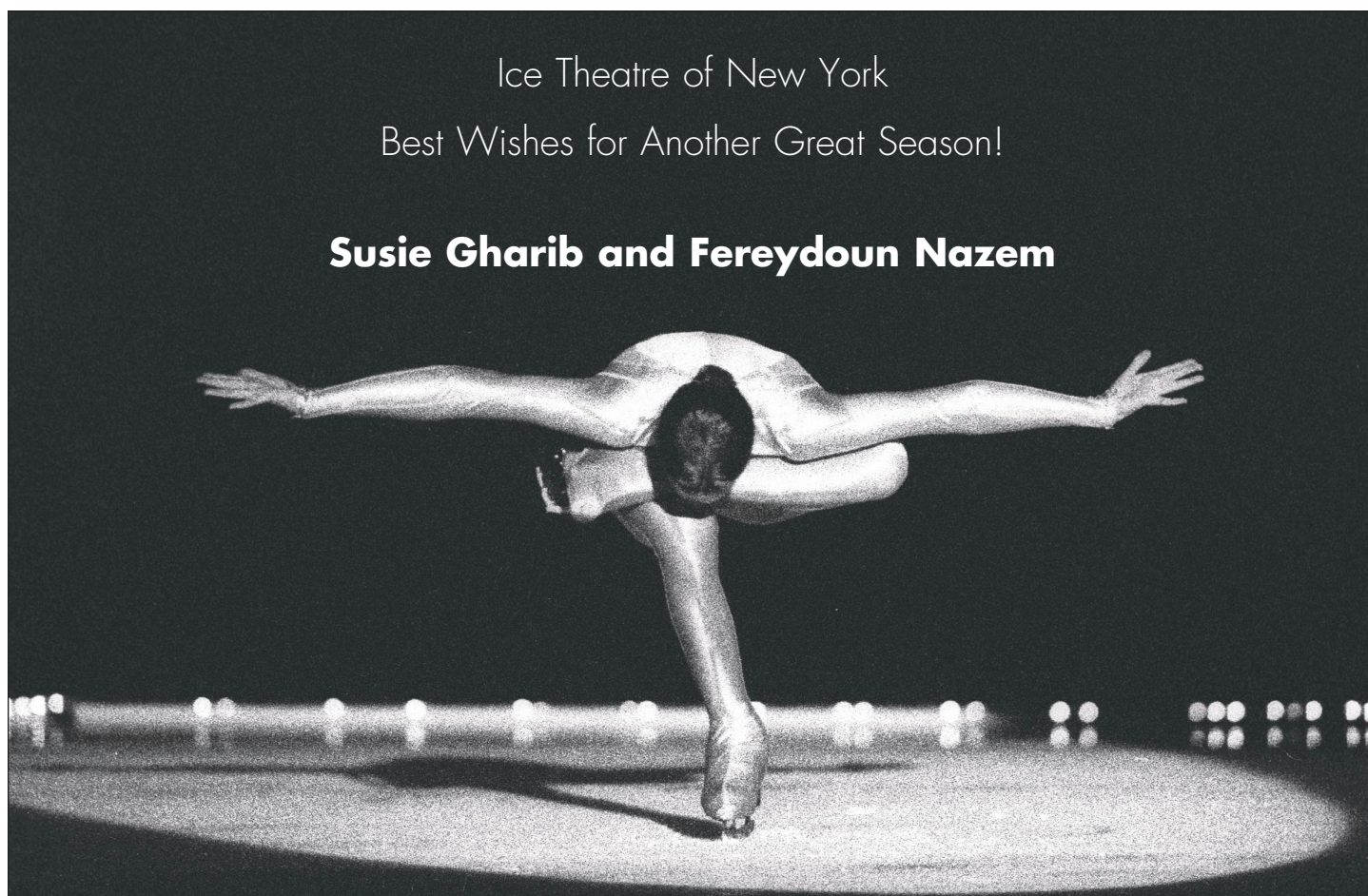
"The ISI is proud of the role it has played in encouraging rink and skater development over the past 50 years," says

Peter Martell, ISI Executive Director. "With so many activities available to the public today, it is essential that we offer a broad variety of programs to keep as many people skating as possible. We will continue to stimulate interest and participation at the entry and recreational competition levels, providing a pipeline of future elite competitors."

Each year at its annual conference and tradeshow, awards are presented to recognize those who have made significant contributions to ice skating. Over the years, the Institute has honored such legendary coaches as John Nicks, Frank Carroll and Ron Ludington, and champion skaters Sonja Henie, Dick Button, Carol Heiss Jenkins, Tenley Albright, Peggy Fleming, Dorothy Hamill, Scott Hamilton, and this year's ITNY honoree Richard Dwyer. Kristi Yamaguchi who tested and competed as an ISI skater (ISIA back then) up until Freestyle 5 remembers: "They were solid first steps for what became a life long journey on the ice."

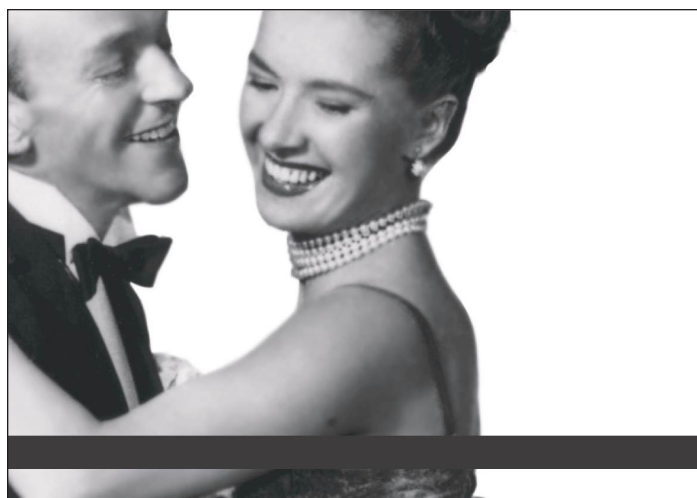
The Ice Skating Institute joins past Arts & Business Partnership Award winners MAC Cosmetics and Ice Rink Events





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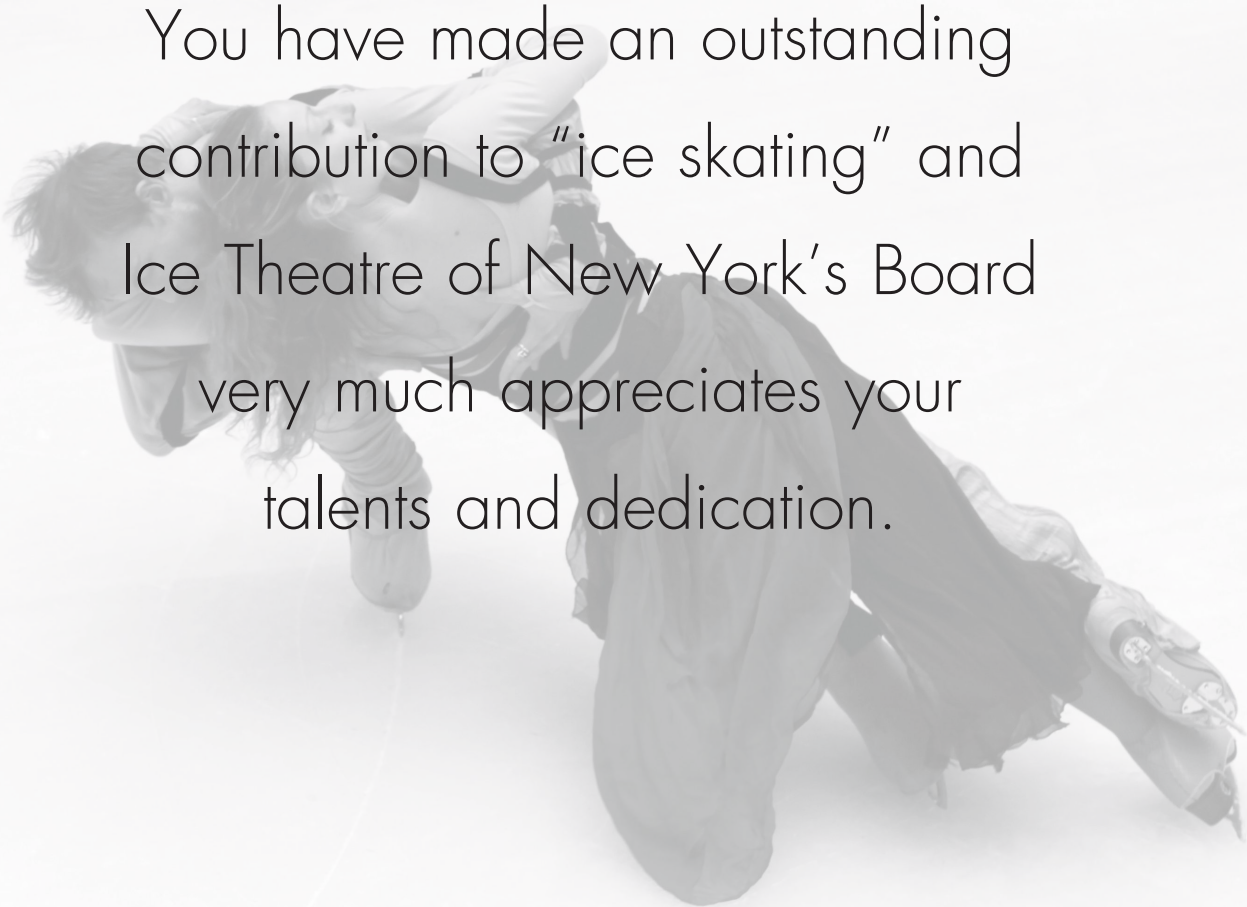
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Congratulations to all Honorees



You have made an outstanding  
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Ice Theatre of New York’s Board  
very much appreciates your  
talents and dedication.

Joan Erdheim



# The Skating Club of New York

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Skating Legend

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“Mr. Debonair”



*To Moira,*

*When ITNY counts  
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# Congratulations to Richard, Debbie, ISI and the Ice Theatre of New York

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**A toast to JoJo Starbuck  
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**CONGRATULATIONS  
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**Yes, you are amazing!  
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and All**

Tenley and Elin

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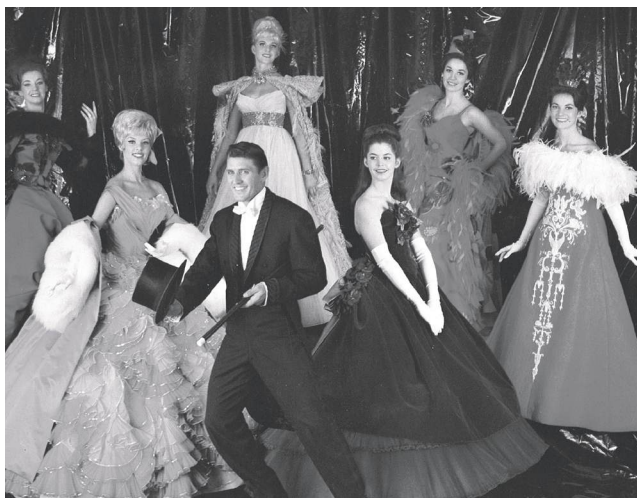
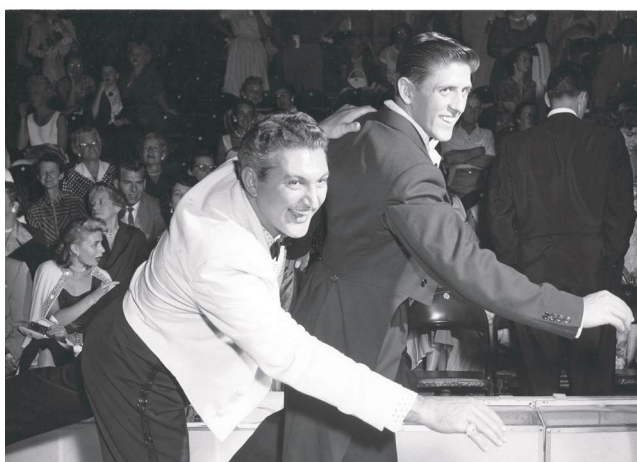
Congratulations to  
Ice Theatre of New York  
and  
Richard Dwyer  
Debbie Gordon  
Ice Skating Institute

Our Best Wishes Always

John and Amy  
David, Matt, Sarah, Emily and Taylor Hughes

Doug and Rebecca  
Natalie, Alexandra and Charlotte Parker



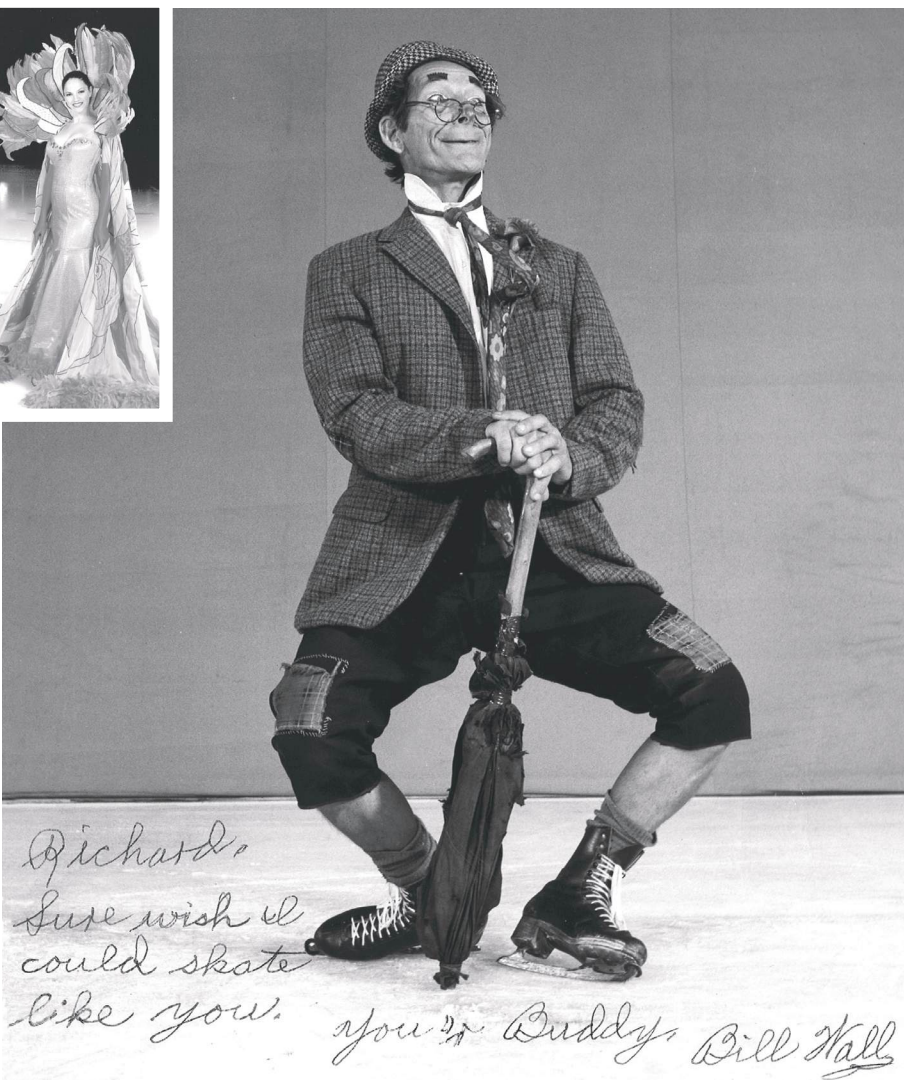
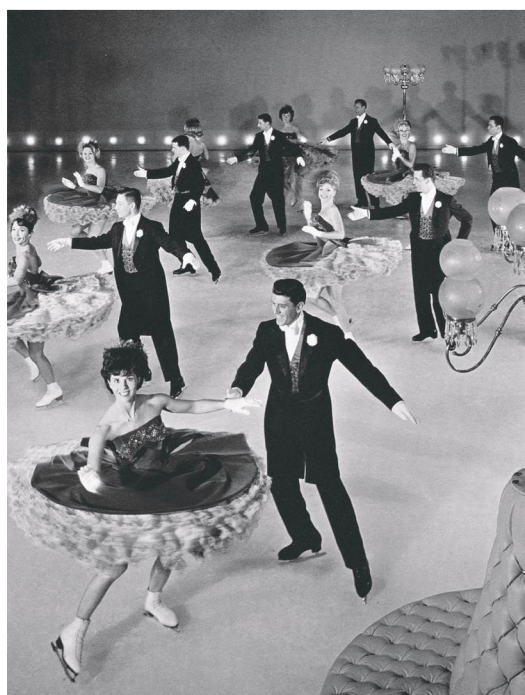


And who said a skater  
can't stretch a leg,  
turn out a foot,  
and point the toes???

**Dick Button**









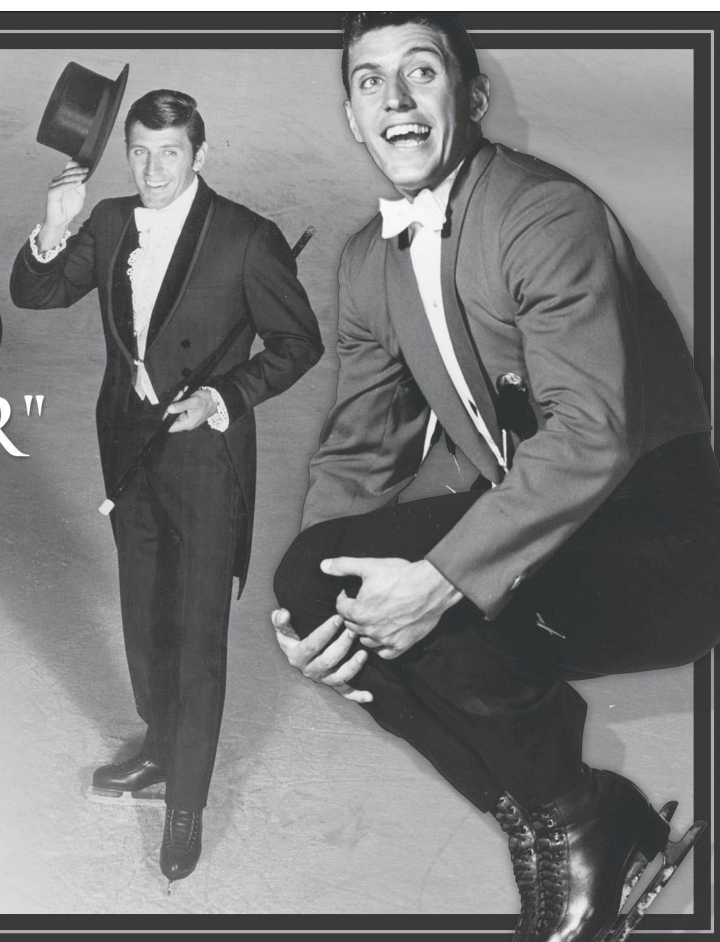


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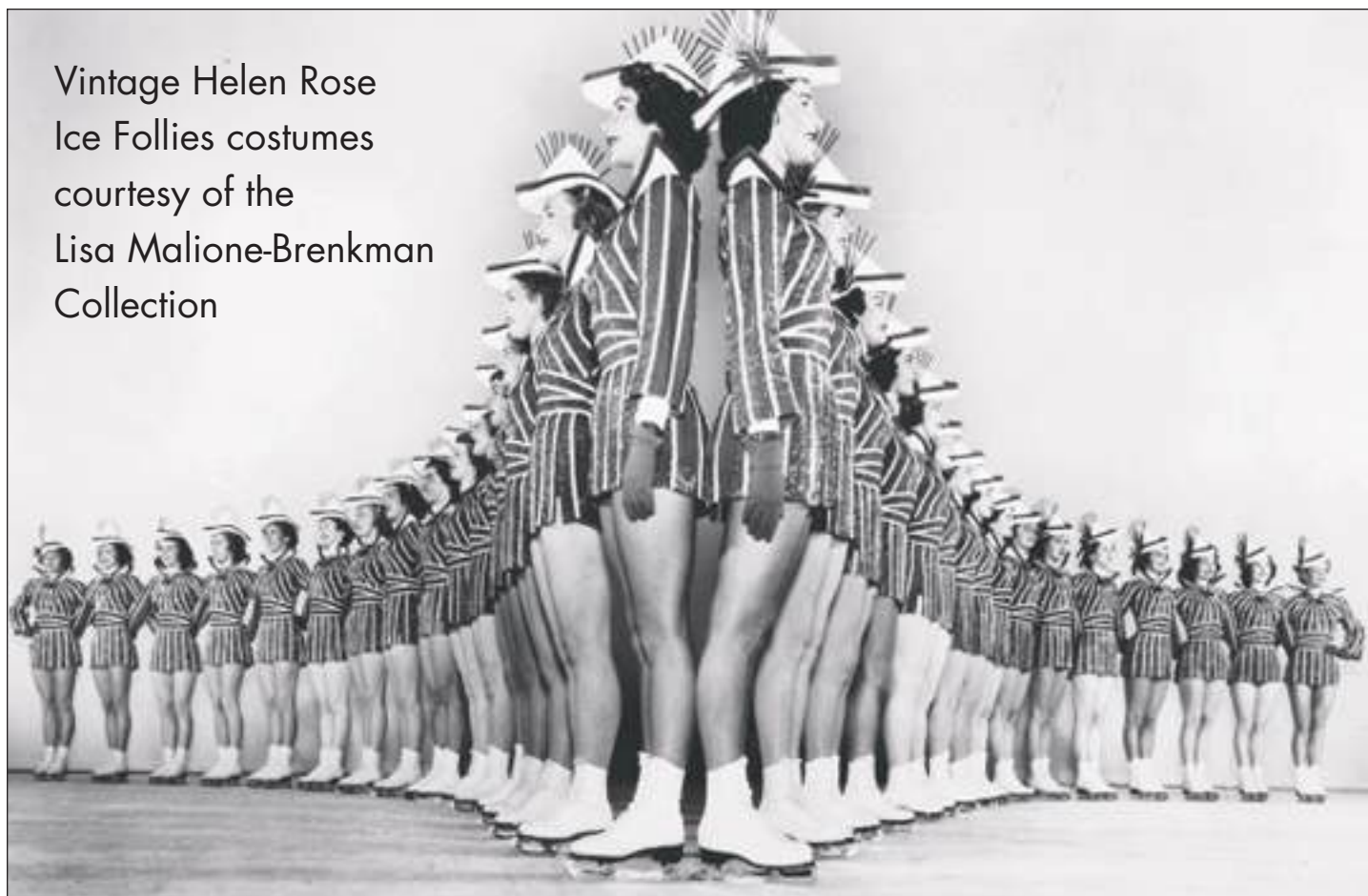
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Richard Dywer

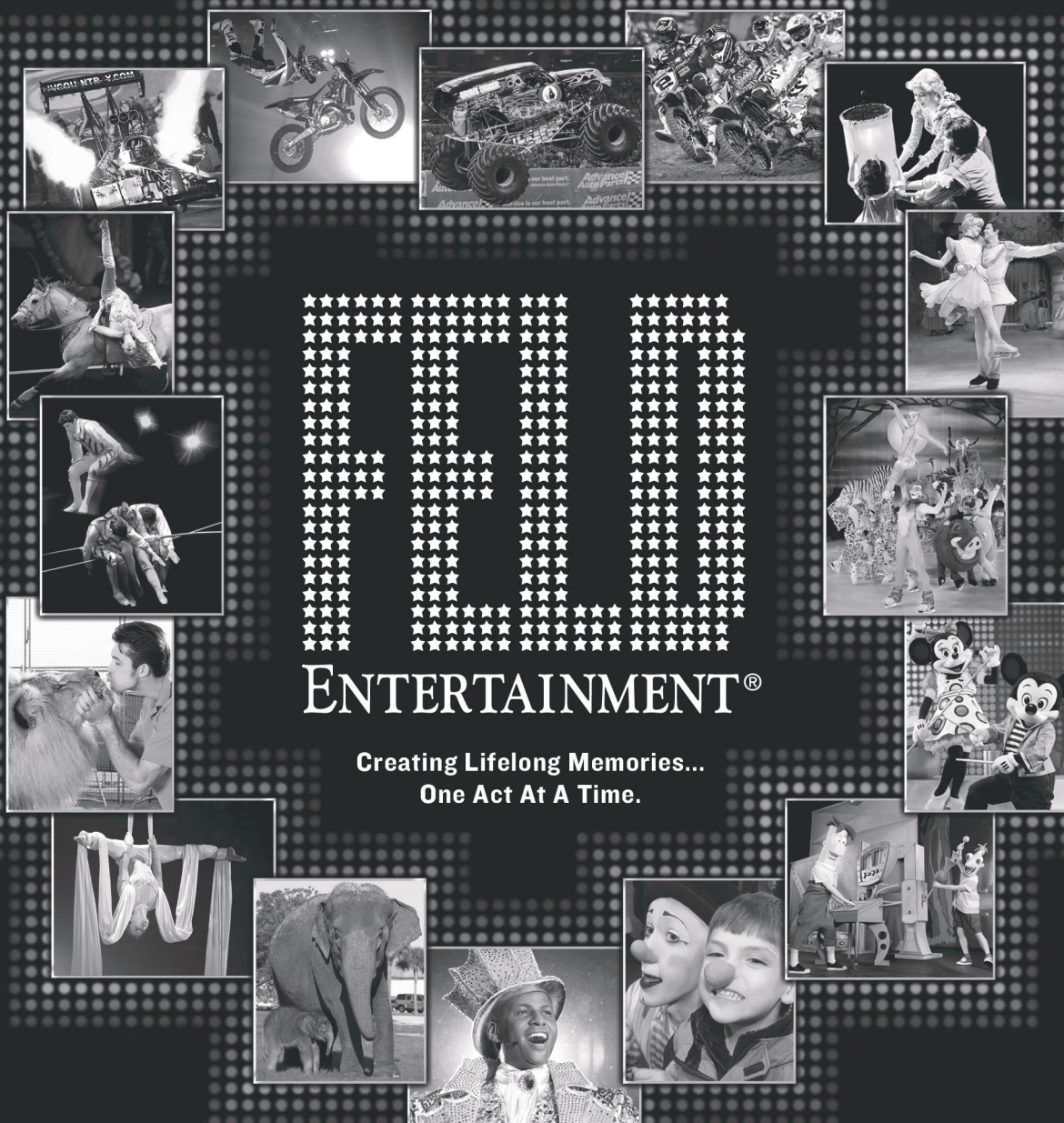


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*To Richard Dwyer,  
The Ultimate Mr. Debonair!*



*With an endless spiral of admiration and love,*

*Joan Scribner*

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NANCY STREETER

Dick Button

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NANCY STREETER**

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your love of skating  
and generous heart.*

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**In loving memory of  
Nancy Streeter who gave  
so much to Ice Theatre,  
our competitors and the  
Skating Club of New York.**

**She will be missed.**

**Our love to her  
wonderful family.**

Sonya and Peter Dunfield



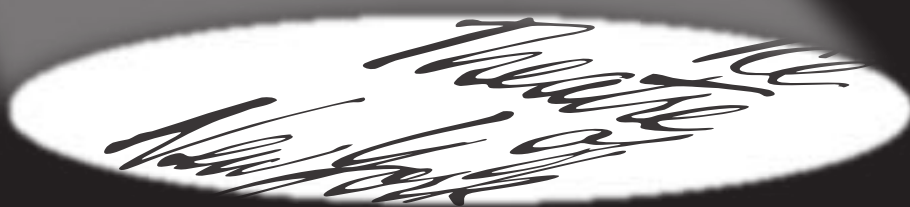
OUR FORMER HONOREES

BARBARA ANN SCOTT

JOAN SCRIBNER

NANCY ANGELL STREETER

OUR FALLEN ANGELS





**Congratulations to  
Richard, Debbie  
and to  
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A very special thanks  
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staff and skaters of the  
Ice Theatre of New York  
for their hard work  
and energy.

**Kathy Feuerstein**



**We love you  
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of New York!**

Jennie, Henry and Lyall Berlin

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*Michel Mercure*  
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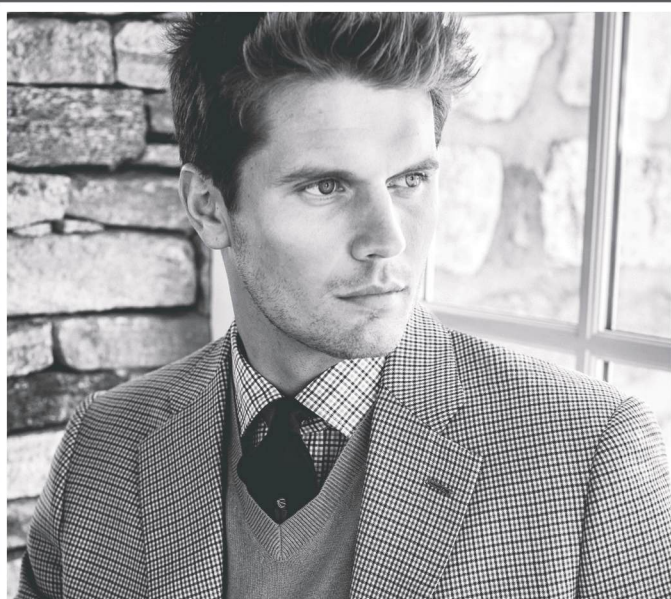




Richard,

You are always there for all the Disson family member shows and we're so glad that we could be here tonight for your show and to pay tribute to one of our favorite all-time skaters and people!

Steve, Cheryl and Nicole (in spirit!)



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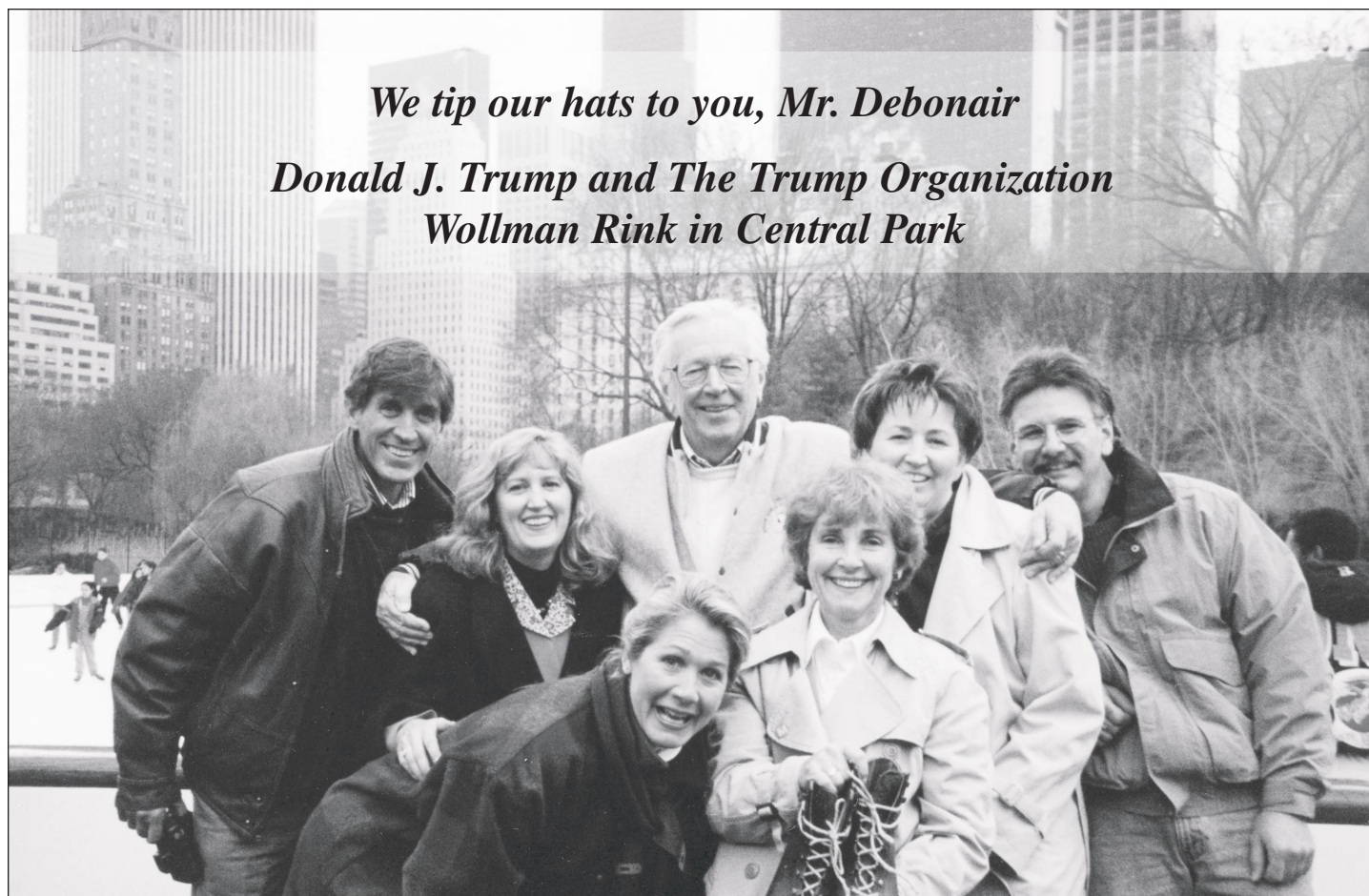
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AND ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK



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*Congratulations, Richard!*

*You will always be our  
 "Mr. Debonair".*

*From your many friends  
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Folded Word Press  
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 To the Fold...

When Folding Ice

The sharper the blades  
 The softer the edges.

**By Rose Auslander**





CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
RICHARD DWYER  
AND  
ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK



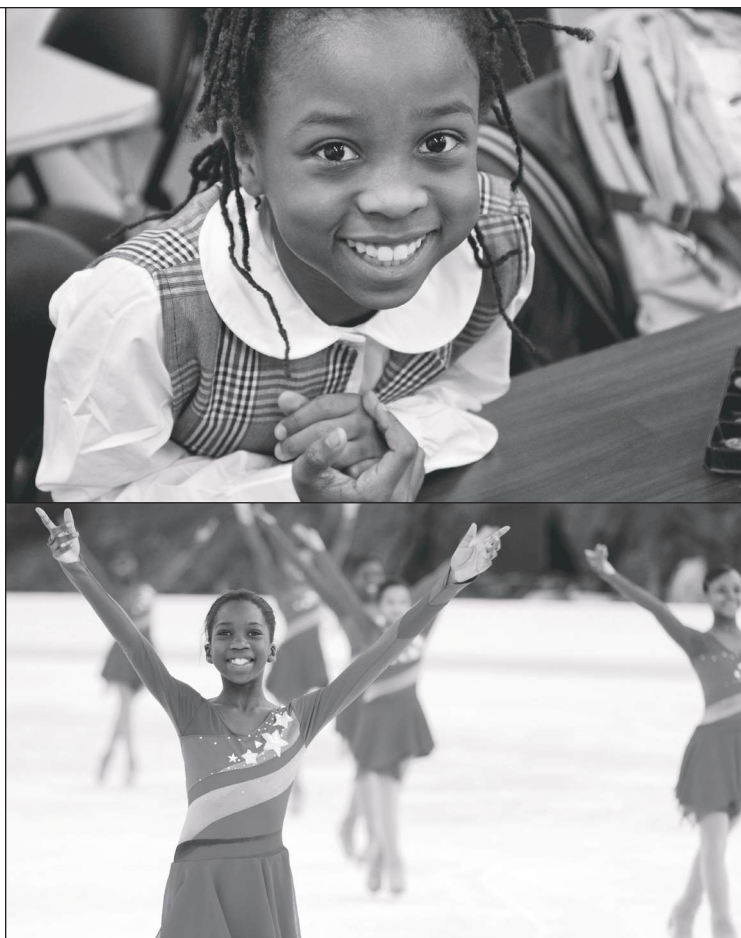
MARILYN, JOE AND JOY KASPUTYS

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to a remarkable man  
Richard Dwyer***

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Dear Richard,  
  
Thanks for being  
such an inspiration  
for future generations  
of skaters.

**Denise & Alana  
Beaumont**



Richard,  
  
*As a Skaters' Fund Board member since  
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need. Thank you Richard from the bottom  
of our hearts,  
Charles & Board of the Skaters' Fund*





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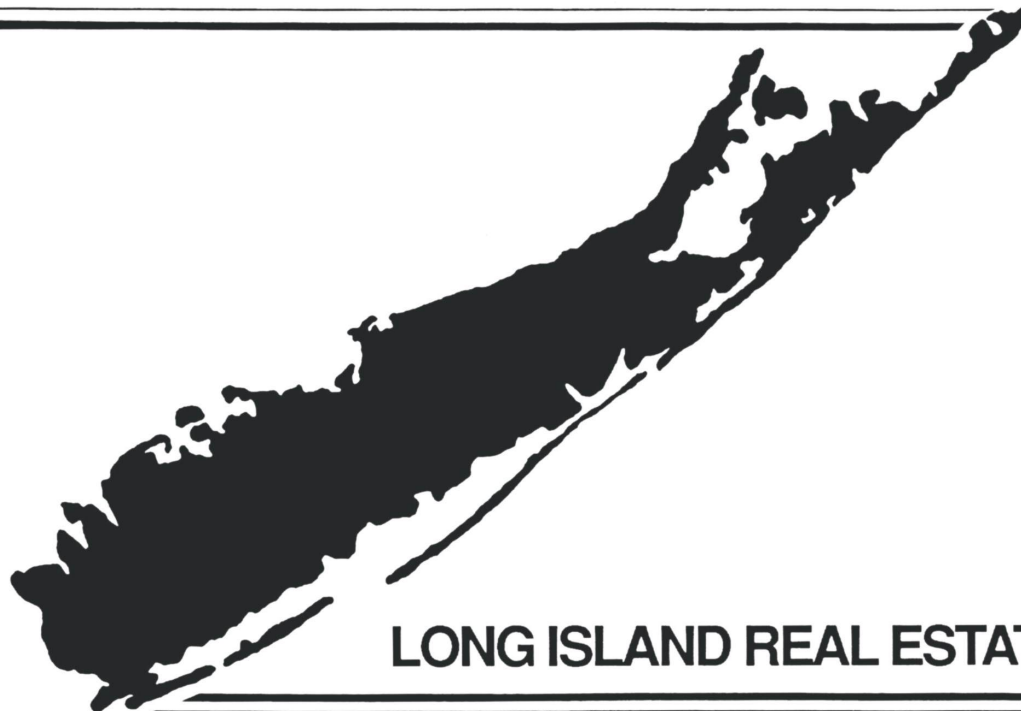


Ari Zakarian  
and N-Ice.inc  
salute  
Richard Dwyer,  
Debbie Gordon,  
Moir North and  
Ice Theatre of New York

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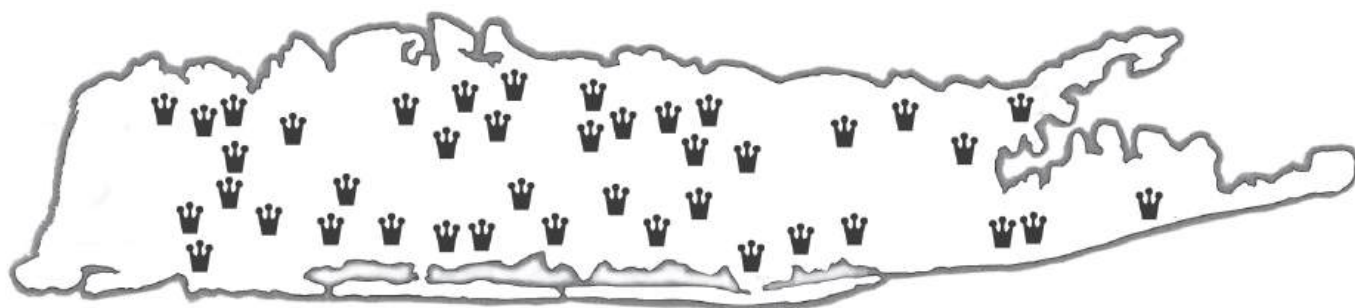
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Paul Wolff

Richard,

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You have inspired and entertained  
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dedication and integrity in all  
that you do...

Well done Mr. Debonair.

Atoy Wilson

Ice Follies 1973 – 1978

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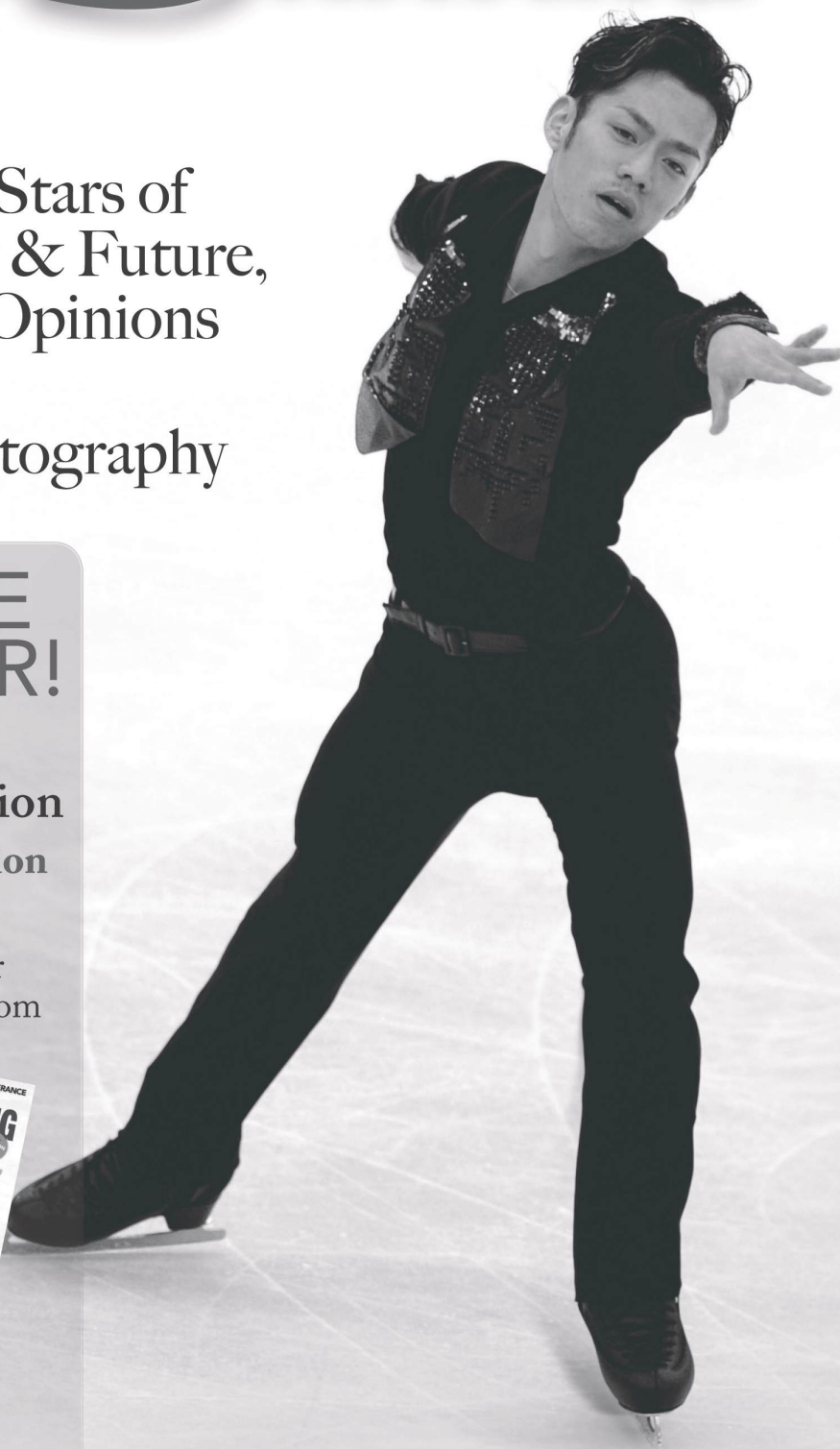
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