

*Ice  
Theatre  
of  
New York*

**CELEBRATING THE JOY  
OF DANCING ON ICE**

# **BENEFIT GALA<sup>AND</sup> PERFORMANCE**

HONORING **EVAN LYSACEK** AND **SASHA COHEN**

ALUMNI AWARD **JOSH BABB**

ICE ANGEL AWARD **MARY GAILLARD**

ARTS & BUSINESS AWARD **PATINA RESTAURANT GROUP**







**IN MEMORY OF WILL  
1982-2002**



**CELEBRATING THE JOY  
OF DANCING ON ICE**

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## ABOUT THE COMPANY

ITNY's mission is to elevate dance on ice as a performance art. Through its performances in both traditional and site-specific venues, ITNY presents ice dance that helps to open ones eyes to seeing skating in new and unexpected ways. ITNY was the very 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.

- ITNY has created exclusive works by choreographers as varied as ballet great Edward Villella, modern dance choreographers Jacquelyn Buglisi, Elisa Monte & David Parsons, Performance Artist Ann Carlson and Emmy Award Winner "Chucky" Klapow.
- ITNY trains the company skaters and guest skating artists in its weekly Master Edge Classes at Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers.
- We continue to collaborate with choreographers from both the dance and skating worlds, while exploring creatively exciting relationships with artists from theatre, music and new media disciplines.

ITNY is dedicated to making performances accessible to diverse audiences and presents many free performances featuring the current repertory throughout New York City. ITNY also reaches it public arts and education mission by:

- commissioning new choreography, with performances from recognized and promising ballet and ice skating artists
- offering free admission to more than ten public performances each year
- holding free Master Classes led by ITNY dancers for skating professionals and enthusiasts
- offering apprentice/training programs for aspiring ice dance artists; and facilitating educational programs on ice dancing and figure skating for school-aged children throughout the NYC area.

**62 Chelsea Piers, Suite 308, New York, NY 10011**

**(212) 929-5811 • icetheatre.org**

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Brent Bommentre	David Mellins
Dick Button	Lea Ann Miller
Frank Carroll	Suna Murray
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As of 9/16/16



**CELEBRATING THE JOY  
OF DANCING ON ICE**

## WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL BENEFIT GALA

I am so glad you are here celebrating with us and I thank you for all of your support. With your continued help Ice Theatre 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 “Unplugged” performance and party 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 type 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 and boldly into the next decade of choreography, collaborations and educational outreach programming!

Warmest Wishes,

*Maria North*





STATE OF NEW YORK  
**EXECUTIVE CHAMBER**  
ALBANY 12224

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
GOVERNOR

October 28, 2016

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 2016 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 congratulating World and Olympic Champions, Evan Lysacek and Sasha Cohen. I commend, as well, Mary Gaillard and Patina Restaurant Group, for their support of this worthy enterprise, and Josh Babb, recipient of the Inaugural ITNY Alumni Award.

With warmest regards and best wishes for an enjoyable evening.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew M. Cuomo".

ANDREW M. CUOMO



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

October 28, 2016

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to join Ice Theatre of New York in welcoming everyone to its 2016 Benefit Gala and Performance.

All New Yorkers deserve to be a part of our city's extraordinary cultural life, and through investments in arts education, free memberships to cultural institutions for IDNYC holders, and more, we are making progress in our efforts to achieve this goal. Ice Theatre of New York is a terrific partner in this mission, offering free admission to many of their performances and facilitating educational programs for public school children through their New Works and Young Artists Series. Founded in 1984, ITNY has dedicated itself to pushing the boundaries of traditional ice skating by incorporating choreography from ballet, modern dance, and contemporary dance. I commend ITNY's staff and skaters for their hard work and commitment to their art and look forward to many more years of inspiring performances.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, Chirlane and I extend congratulations to this year's honorees. Please accept our best wishes for a terrific gala and continued success.

Sincerely,

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

Bill de Blasio  
Mayor



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October 28, 2016

Dear Guests,

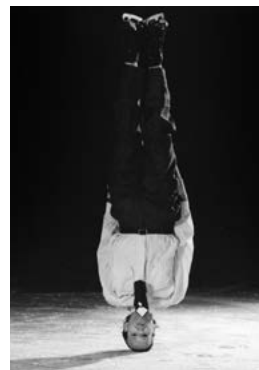
I would like to congratulate Ice Theatre New York on their 31st Anniversary Benefit Gala, and thank them for all of the hard work that they have done to benefit the culture of our city. Ice Theatre has spent decades sharing the art of figure skating with New York, and I couldn't be more proud to have such a cultural gem in my district.

Each member of Ice Theatre New York, a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) organization, is dedicated to both thrilling their audience with amazing performances and giving back to their communities. 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 their dual responsibility to enrich our culture and engage with our communities.

With that, I am proud to offer my congratulations on the 31st Anniversary Benefit Gala, and continue to support this terrific organization that has benefitted our community for many years. I'd like to congratulate all who are being honored at the Gala, and thank all the members of Ice Theatre New York who contribute so much toward the cultural spirit of our city.

Sincerely,

Mark Levine  
Councilmember  
7th District, Manhattan



*Ice  
Theatre  
New York*

CELEBRATING THE JOY  
OF DANCING ON ICE

## 2016 BENEFIT GALA

THE COMPANY, PAST AND PRESENT





# SASHA COHEN: TURNING POINTS

By Edward Z. Epstein

Photo: William Coupon



"I admire anyone who has a talent that makes me tingle," said legendary British actor Ralph Richardson.

Sasha Cohen's talent-on-ice has always had that effect on audiences. Her breathtaking spirals, spins, air positions in her jumps, all are in a league of their own. She has been described as "a ballerina on skates." One of her coaches, the great John Nicks, saw in his pupil's skating elements of another renowned ballerina-on-ice, the one-and-only Belita.

It's interesting that Sasha's love affair with skating didn't follow a traditional path. She didn't embrace the sport to fulfill a parent's burning desire to enjoy, vicariously, a dazzling skating career. Quite the opposite. Furthermore, skating wasn't the first sport that captured the youngster's imagination.

"I was about four, and gymnastics came first," she recalls. "I was a very high energy child, and it was a great outlet for all that energy! Then, I discovered skating. The feeling of freedom out there! How it felt to glide. To spin. It was so much fun!"

At age seven, "I had to make a choice. Gymnastics or skating. I told Mom, 'I want skates.' I loved the sport. The pure athleticism of it, the challenge. The rink [eventually] became a place to work, achieve goals. All I'd learned as a gymnast proved very helpful, a great asset

for me as a skater." It was soon evident she was enormously talented.

Her mother was simply happy that her daughter had found something she loved to do. "When I did stretching exercises at home," recalls Sasha, "Mom helped me with my spiral position."

The fact that Mrs. Cohen was the antithesis of a stage mother was evident when, one day, young Sasha's coach said: "Your daughter should compete."

"Why?" asked Mrs. Cohen.

Sasha was all for it. "I'm a very competitive person," she says. "I've always been goal oriented." By age eight, she was, for the first time, avidly watching skating on TV. "My goal, even then, was to become an Olympian."

Alexandra Pauline "Sasha" Cohen — Sasha is a Russian diminutive of Alexandra — was born in Westwood, California. Her Mom, Galina, Ukrainian-born, is a former ballet dancer. Her Dad, Roger, is a corporate lawyer. Her younger sister, Natalia, a talented pianist, is a graduate of Barnard College.

"I was eleven when I began getting really serious about skating," recalls Sasha. She considers this a late start. "Most serious skaters began much earlier." But she made up for it with her attitude. "I wanted to be proud of myself. I worked very hard at the jumps, and it was very frustrating. I was around twelve

when I began working on the double axel, and I just couldn't get it. I had bruises up and down my legs from the falls. I almost quit skating because of it. Mom said, 'Give yourself time.' She was great at 'framing' situations, putting them in proper perspective."

By the time she was sixteen, the skating community regarded Sasha as a rising star. She placed first in the short program — "Wow! what a performance!" exclaimed more than one commentator — and second overall, in the 2000 U.S. championships. Her style, flexibility and air positions in her jumps were, as many critics described it, "amazing." And they were memorable. While her performances seemed effortless — "One should never be aware of the mechanics," noted famed dancer-director-choreographer Bob Fosse — she paid a heavy, ongoing physical price. A stress fracture in her back forced her to withdraw from the 2001 U.S. Nationals.

She graduated from Futures High School in Mission Viejo, California, in 2002. A college education was not on her immediate agenda.

"Another major turning point for me," notes Sasha, "came in the summer of 2002, when I moved to the East Coast to train with Tatiana Tarasova in Simsbury, Connecticut. I'd never been exposed to that kind of training regimen."

It produced dividends. She went on to win 2002 Skate Canada, then captured the Trophee Lalique. “Her skating is a thing of beauty,” noted a French journalist. She won Silver at the Cup of Russia. Gold at the Grand Prix Final, where her short program set a world record in total points. At the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, she placed fourth. She’d established herself as a force to be reckoned with on the international skating scene.

Another turning point: she began training with Robin Wagner in Hackensack, New Jersey. She went on to win Silver at both the 2004 Nationals and Worlds. “It was the first time I medaled at Worlds! Very exciting,” she said at the time.

Her back injury flared up, and she was unable to compete in the next year’s Grand Prix events. In late ’04, she returned to California to train with her original coach, John Nicks. He had her incorporate a “headless” spin into her repertoire, remembering how effective a move it had been for Belita. She placed second at both the 2005 Nationals and Worlds.

As the 2006 Olympic season approached, Sasha was the “It Girl” of the American skating world. She began the season by capturing first place in the Campbell’s International Figure Skating Challenge. A hip injury forced her to withdraw from Skate America, but she placed second in the competition for the Trophee Eric Bompard.

There were falls. What was that like? “You’re in shock, and disappointed, but you re-focus and skate on...” Despite a bad case of the flu, there were no shocks or disappointments awaiting her at the U.S. Championships that year. She won Gold. “At last!” cheered her fans. And, of course, she was guaranteed a spot on the Olympic team.

The excitement was high in Turin, Italy, site of the Games. Sasha placed first after the short program, “a brilliant display of style and technique,” wrote one critic. Expectations were high. The long program, unfortunately, was less successful. She won Silver.

At the Worlds, in Calgary, Sasha was again in first place after a dazzling short program. The long was another story. She won Bronze. It’s a fact that no other skater, in any competition she entered, rated higher marks for spins and spiral sequences.

She popularized the “I” spin, sometimes referred to as the Sasha spin. It’s a spin in which she’s literally in a vertical “split” position — an “I” — and woe to the skater without Sasha’s flexibility who attempts it. Her “soft







knee” landings on her jumps were another trademark, and she was the first to land a quadruple salchow in competition.

Her choices of music ran the gamut: from Beethoven, Puccini and Rachmaninoff to Rihanna, Elvis, Streisand, Villa-Lobos, Celine Dion.

On the horizon was another turning point. After touring with “Champions on Ice” and “Stars on Ice,” and fulfilling other skating obligations, she made a decision. “I needed a little down time from competing.”

It became a three year hiatus. After years of living and breathing skating every day, it was a relief. Hollywood beckoned. A fresh challenge. She was a guest correspondent on “Inside Edition.” There was a “cameo” appearance, as herself, in Ben Stiller’s hit film, “Blades of Glory,” which satirized the skating world. She had a major role in a Don Johnson film, “Moondance Alexander.” She appeared on “CSI: NY,” “Las Vegas” and “Project Runway,” among others.

(“I’m still offered scripts today,” she notes.)

But the inevitable moment arrived: “I missed the intensity and purpose of competition. I decided I was going to try for the 2010 Olympics.”

Regrettably, the attempt fell short of expectations. Another turning point: the time had come to permanently move on. “The world has so much to offer,” says Sasha. “There’s so much to learn and accomplish outside of skating.”

She has written her autobiography, “Fire On Ice” (HarperCollins). In 2011, she moved to New York City. “Alone. It was intimidating at first. But I wanted to go to school, and began courses at Columbia University.” Interesting that, as a student, she is “Alex,” not Sasha. Her focus is on social issues.

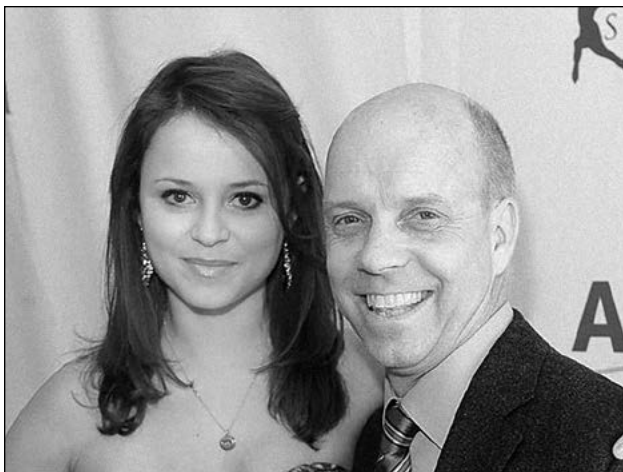
In January 2016, she was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame. That summer, a life-changing turning point: Alexandra Pauline “Sasha” Cohen married her fiancé, Tom May, a

hedge fund manager. They’d known each other for two years, and it was a beautiful wedding in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Sasha was gorgeous in a gown by Israeli designer Galia Lahad.

Her family life on track, she is concentrated on “finding a meaningful career.” She’s currently affiliated with ZIG, a fascinating website which allows users to read everything from every source as it’s published all in one place.

“Sasha’s drive, determination and commitment to achieving her goals reflects Ice Theatre’s ongoing quest to pursue and present the very finest of all aspects of figure skating,” notes ITNY founder Moira North. “We’re delighted and proud to have Sasha as one of this year’s honorees.”

Edward Z. Epstein’s current book, *AUDREY & BILL: A Romantic Biography of Audrey Hepburn and William Holden* (Running Press), has been optioned for films.



Congratulations  
Sasha and Evan  
and  
Ice Theatre of New York!

*Scott Hamilton*



U.S. FIGURE SKATING  
CONGRATULATES  
Evan Lysacek &  
Sasha Cohen

for being honored  
at the

**ICE THEATRE OF  
NEW YORK'S**

2016 ANNUAL  
BENEFIT GALA &  
PERFORMANCE



[www.USFigureSkating.org](http://www.USFigureSkating.org)





# EVAN LYSACEK: JOURNEY TO GOLD AND BEYOND

By Edward Z. Epstein

Photo: William Coupon



What was Evan Lysacek's strategy for winning Olympic Gold?

"My philosophy: No one would out-work me. It was easy for me to get into that mentality because I enjoy working hard. Nothing makes me happier than knowing I've given one-hundred-and-fifty percent at the end of the day. I was willing to sacrifice everything I had. Every holiday. Every birthday. Every party. Every night out."

It worked — coupled, of course, with that other sure-fire ingredient: talent.

Born in Chicago, and raised in Naperville, Illinois, Evan is of Italian and Czech descent. His Mom, Tanya, is an educator. His Dad, Don, is a building contractor. He has two sisters: Laura and Christina.

Evan's journey-on-ice began when he was eight. His grandmother, who had wanted to be in the Ice Capades, bought him skates for Christmas. "I wanted to play hockey, not figure skate, but she was crucial in setting me on the right path."

By age eleven he'd won the U.S. Nationals on the Juvenile level. At thirteen, he won the U.S. Novice title. In 2000, at age sixteen, he became the first skater in years to win back-to-back Novice and Junior Men's titles.

The following year, however, making his Senior Men's national debut, his "Star

is Born" saga stopped far short of Gold: he placed twelfth. But Evan's resolve, and work ethic, remained unwavering.

The young teenager found himself having to cope with injuries. "People don't realize what's required, physically, to be a competitive figure skater. It may appear 'graceful,' effortless, but that's misleading. The training and discipline it takes is incredible. The injuries can be very painful. The torque is immense, sometimes one hundred times your body weight. You have to overcome injuries throughout your career."

In Evan's case, over the years, these injuries have included broken ribs, hip injuries, groin injuries, bursitis, tendonitis, stress fractures in his feet, and surgery to repair a torn muscle in his lower abdomen. Once, in Olympic competition, he came down with a stomach flu. He couldn't train and had to remain in bed receiving fluids from IVs. But he performed the next day, delivering a career-best free skate.

In 2003, the year he graduated from Neuque Valley High School, he began working with new coaches, Ken Congemi and Frank Carroll in El Segundo, California. He went on to capture two Junior Grand Prix events, and placed fifth at the 2004 U.S. championships

"Although this young man's road to

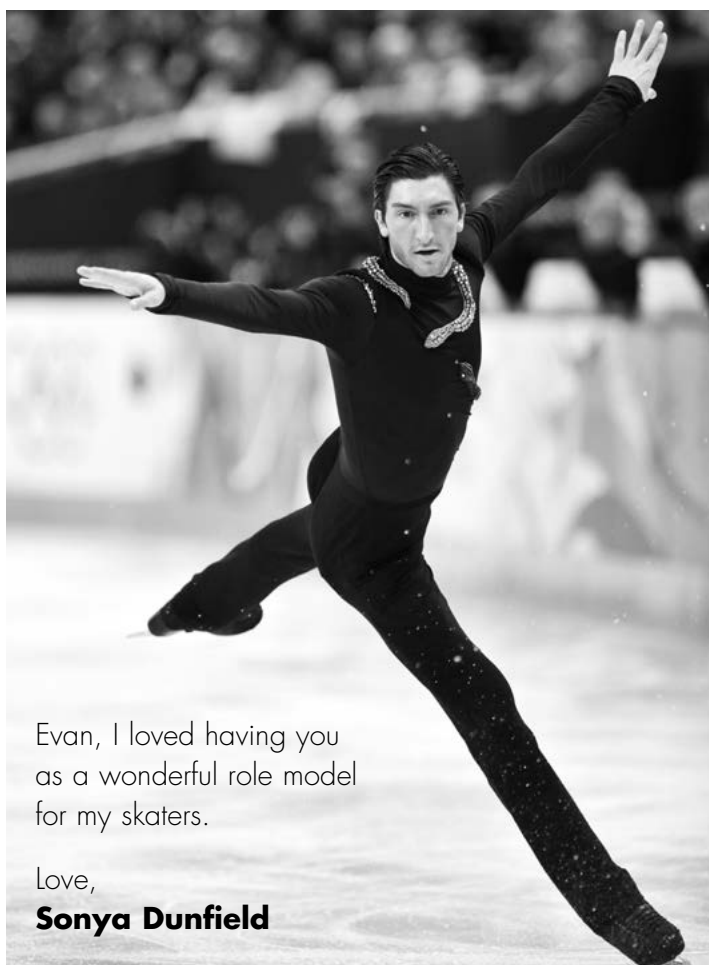
glory is paved with injuries," wrote one analyst, "he's obviously a fighter. Not a man who gives up."

Despite a bacterial infection requiring antibiotics — at one point he was coughing up blood — he won Bronze at the 2006 Worlds in Calgary. By the 2007-08 Grand Prix final, he landed a quad in both his short and long programs. He won Bronze.

At the 2008 Four Continents competition, there was high drama. A blade broke off his boot, causing him to fall, injuring the left side of his body. A cast, from his forearm to his shoulder, was required. "Is he through as a competitor?" asked press reports. Not as far as Evan was concerned. That season, he even managed to tour with Stars on Ice.

Despite a stress fracture in his left foot, he defied the odds and won Gold at the 2009 World championships. World champion! "While the foot injury prevented him from jumping a quad, it obviously didn't prevent him from winning the title," as one commentator observed. He acquired many sponsors, including Coca-Cola, AT&T, and Ralph Lauren, who compared the champion to a motion picture legend: Evan reminded him of a young Cary Grant.

Celebrated fashion designer Vera Wang, a former figure skater, had entered



Evan, I loved having you  
as a wonderful role model  
for my skaters.

Love,

**Sonya Dunfield**

the picture. She designed the “mock tuxedo” Evan wore at Worlds. (Ms. Wang, and her coaches, Sonya and Peter Dunfield, are all ITNY honorees.) A lasting friendship was formed. They collaborated on creating Evan’s “suits,” as he calls them, for the 2010 Olympics.

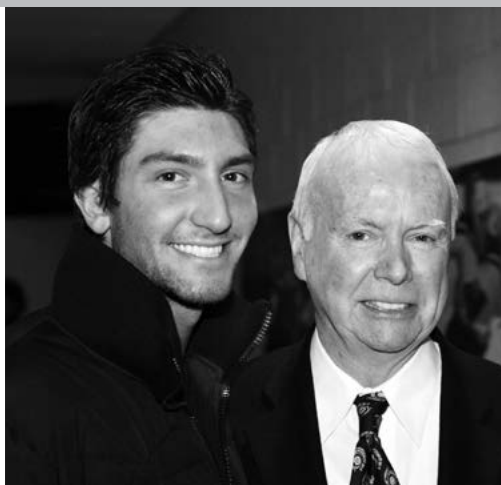
His spectacular triumph at the Games will always be remembered for its artistic and emotional power. “A lifelong dream realized,” he said. Olympic champion! Pinnacle of the competitive ladder. He was also the first American man since Brian Boitano and Scott Hamilton to win men’s singles. “Some of the best moments of my life were representing the United States, it gives me such pride,” he said.

It was an Evan year. The U.S. Olympic Committee named him Sportsman of the Year. He was given the James E. Sullivan Award as top U.S. American athlete of 2010.

Post-Olympics, “the floodgates of the entertainment industry opened for me,” he recalls. “I stepped away from skating.” His appearances ran the gamut from “Sesame Street” to celebrity contestant on “Dancing With the Stars.” As always, he was a tough competitor and, incidentally, a terrific dancer. With his professional dance partner on the show, Anna Trebunskaya, they narrowly missed out on winning the top prize.

He enrolled at the Professional Arts School in Beverly Hills, where he studied method acting. “But,” he recalls today, “I missed skating...” He set a new goal for himself: to win a second Olympics, in 2014. “Dick Button had won two, and I was going to try to do the same. Getting back on the ice at that time felt right to me,” he recalls. There was tremendous publicity announcing his “comeback.” “I got close,” he says, “but then I suffered a series of injuries...” At one point, surgery was necessary. “It will





be a long recovery,” said his coach, Frank Carroll.

By the summer of 2014, he had no choice but to announce a heart-wrenching decision: “My physical pain has become unmanageable,” he said at the time, fighting back tears. “The doctors say it will only get worse. Not to compete in the Olympics is an incredibly emotional decision. But my focus has to be on getting healthy.”

In retrospect: “I had a hard time accepting it.”

“If you’re a dancer, or a skater, or a baseball or football player — any kind of world class athlete — there comes a time when, although you’re still relatively young, you’re going to have to make a transition to another career,” observed the late, great dancer-actress Gwen Verdon. “The body dictates it. There were two exceptions I can think of — Fred Astaire and Margot Fonteyn. But even they were not functioning at anything close to top level beyond a certain point.”

Evan’s priorities have always extended beyond skating. His charitable interests include the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute (Jimmy Fund), and Figure Skating in Harlem. In April 2012 he was named a Sports Envoy by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. “I very much enjoy the role of diplomat,” he says.

In January 2016, he was inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame, along with his friend, Sasha Cohen, who notes: “We’ve known each other since we were twelve years old!”

Evan has successfully transitioned into the business world, navigating the challenges with the same work ethic that has served him so successfully all along: “No matter what career you choose — real estate [he owns property in El Segundo, Chicago and Las Vegas], lawyer, actor, writer— there’s a common thread: it’s all about problem solving and creative solutions, right?” Currently, he is Vice President of Creative Affairs at the Vera Wang Group, where is involved in virtually all creative aspects pertaining to the luxury brand.

“Remember the old adage, ‘Practice Makes Perfect’? Perhaps, in Evan Lysacek’s case, we can add to that: ‘Perseverance Produces Results.’,” states ITNY founder Moira North. “With all that he’s accomplished, and all that he is yet to accomplish, Evan is an ideal recipient of this year’s ITNY honors.”

Edward Z. Epstein’s current book, *AUDREY & BILL: A Romantic Biography of Audrey Hepburn and William Holden* (Running Press), has been optioned for films.





Josh has always had a joy of skating and performing on the ice. It is a thrill to see his artistry through the performances of the Skyliners teams.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO JOSH  
WHO HAS ALWAYS MADE US  
PROUD AND KEPT US SMILING.**

It is with great gratitude that we  
get to call you one of ours.

Your Family

# JOSH BABB

## ALUMNI AWARD

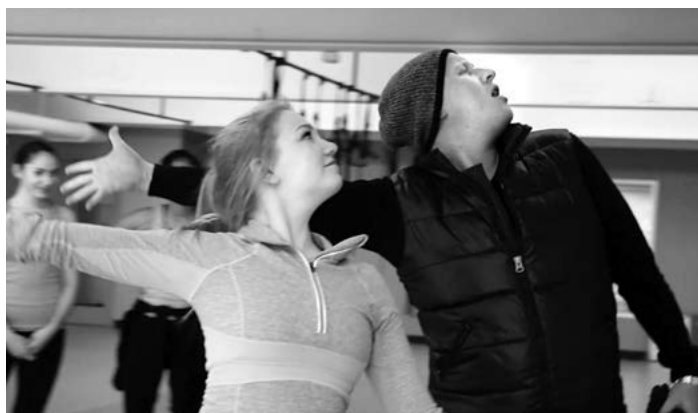
Josh Babb grew up in Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, Canada and at the age of four he started skating at the S.W Moores Memorial Stadium.

Through his early years of skating Josh would travel every summer to Kitchener /Waterloo Ontario to train with many of the country's top coaches and choreographers. Once he realized his passion for skating, he relocated with his older sister and dance partner, Rebecca, to the K-W Skating club. Josh's family relocated shortly after and settled into their new home in Ontario.

In 1998 Rebecca and Josh won the Junior National Dance title in Canada. In 1999 they relocated to Lake Placid and then Stamford CT/NYC to train.

Josh retired from competitive skating in 2000 and decided to focus on a coaching career. He moved to NYC and in 2001 he started performing with the Ice Theatre of New York.

Choreography has always been a passion of his and it continues through to today. Josh joined the Skyliners coaching staff in 2003, becoming director in 2007. Under his direction the Skyliners Organization has grown from 3 lines of 30 skaters to 12 lines of 220 skaters. The Skyliners have also become one of the most recognized names in the sport for their competitive delivery



and creative programs. Skyliners Junior team has been designated TEAM USA since 2007 and the Senior team, established in 2011, has been TEAM USA since 2012. Skyliners Junior won U.S. Synchronized Skating National titles in 2011 and 2015. The Junior team has qualified to represent the USA as a Junior World Team six times, finishing fourth at The 2016 Junior World Challenge Cup held in Zagreb, Croatia last March.

Moir North remarked, "Josh has taught, choreographed and inspired a generation of Skyliners to deepen and develop their individual skating and performance skills, while encouraging them to work successfully as a team!"

Josh has been nominated for Professional Skating Association EDI "Paul McGrath" choreography award in 2011 and the Professional Skating Association Developmental Coach of the Year in 2011, 2014 and 2015.

Today Josh resides at his home in Connecticut. When not traveling, he loves to spend time with his very close family. He enjoys going to Brooklyn to visit his younger sister Sarah and his nephew Gideon and takes pleasure in his role as uncle.



# MARY GAILLARD

2016 ICE ANGEL

Your love of the sport  
and your dedication to the  
Ice Theatre of New York  
is an inspiration to us all.

Congratulations, Mary!

## FAMILY

William Gaillard  
& Family  
Martha Kapraszewski  
& Family

## COACHES

Adam Leib  
Darlene Parent

## FRIENDS

Rose Auslander  
Judith Anderson  
Wade Corbett  
Linnea Capps  
Helen Chan  
Tina Constantinople  
Bradley Erickson  
Karen Fang  
Linda Frances

Pamela Graf  
John Grimes  
Robin Heagan  
Barbara Higgins  
Justine Kelleher  
Dennis Keene  
Leslie Madden  
Liz Maher  
April Martin  
Fredda Monn

Laura Moore  
Susan Neiman  
Elizabeth Nunn  
Sibyl Piccone  
Linda Quest  
Linda Richmond  
Elena Skavinskaya  
Isabel Spencer  
Maureen Strazdon  
Leslie Thorne



# MARY GAILLARD

ICE ANGEL

## IN SYNCH WITH ITNY

By Rose Auslander



Growing up, she never took skating lessons, but Mary Gaillard wasn't a stranger to the ice. She had first skated as a six-year old, in double runners, on a frozen pond near her home, outside Albany, New York. Her father loved to skate, and he was a little disappointed that she seemed less interested in skating than in looking at the groups of turtles that swam underneath the ice. For the love of skating — and turtles — her father and Mary hit the pond whenever the ice was solid.

Mary continued to love the beauty of a group moving together in water. From seventh grade through grad school, that meant performing in synchronized swimming groups. When she came to New York City for work, she held fast to that first passion. Only now, the water was frozen — and the groups were gliding.



Mary at the old Sky Rink taking an ITNY class.

Mary began figure skating lessons at Sky Rink, just days before she began a job as an actuary at AIG. Thirty-six years later, she is still skating — and still at AIG. She's even still

skating at Sky Rink — only now at Chelsea Piers, where the rink relocated after its early years on the 16th floor of an office building on West 33rd Street, in Manhattan. Despite her ever-demanding work schedule, she continues to carve out time to hit the ice twice a week, and to work with Adam Lieb and Darlene Parent, as she has for many years.

Skating as much as six times a week, Mary competed at the first Adult Nationals—and at many more. But for Mary, even the excitement of competition could never equal the joys of the Ice Theatre of New York: how skaters can glide together to create beauty from velocity, in a way that exists in no other art form.

Mary's involvement with Ice Theatre was inevitable. One of her early teachers was Brian Grant, who became one of the ITNY's first skaters. Captured by the freedom of birding — gliding with other skaters along the same curve, at the same speed, in the same time frame — Mary joined Ice Theatre's adult ensemble as soon as it was founded. One of her favorite performances with the ensemble was at Rockefeller Center, on a warm, sunny day, skating in the midst of a flower show, while people stopped and watched. She performed with the ensemble for years.

Mary also gave freely of her intelligence, resourcefulness and great cheer to Ice Theatre as its first Treasurer, a position where her financial training was invaluable. In the years before Ice Theatre could afford a bookkeeper, she even kept the books. Today, she is once again Ice Theatre's Treasurer.

The ITNY Annual Gala is always one of Mary's favorite events — a “wonderful opportunity” for Ice Theatre supporters “to all get together.” As she says, “sometimes we haven't seen each other since last year!” A big fan of Sasha Cohen and Evan Lysacek, Mary is “honored to be honored” as Ice Angel at the same time that ITNY is honoring these remarkable skaters. After her years of dedication to ITNY, as one of its first adult ensemble members, its first Treasurer, and its Treasurer today, no one deserves the honor of being recognized as an Ice Angel more than Mary Gaillard.



TO EVERYONE FOLLOWING THEIR DREAMS ON THE ICE...  
**WE'RE CHEERING FOR YOU!**

CONGRATULATIONS  
SASHA COHEN, EVAN LYSACEK,  
JOSH BABB AND MARY GAILLARD

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**NEW YORK**  
EST.  1995

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# PATINA RESTAURANT GROUP

## ARTS & BUSINESS AWARD

Patina Restaurant Group, Ice Theatre of New York's 2016 Arts & Business Partnership Award recipient, operates the world-famous ice skating rink at Rockefeller Center, a quintessential example of New York City's cultural and artistic significance.

The Rink at Rockefeller Center, first designed as a temporary attraction, has evolved into one of the city's most legendary landmarks. This season marks 80 years of ice skating in New York City.

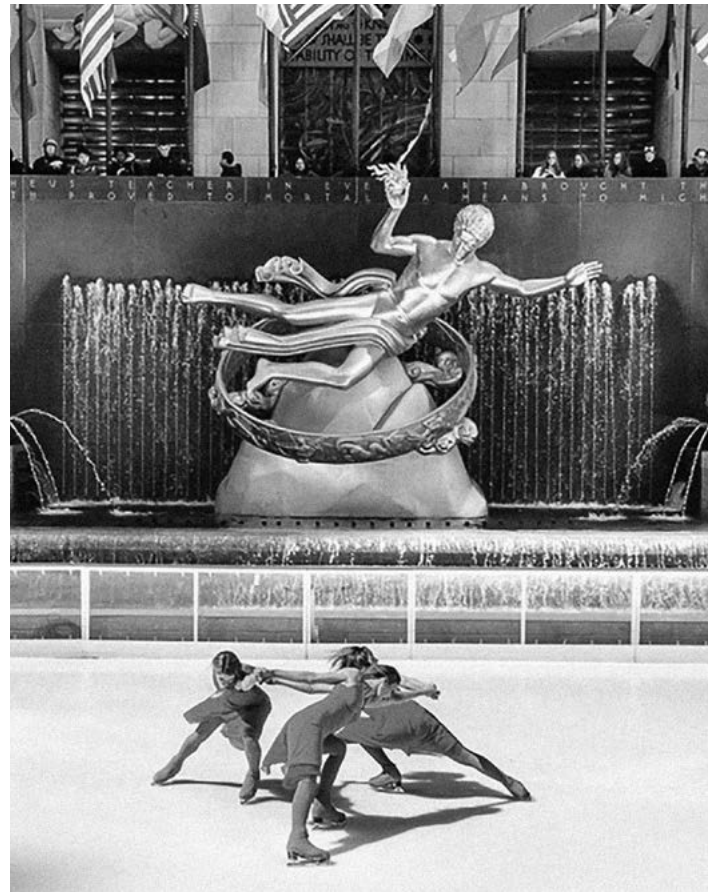
"Kicking off the season with the opening of The Rink is just as iconic as it was when it first opened in 1936," said Nick Valenti, CEO of Patina Restaurant Group, which operates both The Rink and its surrounding restaurants The Sea Grill and Rock Center Café. "It's amazing to look back at so many years of memories on the ice at Rockefeller Center. The experience of skating here is timeless for one and all."

Always the first ice rink in New York to open each year, The Rink is one of the most visited sites in the world, with more than a quarter of a million annual skaters. In the heart of Midtown, steps from Times Square and the Theater District, The Rink at Rockefeller Center is a New York City tradition that everyone can enjoy.

Locals who skate throughout the season often skate early in the morning – The Rink opens daily at 8:30 am and has sessions consistently throughout the day until closing at midnight. For those who skate frequently, season passes are available. Each season begins on Columbus Day Weekend and runs through Easter. For visitors, reservations are available online, and the VIP Igloo offers a heated rink-side skate house to enjoy refreshments.

The Rink was first opened on Christmas Day in 1936 and ever since has hosted many Olympians on the ice, including Brian Boitano, Dick Button, Scott Hamilton, Kristi Yamaguchi, Sarah Hughes, Michelle Kwan, Johnny Weir, Meryl Davis, Charlie White and Oksana Baiul.

To commemorate the 80th Anniversary, The Rink at Rockefeller Center held an official opening ceremony hosted by Olympian – and New Yorker – Sasha Cohen. Rising child star skaters from Ice Theatre of New York and Figure Skating in Harlem took to the ice for the first skate of the season. There was



a public performance of "The Three Smokers," choreographed by ballet legend Edward Villella, who is also celebrating his 80th birthday this year. "The Three Smokers" were commissioned by Ice Theatre of New York and skated by a trio of skaters from Ice Dance International.

Over the course of the season, The Rink will play Billboard #1 songs from the last 80 years, of up-tempo original tunes during skate sessions. To further bring the mood of The Rink's opening year, the skate house is decorated this season with historic photos.

An international cultural landmark, The Rink is a must-visit destination located in Midtown Manhattan. This season, in addition to a classic NYC ice skating session, The Rink offers experiences including Afternoon Tea and Skating, late-night Starlight Skate, as well as classic traditions such as the popular Breakfast with Santa, Radio City Christmas Spectacular, Engagement on Ice, First Skate, and VIP Skating packages. When you visit The Rink at Rockefeller Center, you are assured magical memories that you will cherish for years to come.

"It is a tremendous honor for Patina Restaurant Group to receive the Art & Business Partnership Award and we are proud of our contribution and commitment to the art and sport of figure skating," said Carol Olsen, Director of the Rink at Rockefeller Center. Among the ornate architectural display that marries themes of culture, history, entertainment, and art, The Rink at Rockefeller Center is a breathtaking landmark beloved by figure skaters and fans alike.

Throughout the season, all packages can be booked in advance and reservations can be made online at [therinkatrockcenter.com](http://therinkatrockcenter.com)



"It takes a Village"

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

Congratulations to all of tonight's honorees.

Thank you for believing in my daughter and Ice Theatre of New York!

Love, Margaret North



Photo: Darial Sneed



With deep gratitude to

Ice Angel

Mary Gaillard

*Ice  
Theatre  
of  
New York*

Board of Trustees

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HONOREES:  
EVAN LYSACEK • SASHA COHEN  
JOSH BABB • MARY GAILLARD & PATINA GROUP

THANK YOU MOIRA & JIRINA  
FOR THE ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK!



Our best Wishes Always,  
John, Amy, Matt, Sarah, Emily & Taylor Hughes  
Rebecca, Doug, Natalie, Alexandra & Charlotte Parker  
David, Lisa & Isla Hughes





CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL THE HONOREES  
AND ICE THEATRE  
OF NEW YORK

**MARILYN, JOE AND  
JOY KASPUTYS**

PHOTO: DARIAL SNEED



# CONGRATULATIONS JOSH BABB!

WE'RE PROUD TO BE THE SKYLINERS' HOME RINK IN CONNECTICUT.

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**AIANY**





"Many thanks to Josh Babb and the Skyliner Organization  
for inspiring our daughters to greatness and  
creating memories that will last a lifetime"



The Snow Family  
Dave, Lynette,  
Lauren & Ashley



Josh, I am so happy that ITNY is presenting you with the first ever Alumni Award.

You have taught and inspired generations of Skyliners to deepen and develop their individual skating and performance skills all the while... working as a team!

**“Bravo”**

— Moi





## Skyliners Synchronized Skating Team Congratulates Josh Babb and all the Honorees this Evening

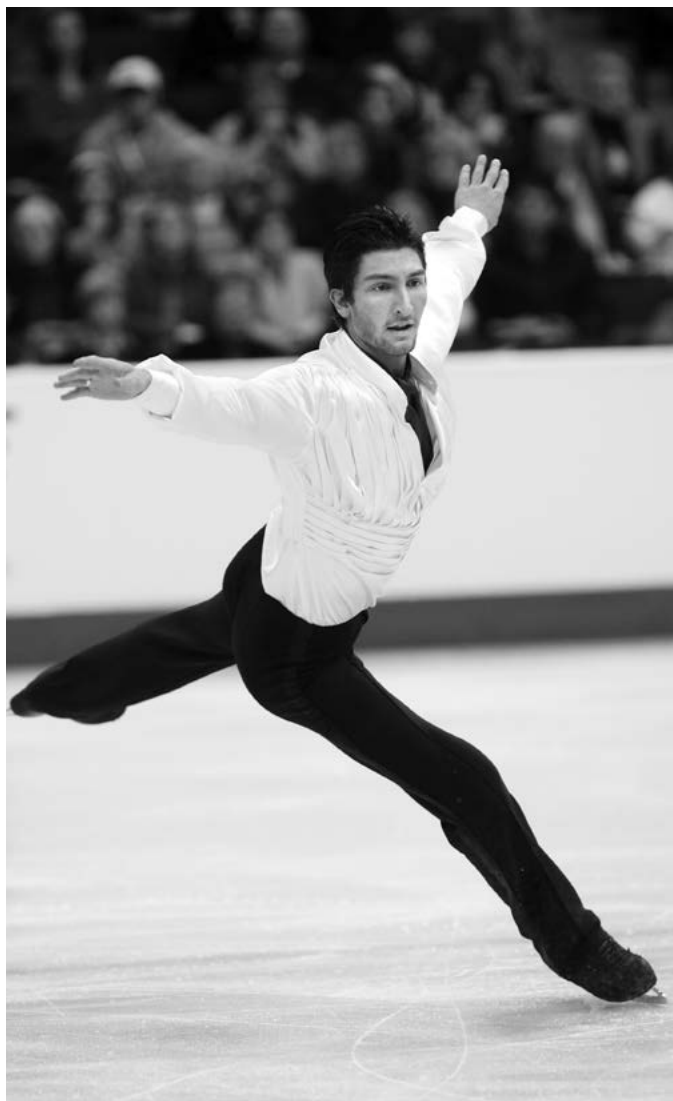
Congratulations Josh from Skyliners Synchronized Skating Team. Thank you for leading and inspiring us to reach for our highest goals both on the ice and throughout our lives.

Skyliners has grown to be one of the top synchronized skating clubs in the country, winning 6 National Championships, 16 Eastern Championships and placing 4th in the World in 2016. 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>:



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL HONOREES  
AND ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK



ANGELO J. SILVERI  
PRESIDENT & CEO



CONGRATULATIONS  
TO  
TONIGHT'S HONOREES



EVAN LYSACEK  
SASHA COHEN

JOSH BABB  
MARY GAILLARD

AND

PATINA RESTAURANT GROUP

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE ITNY  
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 LENA GOTTSCHALL  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHELLE HARVATH AND USFS



Thank you Josh,  
for choreographing this amazing program.  
I had so much fun working with both you and Jon.

I'm so happy you're being honored tonight,  
it's well deserved. Congratulations!

**Carlie Q**

Congratulations to Evan Lysacek and Sasha Cohen  
on this well-deserved recognition.

Best Wishes to Josh Babb and many thanks to  
Patina Restaurant Group and Ice Angel Mary Gaillard.

To Moira, Jirina, and everyone at ITNY!  
Thank you for all that you do to demonstrate  
beauty, grace, and precision on and off the ice.

Fondly,  
Clare Sheridan





Congratulations to  
Ice Theatre of New York  
and to Honoree Mary Gaillard!

Barbara & Bill Candee





CONGRATULATIONS JOSH BABB  
ON THE RECOGNITION OF YOUR CONTINUED  
SUPPORT FOR ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK  
AND YOUR DEDICATION TO SKYLINERS,  
YOUR SKATERS AND YOUR TREMENDOUS  
IMPACT ON THE SKATING WORLD.

**THE MENDIK FAMILY**



Sasha, you are a true ballerina on ice.  
Evan, you are a class act.  
You both inspire my skating.  
And congratulations to all of tonight's honorees  
**Richard Dwyer**

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**Congratulations to Our Coach  
Josh Babb**

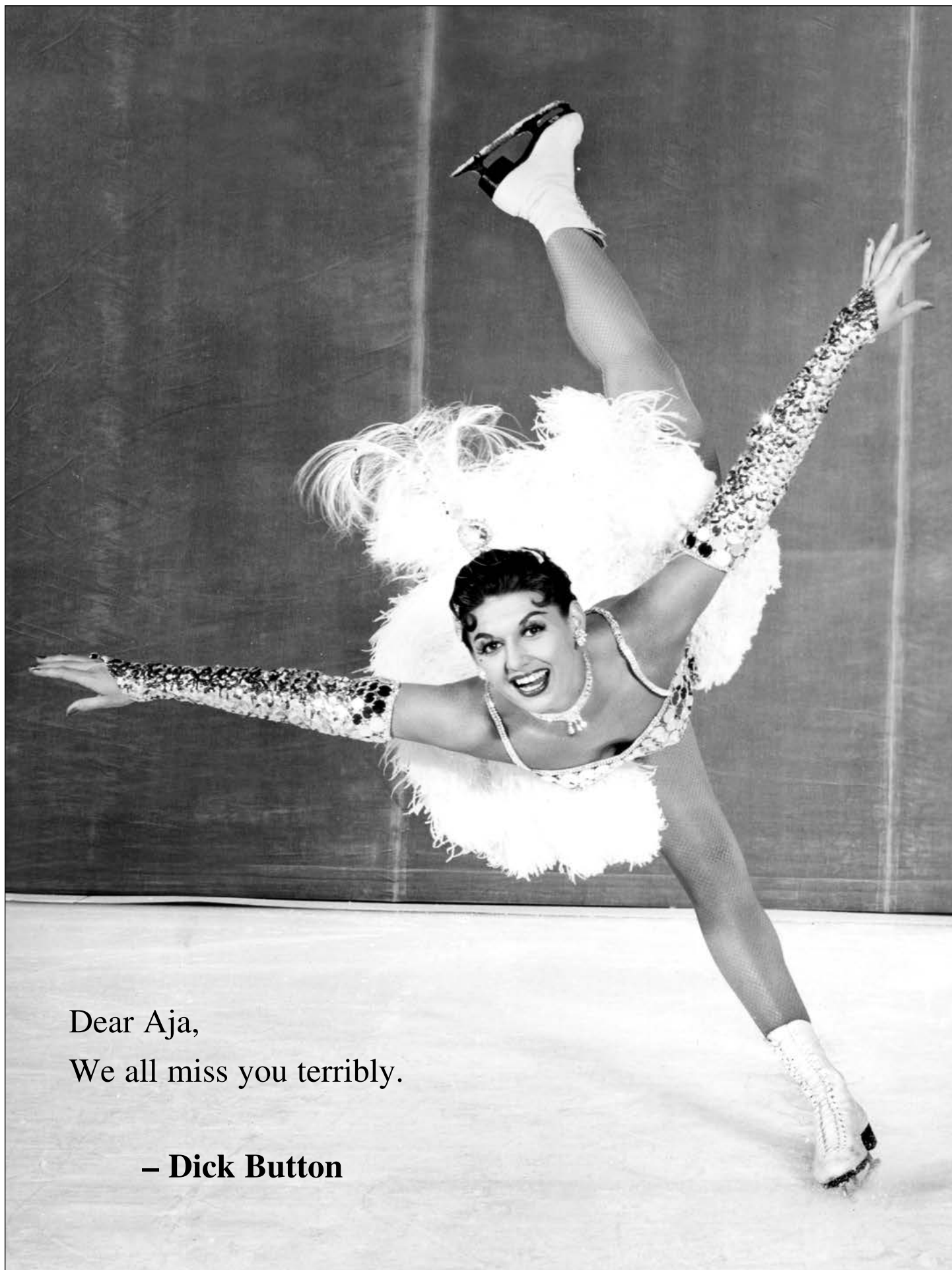
You inspire and bring out the best in us every season.  
We are excited to celebrate this special night with you!  
Love, Your Junior & Senior Teams



CONGRATULATIONS

*Congratulations  
Sasha & Evan*

**THE COLLINS FAMILY**  
**TOM, MICHAEL, MARK, AND MARTY**



Dear Aja,  
We all miss you terribly.

– Dick Button



# The Skating Club of New York

is proud to salute

## Ice Theatre of New York

and the 2016 Honorees

**Josh Babb**

**Sasha Cohen**

**Evan Lysacek**



*Josh Babb*

*This is another success, you win today  
and there are many milestones you  
made in your past, which speak of your  
hard work and talent.*

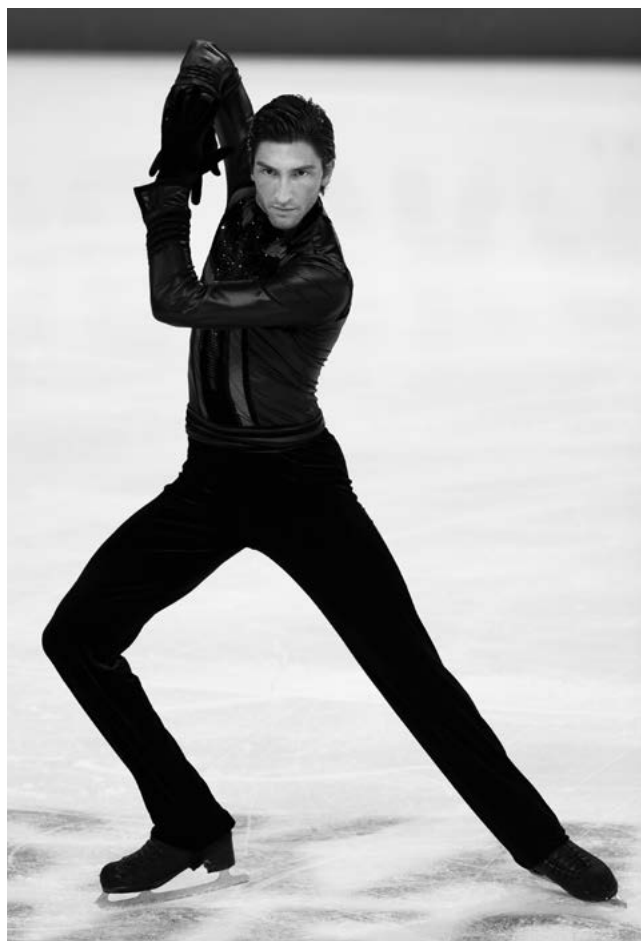
*Your never give up attitude is inspiring  
and we would like to wish you  
Congratulations.*



**CONGRATULATIONS  
JOSH BABB**

1998 Canadian Junior Ice Dance Champion  
and international competitor





Congratulations all honorees

**Evan Lysacek**

**Sasha Cohen**

**Josh Babb**

**Mary Gaillard**

**Patina Restaurant Group**

Susie Gharib and Fereydoun Nazem

ICE DANCING WITH THE STARS! BEST WISHES FROM OUR CLASS:  
JOJO'S COOL WORKOUT AT THE RINK AT ROCKEFELLER CENTER



**WISHING ITNY  
CONTINUED  
SUCCESS**

Rhea S. Schwartz  
&  
Paul Martin Wolff







CONGRATULATIONS TO ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK  
FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE ART OF FIGURE SKATING.



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Sponsor of five Non-Qualifying  
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**Congratulates**

**Josh Babb, Director**  
Skyliners Synchronized Skating Team

Recipient of the first ITNY Alumni Award

*The Sky is the Limit!*

*Congratulations*  
*Josh!*



Peter Eurich & Terri Levine

Congratulations  
Kenny Moir.

You have embodied the best  
of skating your whole life.

Love your proud Mum  
and sister Glenda.



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**From your friends at**





**Thank you Moira & ITNY for showing us the beauty, artistry and power of great performance!**

Sky Rink All Stars: Alison Beaufort-Collard, Jennie Berlin, Tiffany Liu, Catherine Mayer, Alida Monaco, Ryann Pierson, Gaby Schneider, Victoria Snyder, Emma Wender. Junior Team: Rebekah and Nicole Allegretti, Victoria Behrens, Samara Ginsburg, Nessie Krim, Carrie Rose and Defne Tuzer.

**TO JOIN CALL MARNI HALASA AT (917) 501-9444.**



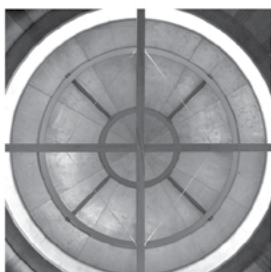
## **Congratulations Josh Babb**

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Photo: Jay Colton



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FOR ANOTHER INCREDIBLE YEAR OF DANCING ON ICE



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Ari Zakarian  
and N-Ice.inc  
salute tonight's  
honorees and  
Ice Theatre  
of New York

Photo: Julie Lance



CONGRATULATIONS JOSH!  
IF WE'RE TO JUDGE, YOU WILL ALWAYS BE A CUT ABOVE THE REST.

WITH LOVE AND CELEBRATION, YOUR SUPPORTING CAST

Elisa Angeli, Judy Blumberg, Brent Bommentre, Eve Chalom, Angela Chiang, Molly Church,  
Joel Dear, Line Haddad, Florentine Houdinière, Jonathan Hunt, Ale Izquierdo, Daphne Johnson,  
Kim Navarro, Nina Newby, Erin Reed, Doug Webster and Susan Wilsey

CONGRATULATIONS ITNY  
AND ALL TONIGHT'S HONOREES!

Stephen G. Epstein | Edward Z. Epstein



Congratulations  
Ice Theatre of New York  
and  
Josh Babb,  
Evan Lysacek  
& Sasha Cohen

Best Wishes for  
Another Great Season!

**Richard, Ellen  
and Lanie Halpern**

Congratulations to  
Evan Lysacek and Sasha Cohen

You are such an inspiration to our girls.  
We look forward to seeing you both at our  
CHAMPIONS IN LIFE Benefit Gala on  
05.02.16

From Sharon Cohen and the  
Figure Skating in Harlem Family



[www.figureskatinginharlem.org](http://www.figureskatinginharlem.org)







*would like to congratulate*  
***Ice Theatre of New York***  
*and all of this year's Honorees*

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

Charles A. Kerner CPA  
(212) 675-4030

# The Ice House congratulates Ice Theatre of New York



[www.icehousenj.com](http://www.icehousenj.com)

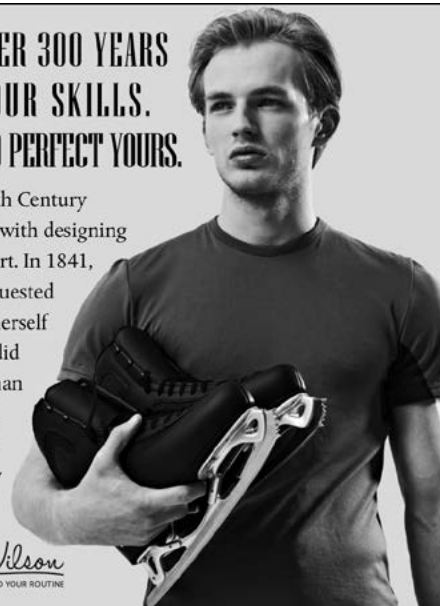
**Congratulations,  
Ice Angel,  
Mary Gaillard!**  
**Here's to another great  
Ice Theatre Season.**

With Love,  
Denise Beaumont

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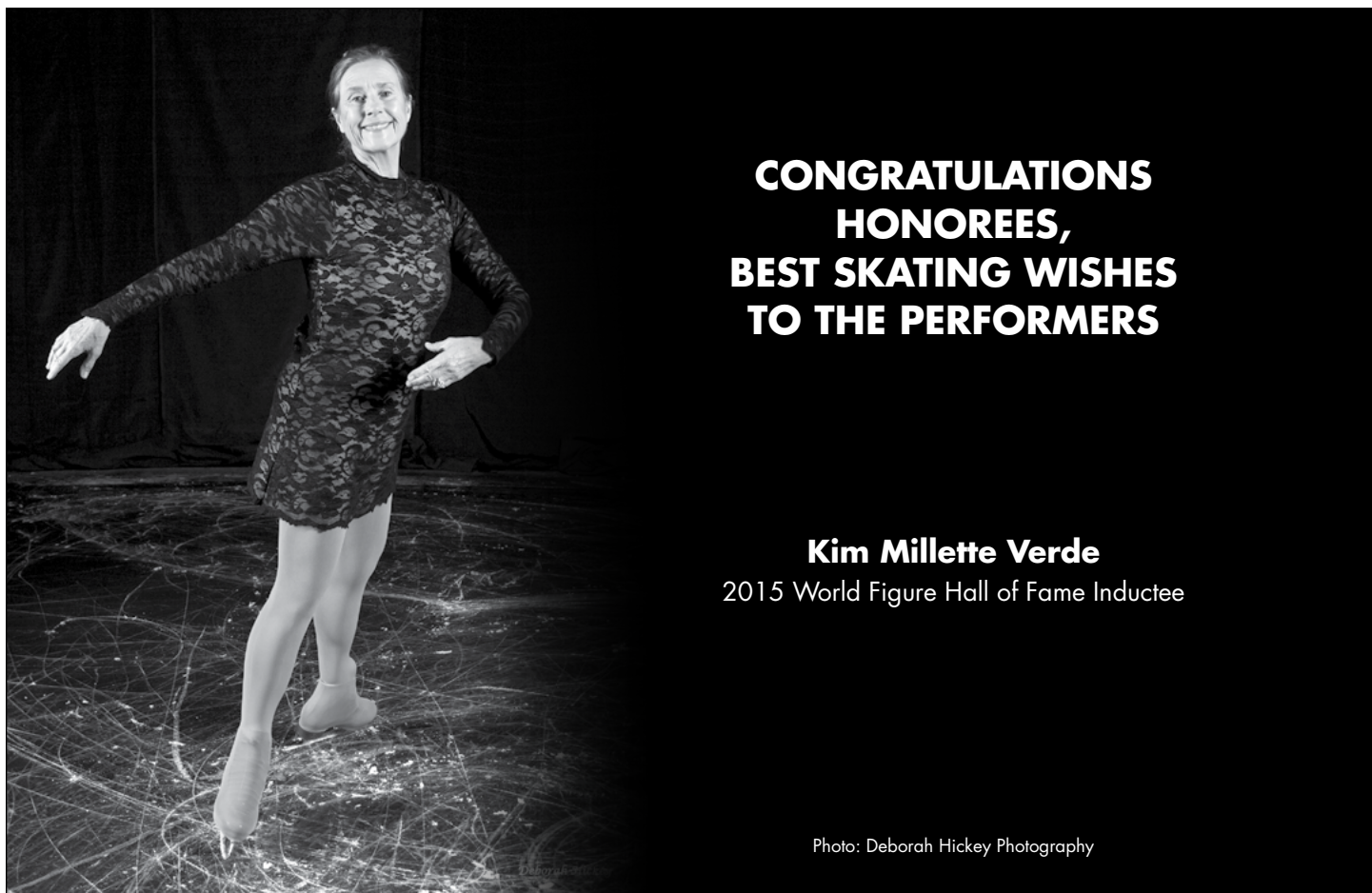
# World Figure Championship & Figure Festival December 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 Toronto, Canada



[WorldFigureChampionship.com](http://WorldFigureChampionship.com)

Photo: Deborah Hickey





**CONGRATULATIONS  
HONOREES,  
BEST SKATING WISHES  
TO THE PERFORMERS**

**Kim Millette Verde**

2015 World Figure Hall of Fame Inductee

Photo: Deborah Hickey Photography

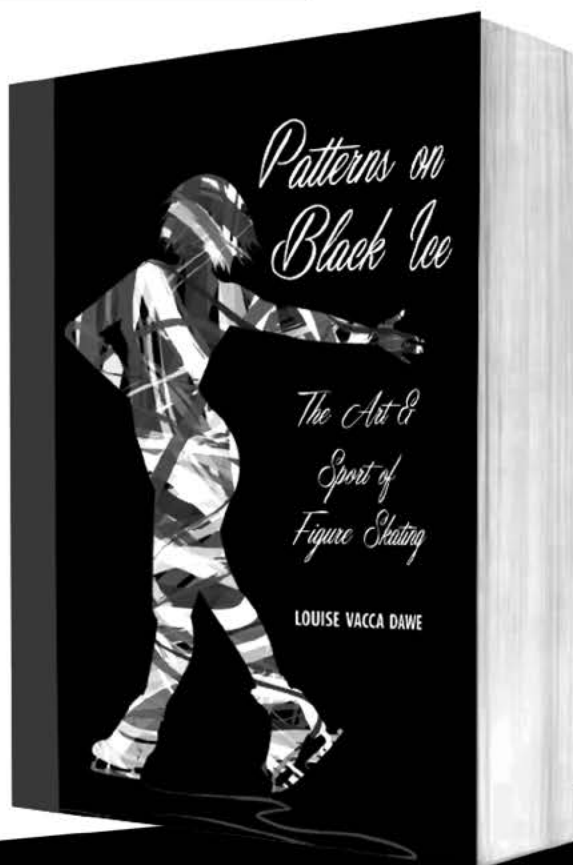
**CONGRATULATIONS,  
ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK!**

Helen & William Beekman



**COMING SOON!**

A new technical book which explains "Figures" and how they are evaluated. Learn edges like a pro from a Figure Skating Champion.



# *Patterns on Black Ice*

*The Art &  
Sport of  
Figure Skating*

**BE ON THE "CUTTING EDGE"  
OF FIGURE SKATING.**

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WORLD WILL WANT TO READ THIS BOOK.**

Author, **Louise Vacca Dawe** is a gold medalist in figures and free skating, 1967 U.S. Novice Ladies bronze medalist, 1969 U.S. Jr. Ladies Champion, Senior Ladies competitor and World University Games competitor. She holds a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University and a Bachelor of Education from The University of Toronto.

**AVAILABLE AT: 2016 World Figure  
Championship & Figure Festival**  
**[worldfiguresport.org](http://worldfiguresport.org)**  
**[worldfigurechampionship.com](http://worldfigurechampionship.com)**

In 2015 Lake Placid, New York, a new era began in the *art and sport of figure skating*. Compulsory Figures, now known as Fundamental Figures, were skated on black ice for all to see. This was the inauguration of the World Figure Championship with unbiased judging awarding skaters solely on their ice print.

The birth of skating Figure 8 patterns on ice pre-dates the modern Olympic movement. Since the 1990 competitive season, compulsory/school figures have not been a part of the International Skating Union's World Figure Skating Championships.

Many skaters who have achieved the highest levels in the sport believe that the elegant and challenging sport discipline of Figures deserves an important place within the art and sport of skating. Thus, World Figure Sport has now fulfilled this void by combining an historical sporting legacy with a modern World Figure Championship.

Now with this book, everyone can learn about Fundamental, Special, and Creative Figures.

CONGRATULATIONS  
EVAN AND SASHA!

And thank you to the  
Ice Theatre of New York  
for helping us all celebrate  
the joy of dancing on ice!

Lots of love,  
Elin Schran

CONGRATULATIONS  
HONOREES AND  
ICE THEATRE  
OF NEW YORK

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ICE THEATRE  
OF NEW YORK

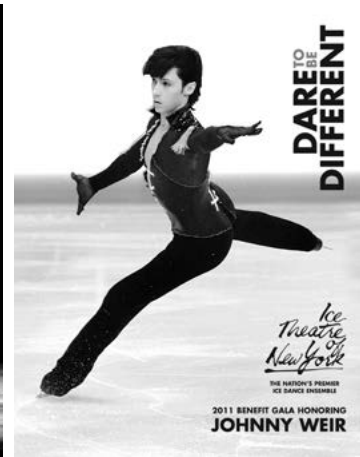
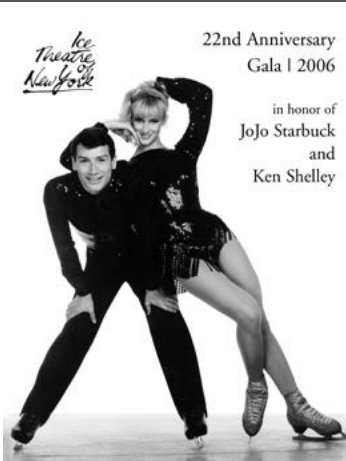
EVAN LYSACEK

SASHA COHEN

& JOSH BABB



# 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**



*Ice  
Theatre  
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New York*

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& Sonia Rodriguez  
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Clare Bowes Sheridan  
Nancy Streeter  
Rosalynn Sumners  
Robin Wagner  
Vera Wang  
Johnny Weir  
Paul Wylie  
Aja Zanova

## WILL SEARS AWARD

Carlie Quesada

## SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

to these individuals and others whom we might have missed



The Entire Sky Rink Staff including:  
Jim Bugenhagen, General Manager  
Jessica Huot, Exec. Dir. of Figure Skating  
Patricia Pierre, Special Events Manager  
Neil Walsh, Exec. Dir of Maint & Operations  
Hector Vega, Director of Maintenance  
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Scott H. Schwartz, Graphic Design  
US Figure Skating & World Skating Museum  
Lisa Bradshaw, Costume Attendant  
Edward Z. Epstein, ITNY Biographer

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## THANKS TO ALL OF OUR ICE THEATRE VOLUNTEERS

### TONIGHT'S PERFORMERS:

Elisa Angeli  
Brent Bommentre  
Wesley Campbell  
Angela Chiang  
Christian Erwin  
Eliot Halverson  
Jonathon Hunt  
Jessica Huot  
Kiira Korpi  
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Bridie Myles  
Kim Navarro  
Stephanie Spencer  
Tara Nicole Stamm  
Connor Wagar  
Rohene Ward  
Sally Jeanne Watkins  
Wendy Wilke

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And our generous private patrons



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# CONGRATULATIONS

*Ice  
Theatre  
of  
New York*

**WORLD ICE ARENA**  
FLUSHING MEADOWS CORONA PARK

cityice pavilion



## ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK'S PREMIER EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAM

- ★ Is in its 22nd year of programming
- ★ Is expanding to Brooklyn in collaboration with Brooklyn Ice
- ★ Annually serves 3,000 public school children grades K through 8
- ★ Offers the students a free skating show
- ★ Provides the students with free skating instruction
- ★ Teaches the students life skills such as falling and getting back up... a life lesson
- ★ Teaches the students a healthy, physical and potential life-long activity that can be done outdoors on seasonal ice rinks all around the City
- ★ The children receive free hot chocolate from Starbucks Coffee Company/Community Store
- ★ The students receive free tickets to Ice Theatre performances
- ★ The program is supported in part by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Council Member Mark Levine

*Ice  
Theatre  
of  
New York*

CELEBRATING THE JOY  
OF DANCING ON ICE

**We could not do this  
without your support.**

\$20 pays for one student,  
\$500 sponsors the  
participation of a class.

**Thank you!**

**CONGRATULATIONS  
EVAN!**

**VERAWANG**