



*Ice
Theatre
of
New York*

CELEBRATING THE JOY
OF DANCING ON ICE

30TH ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT GALA

Honoring the Company, Choreographers, Past Honorees
Special Tribute to the late, great **Toller Cranston**

Lifetime Achievement Award: **Dick Button**

Ice Angels: **Edward Z. Epstein** and **Scott H. Schwartz**

Will Sears Award: **Carlie Quesada**

VERAWANG

Congratulations to my dear friend Dick Button
and the Ice Theatre of New York!

- Vera

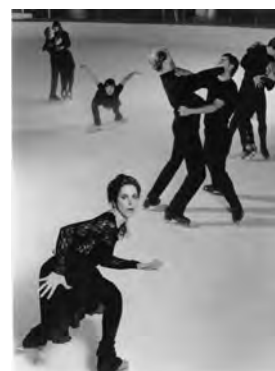


*Ice
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of
New York*

CELEBRATING THE JOY
OF DANCING ON ICE

30TH ANNIVERSARY

THE COMPANY, PAST AND PRESENT





*Ice
Theatre
of
New York*

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF DANCE THEATRE ON ICE

By Daniel Gesmer

Thirty years. Not so many centuries ago, thirty years was more than the average human lifespan. Yet that is how long Ice Theatre of New York, the first nonprofit artistic ice dance company in America, has endured and thrived – thanks to the vision of founding artistic director Moira North, who remains tenaciously dedicated to developing skating as a medium for movement expression of the highest artistic caliber.

Three decades of continuous programming is an impressive milestone for any arts organization, even one with more generous funding. In Ice Theatre's early days, due to the scarcity and high cost of ice time, its artists had to rehearse

without pay in the middle of the night. But the company's longevity is now only rivaled by its list of accomplishments. These range from nurturing emerging artists and choreographers, to showcasing world-class talent, to becoming America's first artistic ice group to earn support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, and the New York Department of Cultural Affairs.

One of the company's early triumphs was *HARD EDGE*, produced in 1988 at the old Sky Rink on West 34th Street, with guest appearances by John Curry and lauded by New York Times dance critic Anna Kisselgoff. Legendary

skating innovator Gary Beacom calls that production "a highlight in my career. I still get compliments for the 22-minute solo that opened that show, which ITNY shared on YouTube."

As part of its mission to elevate the medium of artistic motion on ice, Ice Theatre has since collaborated directly with many notable modern and classical dance choreographers, including David Parsons, Edward Villella, Lar Lubovitch, JoAnna Mendl Shaw, Ann Carlson, Jacquelyn Buglisi, and Susan Marshall. The company has also helped gestate a new breed of skater-dancer-choreographer, such as Katherine Healy, David Liu, and Heather Harrington, who also dance





and choreograph for professional dance companies.

Among other notable alumni of the company are Judy Blumberg and Douglas Webster, who were Co-Ensemble Directors for many years. Judy, an Olympic ice dancer, became one of our leading ladies and choreography translators before settling in Sun Valley. Douglas started as a skater/performer, grew into a choreographer, and eventually became Artistic Director for several years before creating his own company.

According to Harrington, “Moir is a gift to the world of skating. She thinks of the impossible and does

it. She created a place where artists could gather and inspire one another to bring the medium beyond the usual competitive and ice show aesthetic. She saw what skating could be and had the vision, determination, and passion to bring it there, educating an audience to see differently.

Added Mendl Shaw, “Moir has done an amazing job of creating a community and viable possibilities for Ice Theatre to be a visible part of the cultural ecology of New York. Ice Theatre has brought ice dance to Chelsea Piers, Rockefeller Center, Wollman Rink in Central Park, and up into Harlem. This has been a very

important contribution to the delight of living in the city.”

“Moir has also been tireless about supporting ice dance as an art form, giving skaters of all ages an opportunity to perform outside of competitions, and the older ones an opportunity to be part of her support network and board of directors.”

North’s grandest visions include creating a world-class performance facility in New York for theatrical ensemble skating, developing a viable paradigm for international touring, and performing at dance and arts festivals. Another dream is to collaborate with artists from the opera and theatre





domains, so that the ice medium can be used to explore bigger themes at major venues like the Next Wave Festival at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Of course such grand visions depend on significantly expanded support from both private and public sectors, in no small part because rehearsal time on ice rinks can cost 20 (or more) times as much as dance groups need to pay for studio space.

In the nearer term, Ice Theatre continues with its regular New York programming. This includes the City Skate Concert Series at Rockefeller Center and other metropolitan rinks, an outreach program for New York public school children (the New Works and Young Artists Series), and the Home Season performances next spring, which will feature a retrospective of select works from the past 30 years (over 70 pieces are in the repertory) along with exciting new choreography. Future collaborations include Improv Everywhere and the MIT Media Lab.

Said Executive Director Jirina Ribbens, "it's amazing how something that started in Moira's loft has survived 30 years and grown into, essentially, a large modern dance company. Moira has been fabulous at finding choreographers like Parsons and Buglisi, who don't know the medium but come to it with fresh, curious minds. Since our work straddles dance and sport, on the economic side our challenge is to find visionary funders who see in us the opportunity to create a new art form: dancing on ice, taking the virtuosic element of the sport of ice skating and expanding it to a soul-felt activity that goes beyond the physical."

Daniel Gesmer is the founder and owner of Seismic Skate Systems, a prominent brand manufacturer of high-end longboard skateboard products. He also writes about the arts for publications far and wide.

*Ice
Theatre
New York*

FOUNDER/DIRECTOR

Moira North

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jirina Ribbens

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE

Justice Lee McConaheea

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**WELCOME TO OUR 30TH
ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT GALA**

I am so glad you are here celebrating with us and I thank you for all of your past support. Ice Theatre of New York could not have reached this milestone without your generous backing.

With your help Ice Theatre will enter the next decade with renewed enthusiasm. We will not only maintain the important work that we have been doing, but also significantly increase our exploration of what is possible with theatrical dance movement on the ice.

I invite you to join us at our weekly Edge Classes at Sky Rink, our City Skate Concert Series at Rockefeller Rink, our outreach program, the New Works and Young Artists Series, as well as our Home Season in the Spring, which will be a celebration of all skating.

Skating: "... combines and surpasses the joys of flying and dancing; only in a certain try of a dream do we ever else attain a higher degree of the same ravishing experience of exultantly skimming the earth."

— Ernest Jones, Biographer of Freud

Join us as we glide gracefully into the next decade of choreography, collaborations and educational outreach programming.

Warm Wishes,

Moira North



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
 ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
 GOVERNOR

October 30, 2015

Ice Theatre of New York
 62 Chelsea Piers, Suite 308
 New York, NY 10011

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for the 30th Anniversary 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 the "New Works and Young Artists Series," its innovative educational program that utilizes figure skating as an effective and empowering motivator and teaching tool.

Tonight, you pay tribute to distinguished individuals who advance ice skating as an artistic expression of athleticism and I am pleased to join in remembering the late Toller Cranston, Canadian National Champion and Olympic Medalist. Her historic performances on the ice have inspired countless skaters, both young and old, to grow in ability, confidence, and leadership. I commend, as well, Edward Epstein and Scott Schwartz, for their support of this worthy enterprise, and congratulate Carlie Quesada, a daring and innovative young skater who receives the Inaugural Will Sears Award.

With warmest regards and best wishes for an enjoyable evening.

Sincerely,

ANDREW M. CUOMO

WE WORK FOR THE PEOPLE
 PERFORMANCE ★ INTEGRITY ★ PRIDE



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

October 30, 2015

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone to the Ice Theatre of New York's 30th Anniversary Benefit Gala.

The power of the performing arts crosses cultures and borders, uniting people of all backgrounds in shared appreciation of the many works that have inspired countless artists and audiences around the world. Since its founding in 1984, the Ice Theatre and its many talented skaters have harnessed the creative energy of our city through innovative figure skating performances. Partnering with talented choreographers to develop new pieces, the theatre is committed to promoting figure skating as an art form and engaging new audiences. Tonight's gala will raise vital funding to support Ice Theatre's New Works and Young Artists Series, which introduces public school students from underserved communities to figure skating. I join with this organization's supporters in applauding Ice Theatre's many accomplishments and in commending its dedication to cultivating a stronger, more inclusive cultural life for all our residents.

On behalf of our great city, congratulations to everyone being honored here this evening. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful gala and continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill de Blasio".

Bill de Blasio
Mayor



MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
SPEAKER



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
CITY HALL
NEW YORK, NY 10007

TELEPHONE
(212) 788-7210

October 30, 2015

Dear Friends,

Greetings to everyone gathered here tonight at the Ice Theatre of New York (ITNY)'s 30th Anniversary Benefit Gala!

Cultural institutions like ITNY are vital to our city in so many ways.

In addition to enriching our lives and enhancing our city's cultural diversity, they also employ thousands of New Yorkers and help keep our economy strong and growing.

They also serve as key allies in our efforts to create a more equal and just New York City, where everyone, regardless of what borough they are from or what zip code they live in, has access to the opportunity and services that they need to lead the most rewarding and enriched lives here in our city.

On this special night of celebration, I would like to thank ITNY and its amazing performers and choreographers for all the beautiful and inspiring work that they are doing here in our city. Dancing on skates isn't easy, yet you continue to impress and dazzle audiences year after year.

Congratulations as well to all of this year's honorees.

I hope everyone has a wonderful time tonight. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

MELISSA MARK-VIVERITO
Speaker

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GOVERNMENTAL OPERATIONS
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RULES, PRIVILEGES AND ELECTIONS

October 2, 2015

Dear Guests,

I want to congratulate Ice Theatre New York on their 30th Anniversary Benefit Gala. Since 1984, Ice Theatre has been dedicated to establishing and growing figure skating as a performing art. An organization made up of ice skaters, choreographers, and directors with extraordinary talent, Ice Theatre is a cultural gem on the west side of Manhattan.

The members of Ice Theatre New York, a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) organization, are committed to both producing thrilling artistic spectacles and giving back to the community. Their pledge that proceeds from this year's Anniversary Benefit Gala will benefit their *New Works and Young Artists Series*, an outreach program for at-risk public school children, demonstrates this dual responsibility to cultural achievement and community engagement.

For this reason, I am proud to offer my congratulations on the 30th Anniversary Benefit Gala and continued support of this wonderful company. Congratulations to all those being honored at the Gala and thank you to all of the members of Ice Theatre New York who provide so much for New York City.

Sincerely,

Mark Levine

Councilmember
7th District, Manhattan

TOLLER CRANSTON THE MAN WHO "INVENTED" FIGURE SKATING

By Martha Lowder Kimball



Toller Cranston liked to say that he had invented figure skating.

On an outdoor rink in the little Northern Ontario community of Swastika, the young boy in his sister's white skates responded to his insistent internal rhythms by creating spins, patterns, and arm movements that he had never seen performed on ice. Someone told him that what he was doing had a name: figure skating. Sadly he was wearing the wrong color skates.

Wrong and out of sorts, out of time and out of place, was what the boy Toller often felt. He believed that he harbored a fully mature adult soul, ready to express his inner urgings yet forced to wait until chronological age brought him sufficient freedom and credibility. He complained, perhaps inaccurately, that his mother locked him out of the house on nice days, hoping that her son would run around and play in the fresh air. But all that he wanted to do was to create art on paper or canvas, movement on ice.

This duality would define Toller from his earliest days until his last. Even when he stopped skating – partly because his body and vanity wouldn't allow him to perform at less than the level he demanded of himself, and partly because he had shrunk his good leather boots by jumping into his Mexican swimming pool in nothing but skates for the cover shoot for one of our books – he painted tirelessly all day and

skated in his dreams every night.

The two forms of expression were actually one. I once observed, with no malice, that he had a repertoire of a single routine, set to a variety of music. Caught in something of a ruse, he smiled and pleaded guilty. Toller harbored particular feelings that came out in particular ways through a wide and unusual, yet consistent, vocabulary of movement. His painting, too, had a consistent vocabulary, though the theme and influences changed greatly over time. The key to understanding Toller is that both were the same, flowing from one color- and music-infused creative reservoir that demanded to be emptied over and over. The skating images gave life, movement and depth to the images on canvas. Toller, in so many ways, became his own art.

Montague Toller Cranston was born in Hamilton, Ontario, on April 20, 1949, to parents who endowed him with exceptional intelligence as well as artistry (from mother Stuart) and athleticism (from father Monte). He grew up with three siblings in a comfortable middle-class home, first in Galt and Swastika, Ontario, then in Québec province, where he lived in Baie-d'Urfé, attended the English-language Macdonald High School in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, and competed as a credible pole-vaulter.

After high school, which he completed at age 16, Toller went on to the École

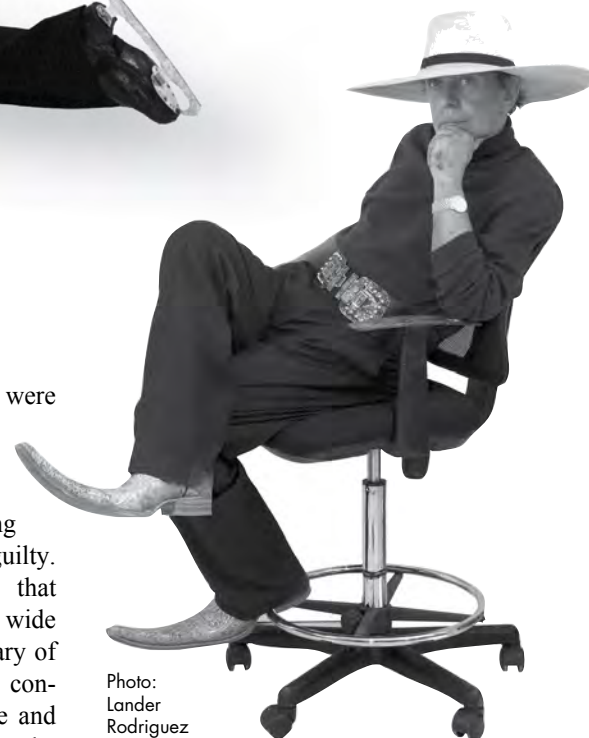


Photo:
Lander
Rodriguez

des beaux-arts de Montréal, all the while training seriously yet without adequate instruction. In spite of his dogged runs up and down the stairs of the École des beaux-arts, he lacked real conditioning and refined technique. The Canadian Figure Skating Association offered him a much larger measure of criticism and dismissal than of encouragement in those days.

During his first year in art school, at an age when many competitors are starting to hit their stride, Toller finished fourth at the 1966 Canadian Figure Skating Championships behind Donald Knight, Charles Snelling, and Jay Humphry. He was not mentioned in Skating magazine's report. Significantly, the Ladies field was dominated by Petra Burka, daughter of Ellen Burka, Holocaust survivor, Dutch champion and gifted coach. The next year, Toller dropped to fifth with the introduc-

BRAVO TO TOLLER!

Brilliant artist on and off the ice,
Ahead of your time, gone too soon.
Thanks for leading the way.



Thrilled to have had you visit my home in Cambridge, Ontario to see 4 of your masterpieces prominently displayed. All are gorgeously painted with beautiful, vivid and dramatic colours. You can feel the flow, movement and expressiveness in every piece.



Louise (Vacca) Dawe, 1969 U.S Jr. Ladies Champion



tion of David McGillivray into the mix. Meanwhile, Petra had collected her laurels and gone on to professional performing.

Everything came crashing down around Toller at the 1968 Canadians in Vancouver where he failed to qualify for the Grenoble Olympics. Brian Pound reported the event in *Skating*: "Then there was Toller Cranston, Lachine FSC. Fifth in figures, he free skated last.... Those of the jam-packed audience of 4,000 who waited until the end were treated to an excellent performance of double axels, difficult combinations, double loops, double flips, superb footwork – a program jammed with content. He finished fourth with an explosion of boos following a display of marks ranging from 5.4 to 5.9."

That was when Toller famously begged Ellen Burka to take him on at her Toronto home base, both as a student and as a basement tenant. He told a sad tale of eviction from his prior lodgings due to the smells of paint and turpentine that inevitably surrounded him. The painting was not a deal-breaker for Ellen, a fellow artist, though she was very hesitant about the teaching commitment. It is a tribute to the power of Fate and of Toller's persuasive powers that Ellen taught him throughout the rest of his amateur career. She demanded commitment, conditioning, and studious attention to technique while allowing his creativity full reign.

In the end, Toller won six Canadian senior men's titles, two world free-skating medals, an Olympic free-skating medal, and world and Olympic bronze, all the while fighting two raging demons. One was a bad reputation for the tedious figures that counted for a lot in his day and were subject to political sway. The other was a certain prejudice on the part of the skating establishment against his chosen costuming, theatrical mode of expression, and "unmanly" movements and positions: out-thrust arms; angled free leg; expressive torso; fanciful spins; almost impossible camel extensions; riffs and volleys of Russian splits. At a time when the standard was staid, stiff, and penguin-

like, Toller felt free – no, compelled – to express himself according to his inner lights, always one with the music. His pathos-infused interpretation of Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci* stands alone in its class. Toller's style and persona served as inspiration for generations of little boys (and girls as well). Audience members of all ages responded viscerally. Europeans adored him, especially the Germans.

Toller flourished most, and with great longevity, in the professional world, going crazy in the costuming department and in everyday dress as well. He was named Officer of the Order of Canada and World Professional Skater of the Year. He created his own Broadway venture, *The Ice Show*, that displayed the sort of dance-based movement on ice that animates the Ice Theatre of New York. He created acclaimed television specials like *Strawberry Ice* and *Dreamweaver*, winning ACTRA and ANIK awards and the Grand Prix de Montreux. He taught; choreographed; designed exceptional costumes; delivered wry, caustic, spot-on commentary; wrote and/or illustrated books; acted in movies and television shows; and exhibited his art throughout the world.

I don't think that it was easy being Toller. Nothing was ever enough. He always wanted more – much of that an understandable but exaggerated and strangely persistent reaction to falling short of the Olympic pinnacle. He granted the gold to John Curry, if reluctantly, and felt some kinship with his troubled competitor. Curry was the classical to Cranston's baroque – equally valid, one might conclude. But he never could get over being placed third.

Esther Pierce, a remarkable woman, watched Toller from her wheelchair and was able to skate. A humanities major in college, she later was moved to write a paper contrasting the classical and romantic ideals using John and Toller as her examples. She found that John, the frustrated classical ballet dancer that he was, embodied control, and a drive toward perfection of form, without the open expression of emotion. In contrast, Toller personified



the baroque aspects of the romantic ideal. Skating was, for him, one of two ways of expressing his emotions. Though he might seem to be on the knife's edge of disaster, he too was in control. In Esther's opinion, he was Lord Byron to John's Voltaire.

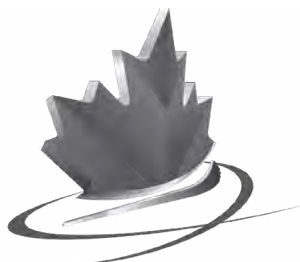
Like so many people of genius and great artistic talent, Toller was a mass of contradictions. He could be egotistical — yet he was fascinated by the details of other people's lives and liked to pepper strangers and friends alike with genuinely curious questions about

themselves. He had a special fondness for the woman who dusted and swept his Toronto studio (granted, quite superficially), continuing to employ this “cleaning lady savant” because she appreciated his painting.

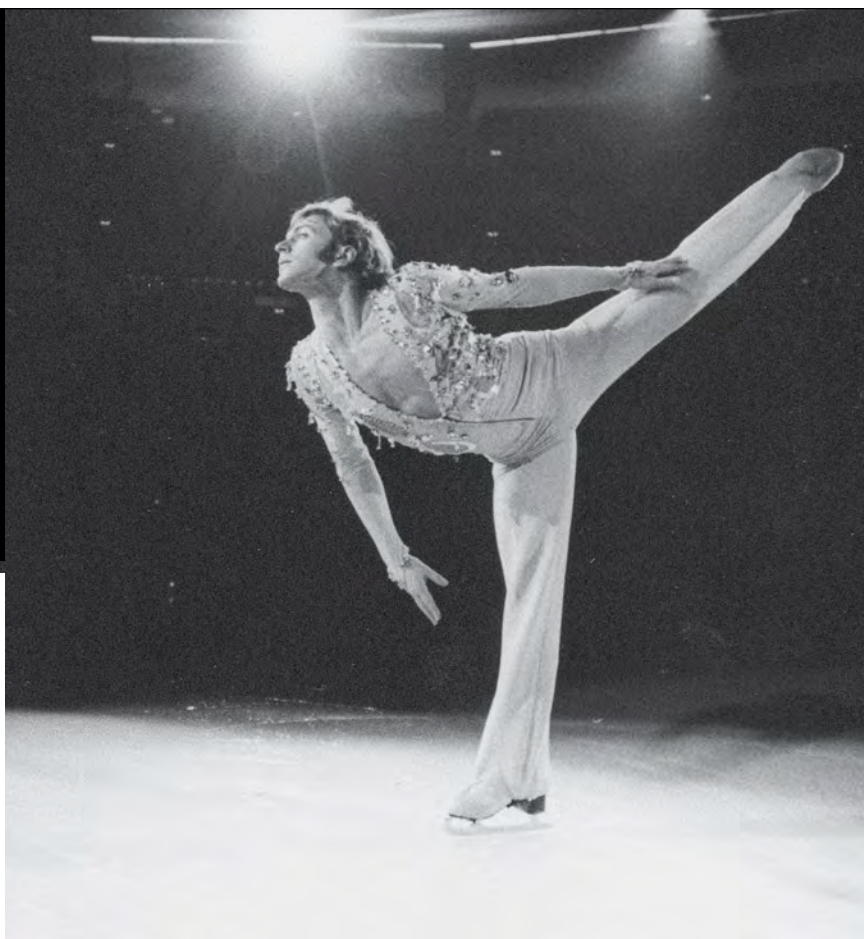
Toller could appear arrogant as well, yet he was wracked with self-doubt. He was often friendly, wickedly wry, compulsively surrounded by others, but he seemed ultimately alone and unable to form true and lasting bonds of love. He attracted people and

TOLLER

ARTIST,
INNOVATOR,
ICON



SKATECANADA





To Toller,
I wish we could have had
that horseback ride.



To Dick,
Thanks for giving me Landover
— it changed my life

Love *Kurt*

Credit: Lander Rodriguez

then purposely pushed them away. He was both caustically critical and lavish in his praise. He was interested in current events and social issues, often holding surprisingly conservative viewpoints; yet he was sometimes subject to destructive lapses like drug abuse.

Toller pushed himself like a workhorse in the studio while remaining charmingly undisciplined in everyday matters. I was always amused when he treated an ATM like a casino slot machine that might or might not dispense cash at any given moment. Cooking, cleaning, laundering clothes and paying the bills were not in his wheelhouse. His time was better spent producing art of one kind or another, conversing in depth, reading art history and biography, or perhaps shopping. It was fortunate that he had devoted daily help plus a few long-term friends for times of true catastrophe.

Toller passed away, too soon, mid-evening on January 23, 2015, the eve of the Canadian Senior Men's Free Program. Surely the cosmos arranged the event so that he could become the center of attention. His one great regret, no doubt, is

that he wasn't buried as he wished, fully costumed and made up, ready to spring onto the ice should he miraculously rise from the dead.

My favorite memento of Toller is a photo in which he leaps in a perfect stag jump, arms arranged dramatically, across and slightly above the façade of Notre-Dame de Paris, a young god making his mark upon one of the great symbols of Western Civilization. Like so much of what Toller did, that miraculous jump on an unseen trampoline was accomplished with complete self-awareness and no little irony. The joke was that his legendary flair for the dramatic was all part of the show. Sometimes drama and even crises overtook

him; at other times he sought them out, manufacturing the drama when necessary. What was the point of an episode if it wouldn't make a good story afterwards?

The things that finally matter, though, are the genius and talent that undergirded all the drama and the inspiration that lives on in others.



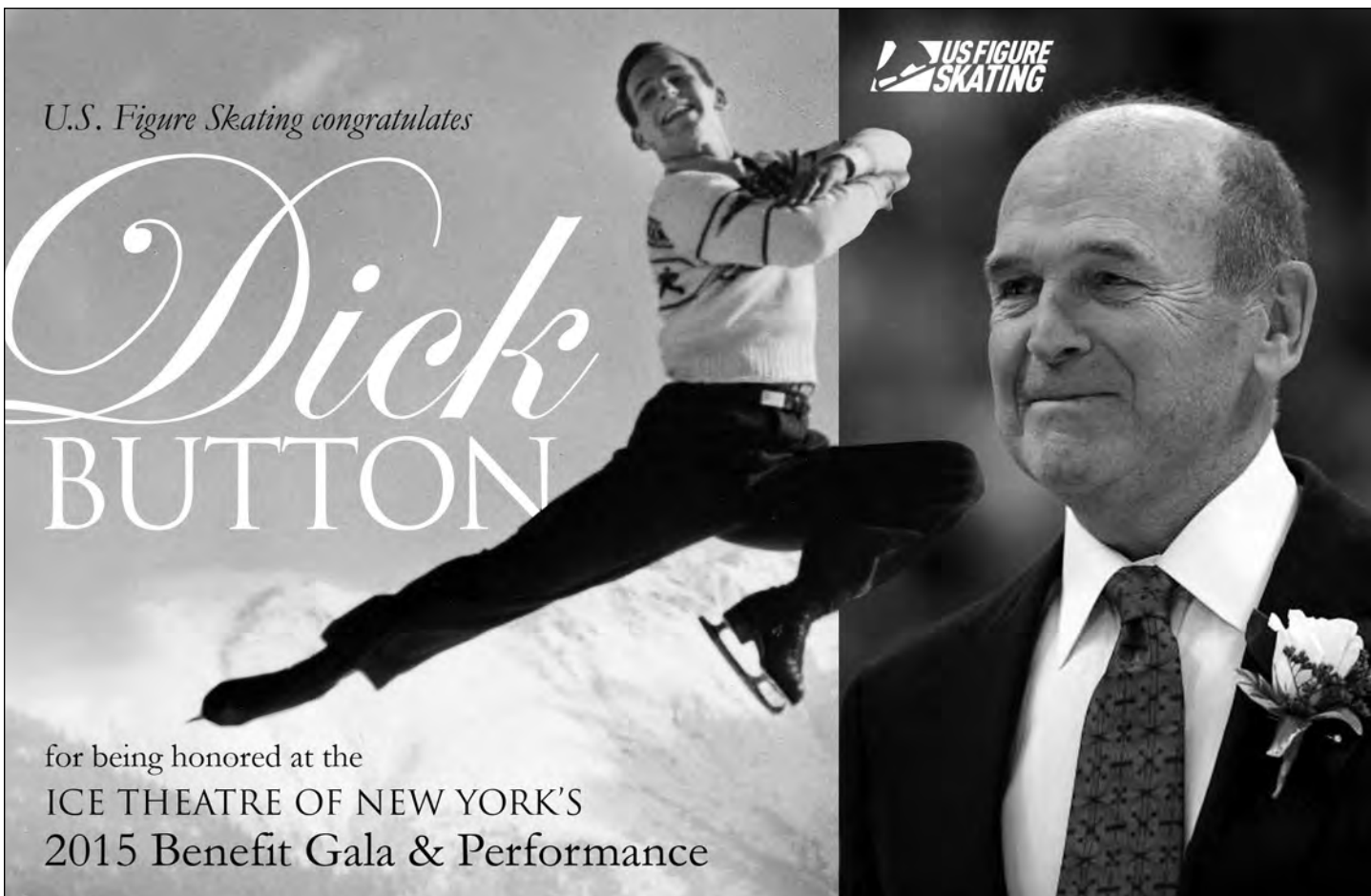


Dick,

With every word or critique,
you made us all better.

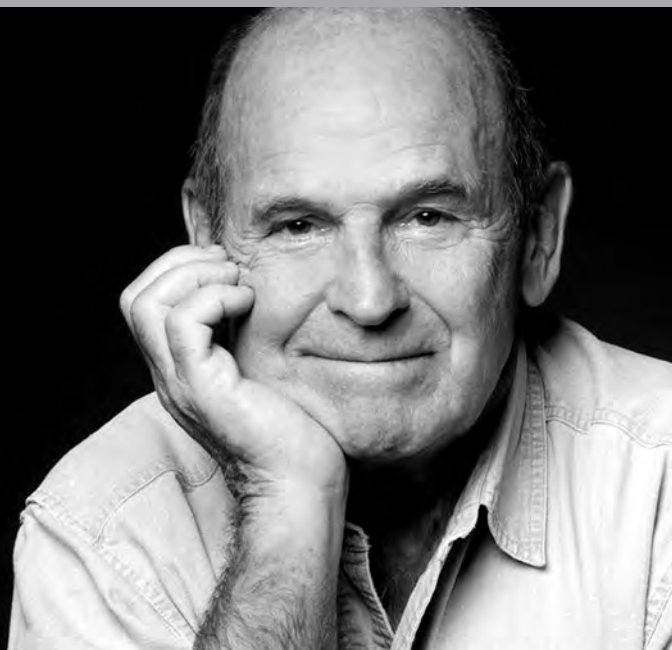
Your impact on skating
was like no other.

You are simply
the greatest skater
of all-time!



DICK BUTTON

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT 2015



Is there any name more definitively attached to the world of figure skating than that of Dick Button? Devoted skating fans and those unfamiliar with the ins and outs of the intricate sport are generally equally familiar with the legendary Mr. Button- and for good reason. Not only did he dominate the sport for years but he also revolutionized men's skating, breaking new ground before retiring from the competitive ice.

Dick Button is easily considered to be one of the most premier skaters in figure skating history. While his Olympic Gold medals in both 1948 and 1952, five consecutive world championships and seven U.S. National titles were no doubt personal highlights in Button's storied career, it was his on-ice innovation that truly left a permanent mark on figure skating. It's Button who introduced skating fans to the double-axel, triple jumps and even the now infamous "flying camel", a move that was once known as the "Button Camel" named after the man himself.

Button may have hung up his skates years ago but his contribution to the sport has never wavered. In 1960 he provided color commentary for CBS' Olympic broadcast and what followed is a career in broadcasting that has spanned more than five decades. He was the first to win an Emmy Award for "Outstanding Sports Personality — Analyst" in 1981 and continues to enjoy what has proven to be a long and illustrious broadcasting career. In December, 2015, he will be inducted into the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame,

the first honoree in the "Sports Analyst" category.

Button's no holds barred commentary style is well known in the skating community and it is likely one of the many reasons why his opinion is so valued amongst industry insiders. He took that same matter-of-fact approach in his newest book, the highly acclaimed *Push Dick's Button*, which features a "conversational" analysis of figure skating today.

Dick Button is a member of the World Figure Skating Hall of Fame, and Olympic Hall of Fame. He is also a frequent lecturer and authoritative enthusiast of American decorative arts, with his garden prominently featured in the 2015 book, *Outstanding American Gardens*. As if all of that wasn't enough, Dick is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, and he is the proud father of two children, Edward and Emily.

"Dick has been a valued friend of Ice Theatre of New York for a very long time. His presence and announcing at many of our earlier events and his support of our early "Master's Series" with Belita and the Protopopovs in his own home, was a great attraction to our other supporters and a wonderful endorsement of our mission," says Moira North, Founder/Artistic Director. "To be our first Lifetime Achievement Awardee makes perfect sense and certainly raises the bar for the consideration of any future recipients. Dick is a brilliant light in our ice dance and figure skating world and we all benefit from his perspective and wisdom!"



CONGRATULATIONS
EDDIE

YOU ARE THE BEST!

**RANDI, STEPHEN,
VIV AND JOE**



To Eddie,

Many, many thanks for
your support and wondrous
writing throughout the years.

Love Sonya

Congratulations to Moira North
for envisioning and nurturing Ice Theatre
of New York for 30 years.

Congratulations to all our honorees
who have significantly contributed
and enriched Ice Theatre.

It has been a distinct honor and privilege to be on
our board and work with such devoted colleagues.

— **Joan Erdheim**

EDWARD Z. EPSTEIN

ICE ANGEL 2015



A lifelong figure skating enthusiast, and former Middle-Atlantic States Novice champion, Edward Z. Epstein is author of twenty books, published throughout the world, most recently *AUDREY & BILL: A Romantic Biography of Audrey Hepburn and William Holden* (Running Press.) A native New Yorker, and graduate of New York University, his other book subjects have included Michelle Kwan (*Born to Skate*), Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, Mia Farrow, and Lucille Ball.

As a youth, Epstein attended the Juilliard School of Music; a gifted pianist, he possesses “perfect pitch,” and is a member of ASCAP. “For me, writing a book, an article, a play, has strong elements of music to it,” he notes. “There’s a certain lilt and rhythm that emerges, after many rewrites, when you finally get it right!”

For years, he was the New York press contact for MCA/Universal in New York, working with the top stars, producers and directors in the business. One star he worked with became the inspiration for a play: “Ava,” about Ava Gardner, was optioned by the renowned producer David Brown. “It’s a one-woman play,” explains Epstein, a lifelong movie buff, “and a tour-de-force role. Incidentally, one of the few pleasures Ava didn’t experience in life was the joy of figure skating. It never occurred to me to ask her — and I had many opportunities — if she wanted

to give skating a try. She just might have said yes!”

Born in Manhattan, Epstein was the eldest of Rose and Leonard’s three children. Younger brother, Stephen, is today a lawyer, and sister Vivian began a singing career (with Ed at the piano), eventually debuting at New York’s famed nightclub, Basin Street East. Duke Ellington and his orchestra were the headliners. Only in her late teens, hailed by columnist Dorothy Kilgallen as “a new show world Cinderella,” Vivian’s interests ultimately veered into non-theatrical directions.

Ed’s interests, however, “were always show-biz oriented,” he says. “The impact of a great performer, live theatre, thrilling music, a memorable movie — these were unforgettable experiences. None, I might add, greater than skating. That feeling of complete freedom out there on the ice, interpreting the music, expressing yourself in movement. The same creative elements are in play, whether you’re a skater, actor, singer, dancer, choreographer, writer, musician, producer, director, entrepreneur. The focus, discipline, and ability required to ‘roll with the punches’ — ‘It ain’t easy,’ as the legendary actor James Cagney once said. ‘When you get a good result, it only *looks* easy.’”

Epstein’s first book was about Judy Garland. “I assumed it would join a roster of Judy books already out there. You can imagine my surprise — shock! — on

researching the competition, to find that no Judy book had been written up to that point. To the publisher’s (and my co-author, Joe Morella’s) delight, we were the first to publish a book about Judy Garland. (P.S. She liked the book.)”

Belita, the brilliant skater Epstein had seen only in the movies — the film was “Suspense,” and he first saw it on television — was responsible for bringing him into the Ice Theatre orbit. Ed skated at the same Sky Rink sessions as Moira North, who at the time was creating ITNY. “Why don’t you write an article on Belita, dear, for our Journal?” suggested Moira. The article resonated internationally, as dozens of Belita’s former co-workers, after many years, sought to contact her. Belita became ITNY’s first honoree, flying in from London for the event.

Epstein has written all of the ITNY honoree profiles to date, “a truly distinguished, dazzling group,” notes Ed, from the legendary Dick Button to the late, great Aja Zanova Steindler, from Richard Dwyer to Sonya and Peter Dunfield, JoJo Starbuck and Ken Shelley, Paul Wylie, Dorothy Hamill and last year’s honoree, Tenley Albright.

“With ITNY, Moira has proven to be an authentic visionary — she has created and sustained a unique organization, an incredible accomplishment,” observes Ed. “I’m thrilled to be a part of it, and long may it thrive!”



Congratulations, Ice Angel

SCOTT SCHWARTZ

Your Boundless Energy & Talent Are An Inspiration To Us All

Your Chelsea Piers New York Office Family



SCOTT H. SCHWARTZ

ICE ANGEL 2015

GREAT SCOTT!

By Edward Z. Epstein



He is the Vice President of Creative Services at Chelsea Piers, both in New York and Connecticut. However, conquering the complex worlds of graphic design, web design and computers “was not exactly my childhood passion,” laughs Scott. It was figure skating that had captured his imagination: “I started skating after I saw Kristi Yamaguchi, on television, win the 1992 World Championship.” Interesting how skating became the catalyst for Scott’s future off-ice career.

Born in Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn, Scott’s parents, Ronnie and Richard, are native New Yorkers. Dad is an accountant, Mom a retired bank teller. At James J. Reynolds Junior High School, Scott was on the school math team. “I actually wanted to be an actuary,” recalls Scott, “and, let’s face it — not too many people nurture that ambition.”

Scott, age fifteen, began skating in 1992 at Sky Rink in midtown Manhattan, located on the 16th floor of an office building on West 33rd Street. “In ’93, there was a program where I could volunteer to work for the rink in exchange for ice time,” he recalls. “So I began in skate rental, and worked birthday parties, serving pizza and birthday cake.”

On the ice, Scott learned freestyle with Wade Corbett, and figures with Kenny Moir. “I switched to ice dancing with Darlene Parent, then Nina Newby.

My dance partner was Rebecca Como.” Their coach was Bill Aquilino, and the couple won the Eastern Open Intermediate Dance gold medal in ’95, placed fourth in Nationals in ’96. They trained, for a while, in Canada, “and I almost moved to Seattle,” recalls Scott.

Meanwhile, at Sky Rink, while it was still at its midtown Manhattan location, Scott worked at the Skating School with Lori Moran. “When we moved over to Chelsea Piers, Ron Kraut was the General Manager, and I owe a great deal to Ron. Thanks to him, over time I learned all aspects of ‘the rink business,’ starting with checking tickets! Ron liked to call me the ‘Welcoming Face’ of Sky Rink!”

Scott became Kraut’s assistant and, “eventually, I was involved in the graphic design aspect of the computer world at Chelsea Piers.” In due course, he was promoted to Creative Director, in charge of the Design department. “I guess you could say,” notes Scott with tongue-in-cheek, “that I’d kicked the door to my career open with a blade on my foot!”

His intelligence, resourcefulness and sense of humor were invaluable assets, along with his ability to remain calm under pressure. His computer expertise? “I was self-taught,” states Scott, “and learned by experimenting on a Mac.” He then studied at Parsons School of Design. “Their Design Management program was amazing, and it taught me the economic

and marketing sides of the business as well.”

His involvement with Ice Theatre of New York was inevitable. “When I moved to Chelsea Piers Management, the Ice Theatre offices were down the hall — I offered my services as a volunteer.” It was 1998, and, to paraphrase Humphrey Bogart’s comment to Claude Rains in “Casablanca,” it was the beginning of a beautiful friendship that endures to the present day.

“For me, the annual ITNY gala is a giant family reunion,” notes Scott. “It’s my opportunity, once a year, to see all my friends from the skating world.”

“Scott’s a genius at solving the never-ending technical problems that inevitably arise, and his gorgeous and innovative designs for our programs are always outstanding,” notes ITNY founder Moira North, adding: “He makes us look like a million-dollar company! Thanks to Scott, there’s always that something extra that makes his work special and distinctive. Bravo, Scott.”

Since the opening of Chelsea Piers Connecticut in 2012, Scott has called Stamford home, splitting his time between the two facilities. The light of Scott’s life is his son, Samuel, now six. Whether Sam’s interests focus on the world of graphic design, computers, skating — or elsewhere — remains to be seen. “It will be his choice,” smiles Scott.

CONGRATULATIONS SCOTT!

Those are well-earned wings.

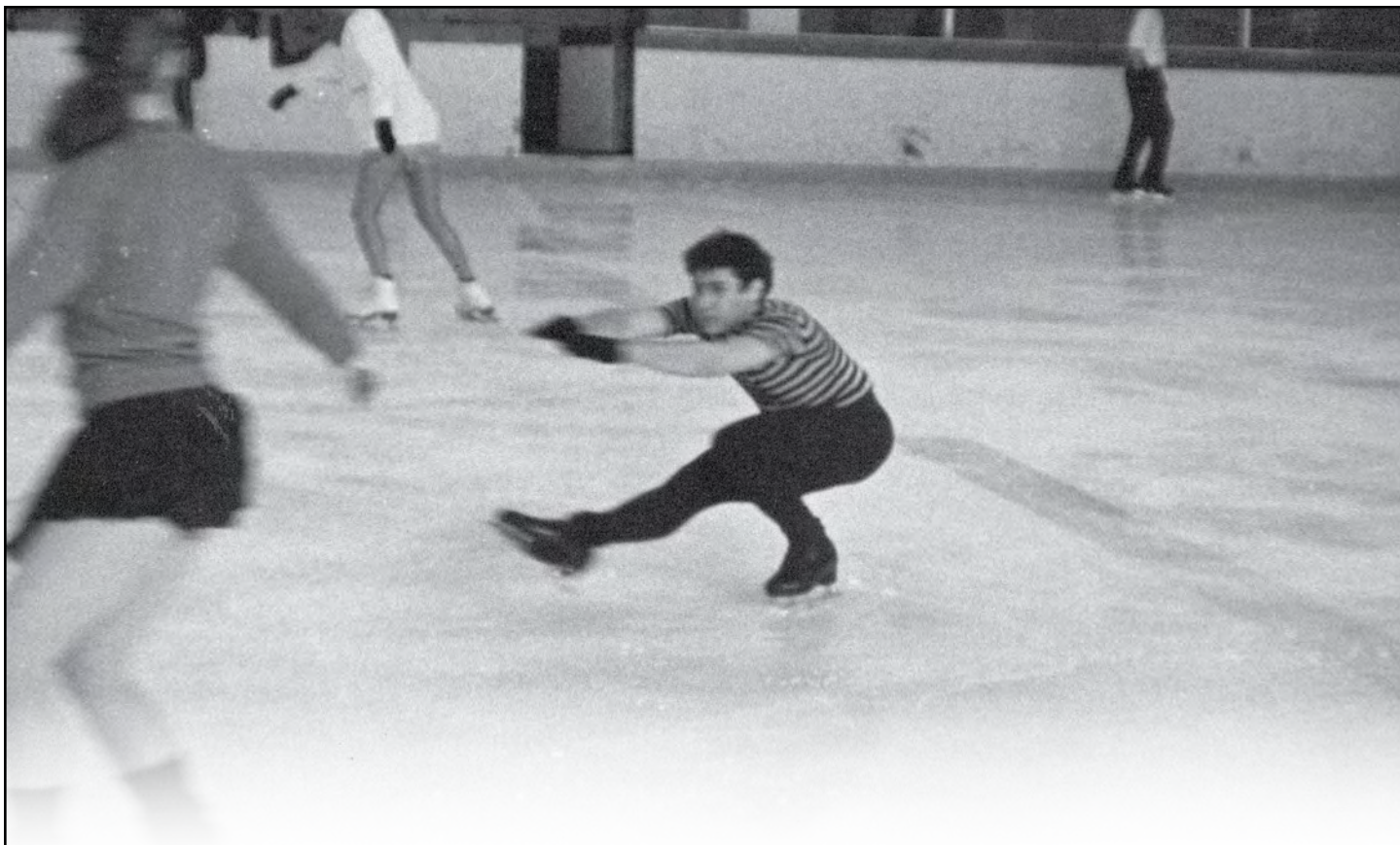
Keith Champagne

Congratulations to
Scott Schwartz
for receiving his
well-deserved recognition.

**Bill Lavery, Jeff Meyer
and everyone at
Apple Direct Mail**

Congratulations to Ice Theatre
of New York on 30 years of
artistic innovations on ice and
“Bravo” to all Honorees!

Love, Elin



CONGRATULATIONS SCOTT

PROUD TO HAVE SPUN THROUGH THE
PAST TWO DECADES TOGETHER

SKY RINK
CHELSEA PIERS
NEW YORK
EST.  1995

Congratulations to
Ice Theatre of New York
and all tonight's honorees

Barbara & Bill Candee

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CARLIE QUESADA

WILL SEARS AWARD 2015

The WILL SEARS AWARD is awarded to a young skater who has shown exceptional daring and persistence in pursuit of his/her passion, consistent with the spirit of the late Will Sears.

When asked about her reaction to being the first Will Sears recipient, this is what Carlie had to say...

"Ice Theatre of New York and the Skating Club of New York have been a part of my life since I first started to skate. Because of these organizations, I have met so many incredible and inspirational people.

"When I was three years old, my parents took me to see the Radio City Christmas Spectacular and while the show had many different scenes, I fixated on the ice skaters while they elegantly and skillfully glided across a teeny tiny rink in the middle of the stage. It wasn't until I was seven that I was actually able to go on the ice, but from the moment my blades hit the ice, I have not stopped.

"To be an ice skater is very challenging... it requires long hours of practicing (usually in the very early morning) and never-ending determination and grit. Skating is falling down and getting back up to try again. I started to skate pairs when I was 11 years old. When skating with another person, you also learn trust, courage and loyalty. My actions as a skater would affect my partner, and my partner's decisions would affect me.

"Will Sears was a wonderful athlete, student and person, who died before many people, outside our small skating world, could have the pleasure to know him. Although I did not meet Will, I can relate to the situations, challenges, and joys he must have experienced with his skating.

I have heard about how hard he worked, and know some of the disappointments he must have felt when things did not go his way, as well as the bliss he felt when his programs and training went well.

"There have been many talented and devoted people who have supported me in every possible way. I would like to thank my first coach, Melody Champion, for both instilling in me a love of skating and for introducing me to pairs skating. I also want to thank my main coach, Brandon Hanson, for helping me refine and deepen my skating skills as well as cheering me on and believing in me. Also, I want to thank my other coaches, Jonathon Hunt, Natalia Zaitseva, Judy Blumberg, Samvel Gezalian, Josef Sabovcik and Darlene Parent for their expertise and support, and Johnny Johns and Marina Zoueva, for always making time for me when I'm in Michigan.

"I thank Ice Theatre of New York for giving me opportunities to perform. It was a great help in developing my performance skills. The enthusiastic response of the crowds was its own reward for all our hard work.

"Last but certainly not least, I want to thank my parents for being there for every milestone in my skating career... I love them so much!

"Thank you Ice Theatre of New York and especially Margarita Sears, for creating this amazing award for a young skater. I promise to continue to work hard, to try and fulfill my dreams and to 'Dare Greatly' on and off of the ice!"





Photo: Jay Colton

HAPPY 30TH! WE'RE SO PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ICE THEATRE FAMILY.

MEG AKABAS	CARRIE FURAY	MARJORIE KOUNS	JAMES SCHILLING
ELISA ANGELI	DANIELLE & ALEXANDER GAMELIN	RANDALL IANE	ERIN AND KEVIN SIDWELL
JOSH BABB	RANDY GARDNER	VALERIE LEVINE	MATEJ SILECKY
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JUDY BLUMBERG	FLORENTINE HOUDINIÈRE	BING YANG LIU	JOJO STARBUCK
BRENT BOMMENTRE	ALE IZQUIERDO HUNT & JONATHON HUNT	CHIKA MARUTA	ROB STEINER
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WADE CORBETT	DAPHNE JOHNSON	EDDY PENNA	SUSAN PEREIRA WILSEY
JOEL DEAR	JAYANTI KANAL	JIRI PROCHAZKA	BETH WORONOFF
KATHLIN FEUERSTEIN		ERIN REED	

PAST HONOREES & ICE ANGELS

Dr. Tenley Albright

R. Palmer Baker Jr.

Belita

Kurt Browning & Sonia Rodriguez

Dick Button

William J. Candee, III

Sonja & Peter Dunfield

Richard Dwyer "Mr. Debonair"

Joan Balogh Erdheim

Peter Eurich

Rudy Galindo

James C. Goodale

Debbie Gordon

Dorothy Hamill

Scott Hamilton

Sarah Hughes

Sarah Kawahara

Nancy Kerrigan

Lisa McGraw Webster

Ludmila & Oleg Protopopov

Barbara Ann Scott

Joan Scribner

Margarita Sears

JoJo Starbuck & Ken Shelley

Clare Bowes Sheridan

Nancy Streeter

Rosalynn Sumners

Robin Wagner

Vera Wang

Johnny Weir

Paul Wylie

Aja Zanova



With deep gratitude

Ice Angels

Edward Z. Epstein

Scott H. Schwartz

*Ice
Theatre
of
New York*

Board of Trustees



It has always meant so much to me that in 1952 we were National Champions together!

Whenever I was skating and you stepped onto the ice it was like a bolt of electricity hit the rink! And when I asked you how you hang up in the air so long, you gave me a great answer! I have spent the rest of my life trying to do it!

I love being able to tell everybody that I am proud you are my birthday buddy!

Thanks for always inspiring me.

Admiration always,

Tenley



Congratulations to Dick Button
for receiving the Lifetime Achievement
Award and Moira on 30 years.

Robyn Roth-Moise



Dick, Congratulations and many thanks
for your continued hard work
to elevate and enrich our sport.

With love and best wishes,

Anne and Scott Allen

Sonja Corbin

Congratulations, Dick
with fond wonderful memories.

Love

Sonya Dunfield



*Ice
Theatre
of
New York*



CONGRATULATIONS TO ITNY ON THEIR

30th Anniversary

DICK BUTTON

for a Lifetime of Contributions
to the Wonderful World of Skating



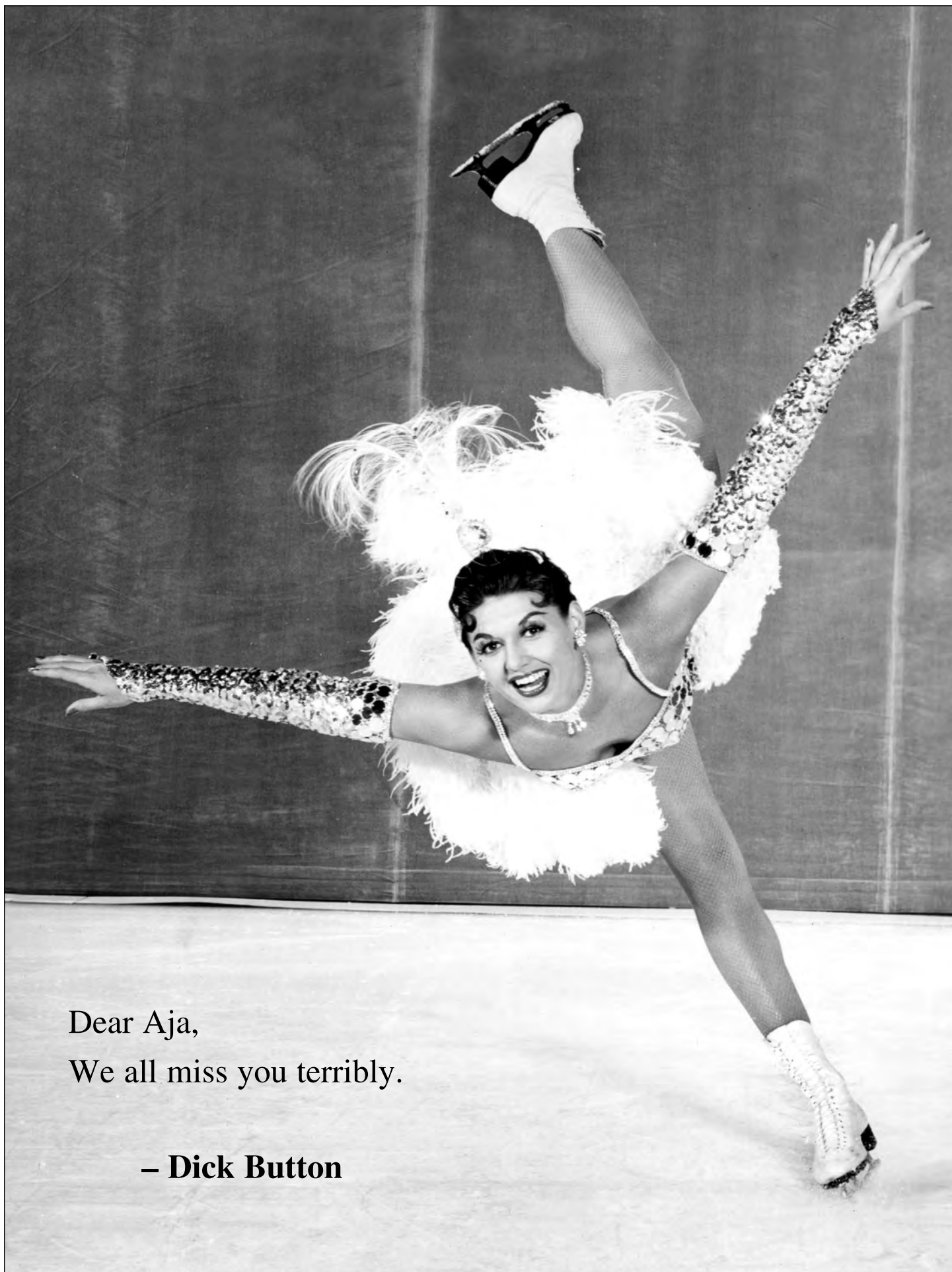
TO OUR FALLEN ANGELS

TOLLER CRANSTON

ALYSSA JOY STITH

AJA ZANOVA

*Ice
Theatre
New York*



Dear Aja,
We all miss you terribly.

– Dick Button

IN MEMORY OF



AJA
MY DEAR FRIEND



TOLLER
THE GREAT INNOVATOR

Congratulations to tonight's honorees
Dick Button, my hero, who put skating on the map
Eddie Epstein and Scott Schwartz, true Ice Angels
and
Happy 30th to Ice Theatre of New York!

Richard Dwyer



TO HONOR OUR LIFE LONG FRIEND RICHARD DWYER

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- A BEAUTIFUL HUMAN BEING •

WITH LOVE
THE BROCKWAY FAMILY

CONGRATULATIONS TO
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AND THE ENTIRE ITNY CAST
FOR YOUR 30-YEARS OF PASSION,
TALENT AND DEDICATION TO
THE PERFORMING ARTS ON ICE.

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE YOU
REHEARSE AND PERFORM
ON OUR ICE.

WINTER VILLAGE AT BRYANT PARK
NEWPORT SKATES
CITY ICE PAVILION
WORLD ICE ARENA
THE ICE RINK AT STUYTOWN

MIKE CLAYTON, LENA GOTTSCHALL
RON KRAUT, ANDREW FREY
&
ICE RINK EVENTS TEAM



Graphic design by Elena Gottschall



CONGRATULATIONS TO MOIRA
AND ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK
FOR YOUR 30 YEARS OF DEDICATION TO THE ARTS



ANGELO J. SILVERI
PRESIDENT & CEO

CONGRATULATIONS
MOIRA, JIRINA AND
ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK
ON YOUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY
AND TO PAUL WYLIE
AND ALL THE HONOREES
THIS EVENING

Amy and John Hughes
Rebecca and Doug Parker
Matt, Sarah, Emily and Taylor
Natalie, Alexandra, Charlotte and Isla



Congratulations to all of tonight's Honorees

and Best Wishes

to Ice Theatre of New York

for 30 Years of

beauty, grace and precision

on and off the ice

May the next 30 years be just as spectacular!

Fondly,

Clare Sheridan

Photo: Darial Sneed

CONGRATULATIONS CARLIE

Recipient Of The Will Sears Award.



We're So Proud Of You.
Mom & Dad.

"It takes a Village"

Thank you to all of the skaters, choreographers, board members
and supporters from the beginning of our icy project till today.

Congratulations to Dick Button, Eddie Epstein,
Carlie Quesada and Scott Schwartz.

Thank you for believing in Ice Theatre of New York!

Love, Moira



Photo: Darial Sneed



Congratulations to Moira
on achieving this milestone
of 30 years of innovation
and exciting ice theatre!

Susan Mendelson

Photo: Robyn Roth-Moise



**Congratulations to
Ice Theatre
of New York**

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Photo: Jay Colton

CONGRATULATIONS
MOIRA AND
ICE THEATRE
OF NEW YORK



**MARILYN, JOE AND
JOY KASPUTYS**

PHOTO: AMY KRUT



"TWO FRIENDS AT A COUNTRY WEDDING DANCE" 2014

So happy Toller painted this especially for me.

Sandra Garrett



WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE ICONIC CONTRIBUTIONS THAT
TOLLER CRANSTON AND DICK BUTTON
HAVE GIVEN TO OUR SKATING WORLD.

Bietak
Productions

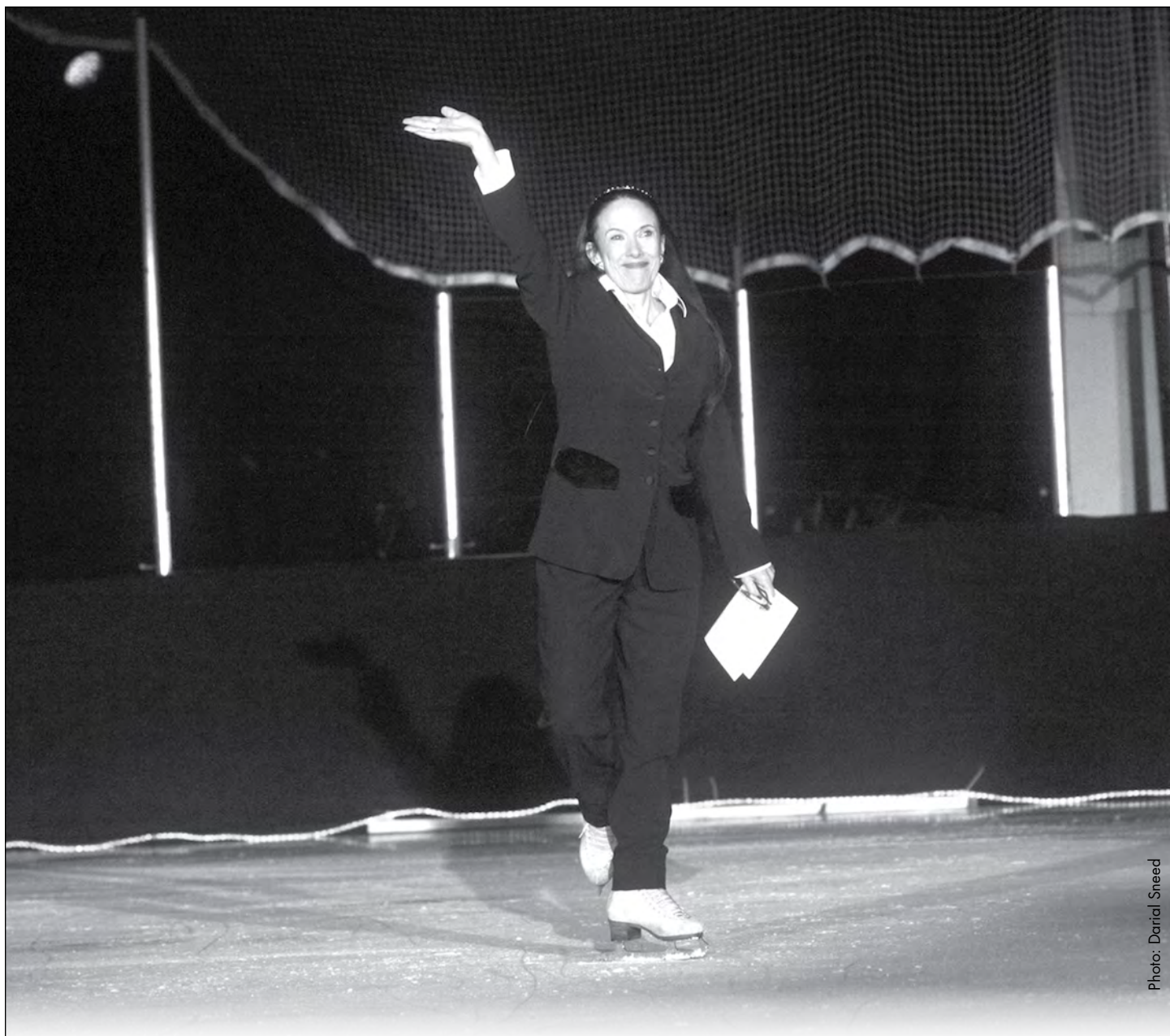


Photo: Darial Sneed

It's been 30 great years of artistry on ice.

Congratulations!

Susie Gharib and Fereydoun Nazem



Congratulations Dick Button on a lifetime of achievements, both on and off the ice.
You continue to inspire us all.

ELLEN HALPERN

CONGRATULATIONS, DICK

THANK YOU FOR TEACHING THE WORLD
HOW TO VIEW THE SPORT.

BETSY AND DOUG

CONGRATULATIONS

*Happy 30th to
Ice Theatre of New York*

Congratulations Dick

THE COLLINS FAMILY
TOM, MICHAEL, MARK, AND MARTY

The Skating Club of New York

is proud to salute

Ice Theatre of New York

for 30 Years of

Celebrating Dancing on Ice.

Congratulations to all of
you at the magnificent
Ice Theatre of New York
for all of your wonderful
pioneering accomplishments!

Happy 30th!

Tenley

Congratulations,
dear friend Dick Button

From Evelyn, Steven, Jessica,
Two Button, George,
Apple and Perro Kramer

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF ICE THEATRE'S HONOREES, PAST AND PRESENT.



PROUD TO BE PART OF THE
BEHIND-THE-SCENES TEAM
FOR ALL OF THESE YEARS.

SCOTT SCHWARTZ

CONGRATULATIONS TO ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK ON 30 YEARS
FROM JOJO AND THE GIRLS



Photo: Robyn Roth-Moise

**WISHING ITNY
CONTINUED SUCCESS**

Rhea S. Schwartz
&
Paul Martin Wolff

*Thank you
Ice Theatre of New York
for 30 years of presenting
figure skating as art.*

Congratulations.

Lisa & Kim Navarro



Photo: Jay Colton

In honor of you Moira North and in memory of Jay Colton & Geoff Gould.

Marie Vermeulen



Congratulations on 10,957 days of perfection. Thank you for sharing your vision with us.

Diane Samuelsen

Photo: Kenny Jacobson

**HAPPY 30TH!
CONGRATULATIONS
TO MOIRA AND
THE TROUPE!**

William and Helen
Beekman

All the best on your 30th
looking forward to collaborating
over the next 30 years.

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Happy
30th
Anniversary

**Ice
Theatre
of
New York**

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Long Island City

See you on the ICE!



Photo: Ira Cohen

Congratulations Moira
for your incredible work
in sustaining such a
wonderful idea and
keeping it real!

Eva, Rose and John
Wertschek

**PROUD TO SALUTE
ICE THEATRE
OF NEW YORK**

From your friends at





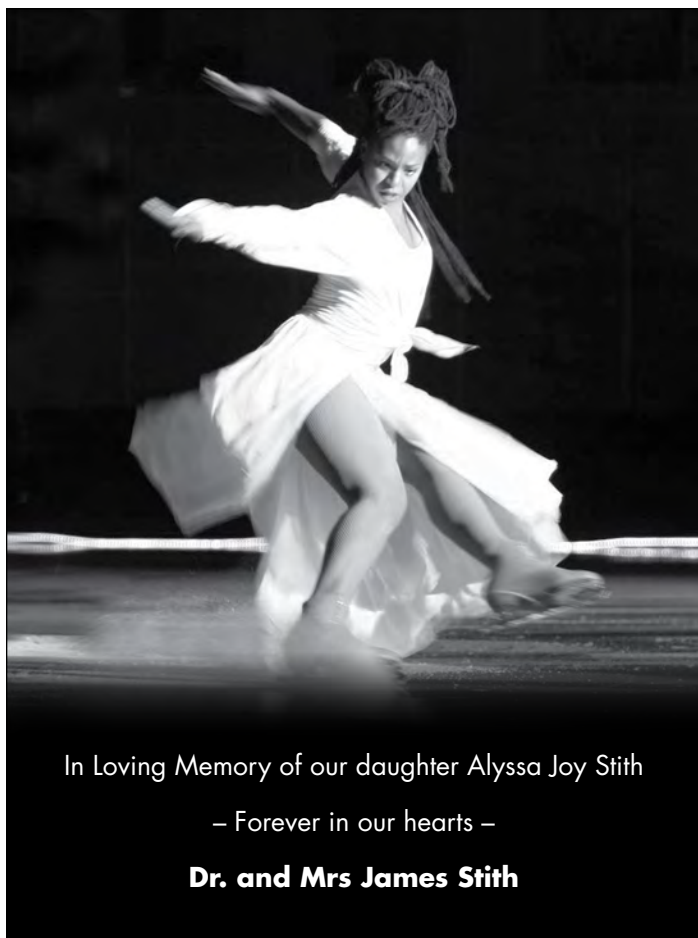
Skyliners Synchronized Skating Teams Congratulates the Ice Theatre of New York on 30 years of Artistic Excellence

Congratulations from Skyliners Synchronized Skating Team. Skyliners fields 11 competitive lines with 200 skaters. Our team members range in age from 5 to 21. Our mission is to prepare skaters to compete at the highest level of synchronized skating locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.

We strive to be one of the most competitive teams in the country and seek skaters who are looking for that challenge.

Skyliners welcomes skaters to the program each spring. Look for try-out information on our website: <http://www.skylinerssynchro.com>





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President of the Association of
Free Czechoslovak Sportsmen in NY

In memory of our beloved mother
and Nonna, Ruth W. Rubinstein,
and our beloved friend, Toller Cranston.

Both were trailblazers, geniuses and
Renaissance people who are loved
and remembered forever.

All our love,

Brenlee Carrington Trepel,
Brent, Skyler and Sierra Trepel

Best Wishes to the Ice Theatre of New York
on your 30th Anniversary.

May my dear friend, Toller Cranston,
rest in peace and his legacy of revolutionizing
artistry in men's skating live on forever!

Douglas Haw

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BRAVO

Bravo To tonight's honorees and
Ice Theatre of New York!

Stephen G. Epstein | Edward Z. Epstein



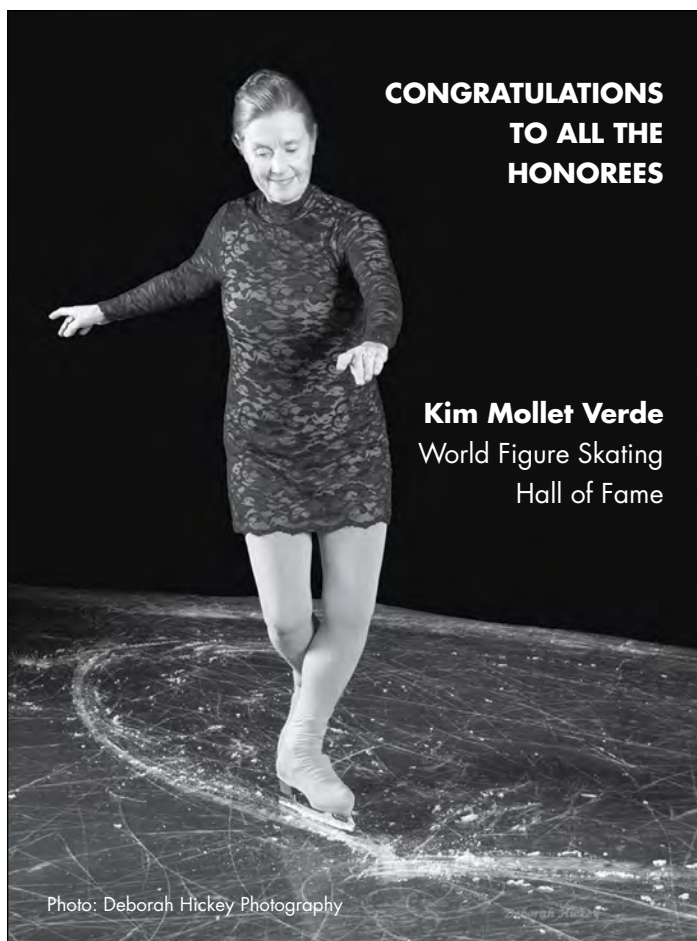
Happy 30th to Ice Theatre of New York and Congratulations to all the Honorees

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**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL THE
HONOREES**

Kim Mollet Verde
World Figure Skating
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Photo: Deborah Hickey Photography



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New York City's longest-running children's performance theater, Reach for the Sky Rink All Stars, thanks ITNY for all the advice, inspiration and performance opportunities you have given us throughout the past 8 years.

Thank you for helping us become US Figure Skating National Showcase medalists for the past 3 years in a row!

Senior Team: Catherine Mayer, Emma Wender, Tiffany Liu, Jean-Li Spencer, Gaby Schneider, Victoria Snyder, Jennie Berlin, Carlie Quesada, Milly Wasserman, Alison Collard de Beaufort and Ruby & Lucy Seavey. Junior Team: Rebekah & Nicole Allegretti, Carrie Rose, Defne Tuzer, Naomi Sacks, Ciara Flaherty, Audrey Poon and Gigi Eckholdt. Alumni include Mona Johnson, Miranda Tyson, Alida Monaco, Oceanna Pak, Virginia Mason, Sophie Spillmann and Dakota-Rogers Myers.

With Warm Congratulations to
Ice Theatre of New York,
The one and only Dick Button
and the Late, Great
Toller Cranston

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Congratulations

Thank you Moira and Ice Theatre of New York
for 30 years of celebrating ice dance and
sharing your artistic vision.



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We make you look good trying.

Joseph D. Galasso

917-270-2068

joe2wonder@yahoo.com

Congratulations Ice Theatre
Denise Beaumont



Ari Zakarian
and N-Ice.inc
remember
Toller Cranston
and salute
Dick Button,
Moira North
and Ice Theatre
of New York

Photo: Julie Lance

**The Ice House
congratulates
Ice Theatre
of New York**

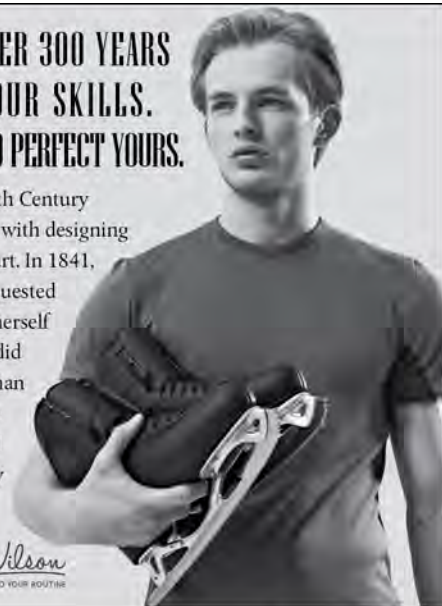
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U ZUCA

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Chloe Noel

*To Moira,
When ITNY counts its
blessings —
it counts you twice...*

Charles A. Kerner CPA
(212) 675-4030



Brooklyn Ice celebrates
Ice Theatre of New York's
30th Anniversary
as we Celebrate
Brooklyn Ice's 10th Anniversary

Join us on Sunday, November 15, 2015 as we celebrate
10 years of a learn-to-skate program for Brooklyn's low-
income children and as we honor Audrey Weisiger

Information: www.brooklynice.org



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Hawayek, Baker shine light on ALS with new free

Kaitlin Hawayek and Jean-Luc Baker are bringing the story of physicist Stephen Hawking and his wife, Jane, to the ice in their free dance this season. [More »](#)
[Watch: Hawayek, Baker interview](#) | [Photos: Backstage at Skate Detroit](#)



Brown rallies in free to win
 Ondrej Nepela gold



Chen victorious in Logroño,
 books return ticket to Spain

VIDEOS



LIVE RESULTS

2016 Central Pacific Regional FS Championships - Sharks Ice at San Jose		
Senior Ladies / Short Program		
Place	Score	Name
1	48.26	Maria Yang, Peninsula SC
2	44.33	Camille Davis, Salt Lake Figure Skating
3	39.09	Xylina Rust, St. Moritz ISC

Next event: Intermediate Ladies / Free Skate - Mon Oct 05 8:00 AM PDT [View All Results »](#)

[2016 North Atlantic FS Championships - 80 Rink](#)
[2016 North Atlantic FS Championships - 32 Rink](#)
[2016 Southwestern Regional FS Championships - Independence Events Center](#)

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



U.S. ice dancers Christina Carreira and Anthony Ponomarenko react with delight, along with coach Greg Zuerlein, as their career-best marks are announced at the Junior Grand Prix in Torun, Poland. (courtesy of Christina Carreira) [See more photos »](#)

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MORE HEADLINES

Shiraiwa clinches first career JGP Final appearance
 Russians sweep pairs podium at Ondrej Nepela
 Chen opens large lead over field at JGP Spain
 Russian skaters set pace to open Ondrej Nepela
 Brown opens season with first Nepela appearance
 Chock, Bates start season with Nebelhorn
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to these individuals and others whom we might have missed



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