















# Theatre 20TH ANNIVERSARY

The company, Past and Present















# MOIRA



by EDWARD Z. EPSTEIN

"Do it," she told herself. "Do it." She'd arrived at the decision after much soulsearching and angst. She was standing on the Pont Royal, in Paris, one of the dozens of bridges spanning the Seine. The little steamboats, bateaux mouches, passed below. The myriad of stars that had given life to the black sky vanished. Moira hesitated a moment longer, then took her skates and tossed them into the murky waters. It was a gesture of frustration and desperation, for she'd reached a turning point. From that moment, she focused on bringing to life a concept, an idea that had taken root in her mind.

Moira's curiosity about life and her sense of adventure had propelled her on a fascinating journey during the turbulent nineteen-seventies. A graduate of the University of British Columbia, with an honors degree in English Lit and Theater, she also studied at the University of Strasbourg, France.

But her passion was figure skating — she was a Canadian Ice Dance Gold Medalist. She launched a career as a company member of "Holiday on Ice" and "Ice Follies," touring the world. "It was a world unto itself, exciting and unpredictable, the relationships, the rivalries, the friendships an education on all levels. But I knew, at a certain point, that it definitely wasn't what I wanted to do with my skating for the rest of my life. Participating in 'commercial entertainment' was not my raison d'etre. In those days, there were absolutely no other choices — there wasn't anything else to do with one's skating! You either competed as an athlete, aiming for a National or World or Olympic title, then turned professional and toured with a show. None of it set my imagination on fire, and I knew I'd have to pursue other options. Not in a million years did I imagine that I'd come up with an alternate venue. And it didn't exactly happen overnight!"

In fact, it didn't happen until 1984. That was the year, coincidentally, that she competed in, and won, with partner Patrick Dean, the Free Dance Competition in the 1984 World Professional Championships in Jaca, Spain. (Marc Bogaerts choreographed the program.) But the watershed event in her life that year was the creation of Ice Theatre of New York.

I was there — and there was absolutely no fanfare, no publicity, no frills. Moira and the founding members of the Company toiled away in the wee hours in the freezing cold Sky Rink on West 33rd Street in Manhattan. Ice time at a respectable hour was not affordable, and everyone was holding down day jobs. But the dedication, excitement and sense of purpose were palpable.

What is Moira really like? Quite simply, she's a woman with Star Quality. She'd be the last to subscribe to such a notion, being an ardent believer in the motto, "Credit

you give yourself isn't worth having."

But a star she is. It begins with her appearance — the sleek jet hair, the penetrating, mesmerizing hazel-green eyes, the high cheekbones, the musical voice. But those are merely physical assets — she's not a phony, she's fun and her sensitivity to one's feelings and thoughts is consistently on target.

People she believes in can attest to the intensity and sincerity of her enthusiasm, intelligence and energy. She's nobody's fool, however, and doesn't suffer fools gladly. Woe to the individual who underes-

timates her.

She's a connoisseur of talent, possessing an innate sense of how to nurture and deal with it. "It ain't easy," as humorist/author/critic/actor Robert Benchley once observed, having done battle with the best.

Moira manages it all with style and a sense of humor, including a rewarding personal life (husband Jay Colton is a noted photo journalist, and they have a son, Christopher). One assumes that Moira has maintained her sense of humor over the years, at least in part, in self-defense.

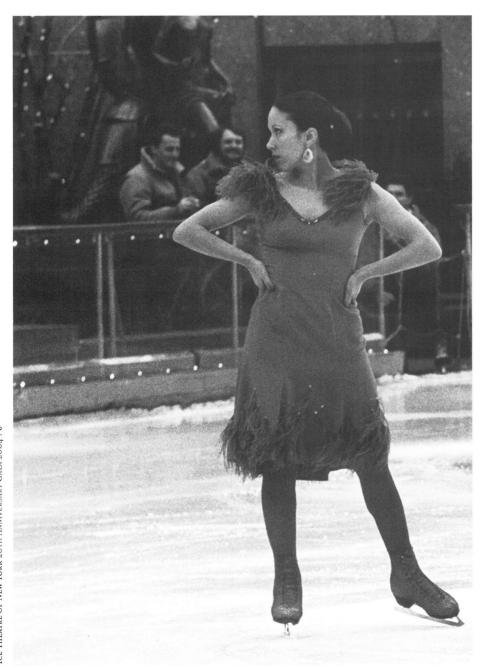
Charting new territory in any field is a

daunting challenge. Back in 1984, when Moira first asked me to contribute articles to Ice Theater's "Cutting Edge," I'd finally found an opportunity to write about a "forgotten" genius of the ice world, Belita. Interviewing legendary dancer/choreographer/actress Gwen Verdon about the skater (the women were contemporaries), Verdon made an observation that applied one-hundred-percent to Moira North: "It takes courage, guts and tunnel vision to be a pioneer in any field."

Moira has succeeded in establishing Ice Theatre of New York as a vital voice in the development of figure skating as a performing art. Last year, International Figure Skating Magazine named her one of the 25 most influential people in figure skating.

2004 is a milestone year for Ice Theatre, marking its 20th year in existence. It's been a long time since that evening in the seventies when Moira dropped her skates in the Seine (ever the optimist, she tried later to retrieve them!). Her journey continues, perhaps best summed up by the title of a classic popular song: "The best is yet to come..."

Edward Z. Epstein is author of twenty books, including "BORN TO SKATE: The Michelle Kwan Story" (Ballantine). He has appeared on the A&E Biography television series and the "E" channel on numerous occasions. His book subjects include Mia Farrow, Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, Lucille Ball and Jennifer Jones. A dedicated figure skater and former Middle-Atlantic States Novice champion, his articles on figure skating have appeared in "Scandinavian Review" and New York's "Sunday News" magazine. He helped organize a festival of Sonja Henie's films for New York's Museum of Modern Art, and wrote the official museum notes for the series. He's worked with, and written articles on the lives of, among others, Natalie Wood and Ava Gardner. His play based on the life of Gardner has been optioned by producer David Brown. Mr. Epstein is a graduate of New York University.



ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK 20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA 2004 | 6

#### MOI MOI

Everything I have, I have because of you
All that I cherish and I know is true
My life is better since we have been together
And the world sweeter even the rain feels fresh and new.

In twenty years of art and ice
So much has passed I wonder if it will suffice;
your hopes, your fears, your sacrifice.
Look inside our hearts, you will find
Courageous friends of singular mind
With faith in the beauty of your enterprise

Every day passes swiftly by
You have touched us all with your kindness
You have taught us all to fly
As we dream together of a better tomorrow
We thank you for all the ways
you found to keep our spirits high

With all our love your devoted husband Jay your adoring son Chris

#### The Little Company That Could

Ice Theatre of New York is celebrating its 20th Anniversary! Twenty years of dreams, determination, and ingenuity, and Ice Theatre has indeed proven itself to be "the little company that could." Fueled by the passion and tenacity of its founder, Moira North, and the numerous skaters who supplied their love and talents, Ice Theatre of New York has become the country's premier artistic dance-on-ice troupe.

It was 1984 when Moira North, Canadian Gold Dance Medalist and World Professional Free-Dance Champion, decided to leave the commercial world of professional figure skating to start something brand new - a company devoted to creating purely artistic figure skating that would combine figure skating with dance (both classical and contemporary). Moira gathered a group of kindred skaters, dedicated to the pursuit of developing figure skating as an art form, and the company was founded. Company incorporation, board meetings and off-ice training followed and took place at Ms. North's own fifth-floor walk-up loft space. Ice

Theatre was on track

toward excellence!

The little company short on money but big on dreams, replete with the dedication of its members, started rehearsing at midnight (when the ice was free of charge) at the old Sky Rink at West 33rd Street and 10th Avenue. Ice Theatre's first production in 1985 attracted 300 spectators - who were asked to bring their own chairs. One evening, during a performance, the Zamboni broke down in the middle of the ice. Undaunted and just like the little red engine that thought he could, the skaters pushed the massive machine off the rink themselves and the show went on. And on... for 20 years, and is still going strong.

Ice Theatre of New York received the first grants ever given to a dance-on-ice company from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts.

Ice Theatre moved to the Chelsea Piers complex when it first opened in 1995. Ever since, Ice Theatre has gathered steam and added flare to Sky Rink's figure skating events with new artistic works on ice by such choreographers as Jacqulyn Buglisi, Ann Carlson, David Dorfman, Lar Lubavitch, Donlin Foreman, Elisa

Monte, and the late Carlos Orta. Joining Ice Theatre as guest artists at Sky Rink in the past include Olympic Gold medalist Oksana Baiul, two-time Olympic Bronze medalist Lu Chen and "Queen of Spin" Lucinda Ruh. Last year, Ice Theatre held its autumn fundraising gala at Sky Rink and The Lighthouse, honoring designer Vera Wang, who was a competitive figure skater herself. This year the Company will honor Moira and the Company, past and present, at Sky Rink and The Lighthouse on October 13th.

This performance season, Ice Theatre will present a new work by dance choreog-

rapher David Parsons, who choreographed for the Times Square 2000 millennium celebration, among other projects, and heads his own nationally known dance company. Ice Theatre will also present "The Lottery," a second Ice Theatre commission by dance choreographer Heather Harrington (Harrington was recently commissioned by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council to

choreograph a site-specific work on Wall Street). Other pieces that will be shown include "Cracked Ice," an ensemble piece created by ballerina/skater Katherine Healy, and a new ensemble work by Olympian David Liu. Throughout its performance season, Ice Theatre will also reset some previously performed pieces, to reflect Ice Theatre's inherent diversity. These works will be presented at the Winter Festival at Sky Rink December 27-30th, and are co-presented this year by Chelsea Piers.

Ice Theatre will continue this year with its signature outreach program, New Works and Young Artists

Series at Riverbank State Park, and will return for its 19th Season of the Rockefeller Concert Series, performed at the Rink at Rockefeller Plaza. Ice Theatre certainly has made tracks toward to creating this new genre of performing arts.

Today, Ice Theatre looks forward to what's ahead: Winter Festivals in Canada and abroad, performances on the proscenium stage; a whole new world awaits. And, because of Moira's and the ensemble members' vision and tenacity, there are Ice Theatres popping up across the U.S. and in Canada. The little company that could certainly did!



#### THE COMPANY

THE ENSEMBLE:
ANGELA CHIANG
TYRRELL GENE
LINE HADDAD
KATHERINE HEALY
FLORENTINE HOUDINIERE
DAPHNE JOHNSON
NATALIA KANNOUNIKOVA
KATE LIBERMAN
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TO THESE INDIVIDUALS AND OTHERS WHOM WE MIGHT HAVE MISSED

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Emanuele Ancorini	Tim Fujioka
Joshua Babb	Mathew Gates
Darlin Baker	Tyrrell Gene
GARY BEACOM	Marina
Lisa Bell	Golovenkova
Judy Blumberg	David Goodman
Eve Chalom	DJ GRAY
Jennifer Chant	Dmitri Gromov
Angela Chiang	Amy Grossman
LISA CLINTON	GIA GUDDAT
Jamie Coffey	Line Haddad
PATRICK DEAN	Stefanie Hawkins
Patricia Dodd	Amy Jaramillo

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OKSANA BAIUL
GARY BEACOM
JUDY BLUMBERG
& MICHAEL SEIBERT
SEBASTIEN BRITTEN
LU CHEN
TOLLER CRANSTON
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Elena Leonova
& Andrei Khvalko
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Jean-Pierre Martin
& Chris Nolan
Vakhtang Murvanidze
Lucinda Ruh
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Yuka Sato & Jason Dungjen JoJo Starbuck & Ken Shelley Elisavetra Stekolnikova & Dmitri Kazarlyga

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PATRICK DEAN

BRIAN GRANT

CLARIN SCHWARTZ

WILLIAM SEARS

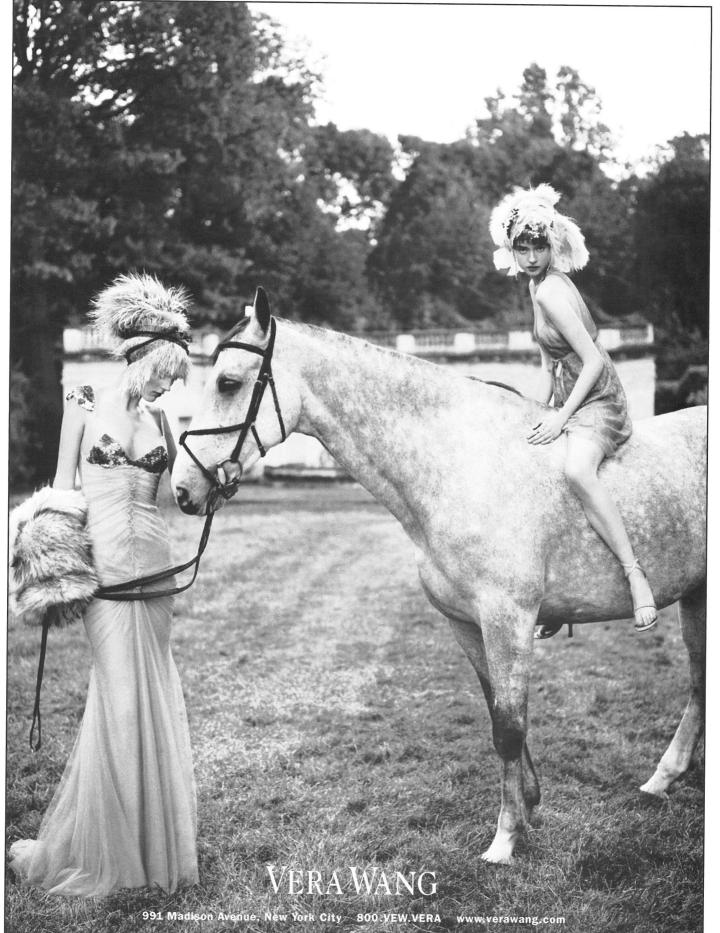
WILLIAM WOEHRLE

JOEL STERN

Adele Hall Sweet

Doug Wilson

DEBRA LEWIN WEINER



# Congratulations, Moira and Ice Theatre, for 20 years of inspiration to anyone who has ever put on a pair of skates.

#### CAROLINE AND PETER MOORE

Dear Moira,

We cheer you on from Vancouver.

Susan Mendelson & Jack Lutsky

#### **Bravo Moira!**

Your dream has come true and the Ice Theatre is a joy to the skating world.

From all The Streeters

# Forbes salutes The Ice Theatre of New York

Congratulations on your organization's achievement and for continuing to "Never Settle" in the community

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John, Amy, Rebecca, Doug, David, Matthew, Sarah, Emily, Taylor

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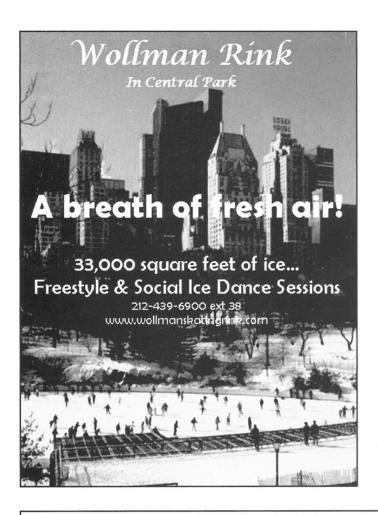
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To Moira North and the Company, Past and Present

Thank you for 20 years of tireless energy and devotion to figure skating

We admire your dedication and vision!

Barbara & Bill Candee



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CONGRATULATES

Ice Theatre of New York

AND MOIRA NORTH



# Thank you MOIRA for making our skating dreams come true!

Affectionately, the ITNY Adult Performance Club (your Divas), including, but not limited to:

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Marilyn Meyerson
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Linda Richmond
Paul Schwartz
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Terry Stoeckl

**Best Wishes** 

to

Joyce Mola

and

All the Volunteers

Who Make Ice Theatre So Special

Vivian and Stanley Bernstein

Cecily, Marc and Marjorie,
It was a pleasure to be with you
from the start, and
Moi,
Thanks for an incredible 20-year ride!





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Congratulations to Moira, the Company and the Ice Theatre staff.

You have enriched my life!

Myrna Beth Hurwitz

### Congratulations to Ice Theatre!

From Susan Kittenplan,

Beth Harder

and our gang

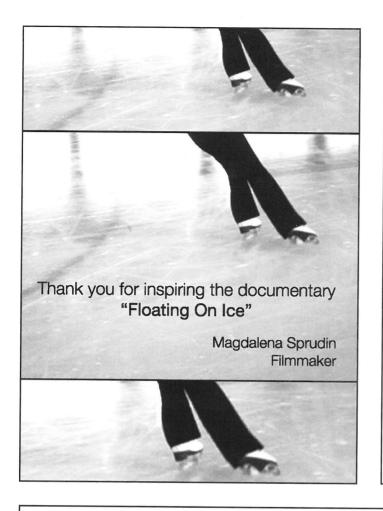
at the Old Sky Rink.



Thank you to Patrick Dean, all of the skaters, choreographers, and board members who helped my "Peter Pan" fulfill her vision of creating an environment for the expression of dance on ice... Ice Theatre of New York!

(Now she can go back to Law School!)

Margaret North



Congratulations to
Moira North and
Ice Theatre of New York
for 20 years of artistry,
innovation and beauty.

James Schilling

# HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY And best wishes for 20 more!

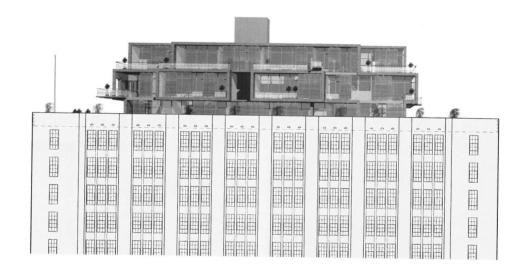
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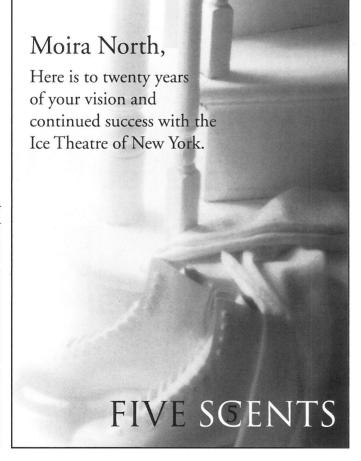
and

Ice Theatre of New York

on their twentieth anniversary!

The Skating Club of New York





#### CONGRATULATIONS MOIRA

FROM YOUR
NEILY/NORTH FAMILY

CANADA IS PROUD OF YOU

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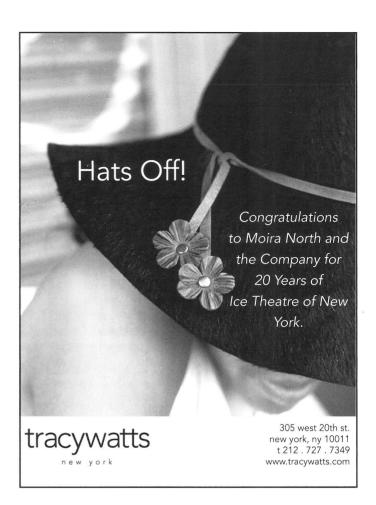
Chelsea Piers Management

Congratulations to
Ice Theatre on your
20th anniversary —
and still skating strong!

Thank You,

Denise Beaumont

Proud to have been there from the start.



## Congratulations to Moira and Ice Theatre



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### Congratulations, Moira!

From
The Geduld Family

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#### Cheers, Moira!

Thank you for 20 years promoting the joy of figure skating.

**Love, The Pierre Family** 

# Congratulations to Moira North and Ice Theatre of New York



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Congratulations Moira!

It was good to be with you from the beginning.

Violet Eagan

Sorry we couldn't join you. Love to you and your family.

Sam & Peter Vancouver, CA

# 20th Congratulations To

Moira North &

Ice Theatre of New York

Angela Chiang Eri Chiang

#### Erwin and Pearl Staller

Salute
Moira North
and
Ice Theatre of New York

Congratulations
to
Moira North
&
The Ice Theatre
of
New York
on your first twenty years

We share your vision.
The Gordons

#### Congratulation to

#### **MOIRA NORTH**

&

#### ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK

for their inspiring contributions to the artistry of figure skating.

With best wishes for continued success,

Forest Laboratories, Inc.

Dear Moira,

Your dream of this company has enabled the dreams of so many to soar.

Thank you for making my dreams become reality.

I am forever grateful.

I wish you rest, relaxation, and peace on this evening in your honor.

There is no one who deserves it more.

Cheers, Douglas Webster Congratulations Ice Theatre to 20 years of creativity. I am glad to have been part of its beginnings.

With love, Nina Newby

Congratulations on following your dreams and making them come true with such grace and style.

Barbara Benedetti

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#### We celebrate Moira:

Her vision, her wisdom, her elegance!

# Congratulations to Moira and the Company

Rhea Schwartz & Paul Wolff



# Happy 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Moira and Ice Theatre of New York

Looking forward to 20 more years of artistry on the ice

Congratulations!

Susie Gharib

# Good Luck for another beautiful season.

Susan & Bill Pereira

To Moira,

From creatively envisioning Ice Theatre of New York 20 years ago to steadfastly facilitating its growth, your passion, discipline and advocacy have been key ingredients. they also nurture our work on the Ice Theatre Board.

Congratulations!

Joan B. Erdheim

Ice Theatre of New York

thanks

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### Moira and Ice Theater of New York

Thank you for elevating the sport of figure skating into an inspiring, magical art.

Congratulations on 20 innovative years!

Annie Goodman



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#### Moira dear,

Here's to more than a
20 year friendship.
You're the greatest and
so is the IceTheatre!

Love, Ruby and Priscilla Andrade Here's to the next 20 season!

Congratulations, Moi

Betsy and Doug Wilson

To Moira and All My Friends At Ice Theatre,

#### THANK YOU!

WITH LOVE, ROBIN WAGNER

# We salute the 20th Anniversary of Ice Theatre of New York and the extraordinary vision and dedication of Moira North.





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One if by Land, Two if by Sea 17 Barrow Street NY, NY 10014 212-228-0822 Moira and Ice Theatre of New York,

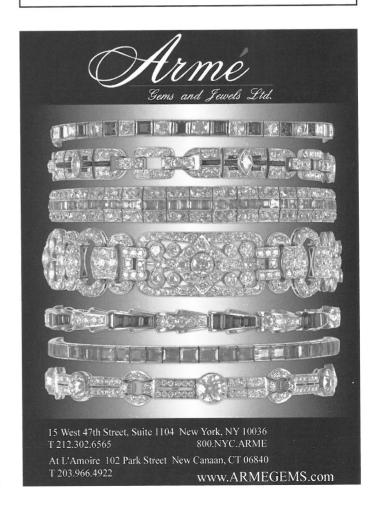
Thank you for all the pleasure you've given all of us.

Kathy Feuerstein

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

to **Moira North** and **Ice Theatre of New York** 

Dr. Yohannes Syoum, DDS 57 West 57th Street #705 New York, NY 10019 212.832.6447



# PLIMPTON DEBEVOISE $\Sigma$ is proud to support the Ice Theatre of New York and congratulates Moira North and the Company on 20 years of success New York Washington, D.C. London Paris Frankfurt am Main Moscow Hong Kong Shanghai www.debevoise.com

Ice Theatre of New York
is a living tribute to Moira —
her courage, character
and creativity.

Love, Adele and Bob



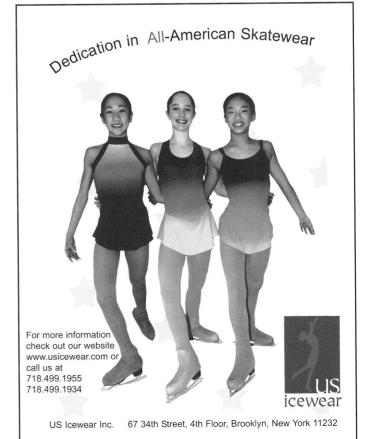
Congratulations
MOIRA NORTH
and Ice Theatre of New York!

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ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK 20TH ANNIVERSARY GALA 2004 | 44

# THANKS TO MOIRA FOR TWENTY YEARS OF ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK

Marilyn, Joe and Joy Kasputys

### Masterful

Integrity

Original

and passion

Intuitive

last a lifetime.

Remarkable

#### Artist

Congratulations and Thank you,
for 20 memorable years of
excellence in skating.

Jude and the entire
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Twenty years! Wow!

Congratulations Ice
Theatre... and Moira.

We're not getting older, we're getting BETTER:)

Keith C. Champagne



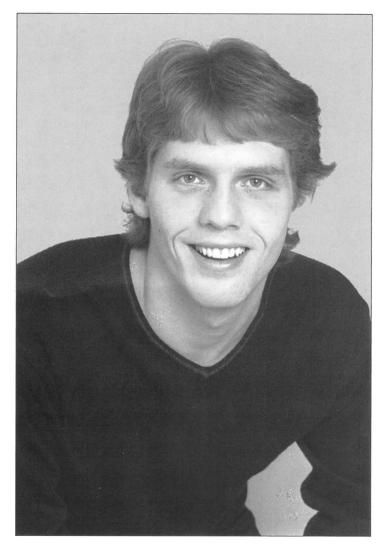


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> Congratulations Moira!!!! Love, Gia & Scott

# Will's Fund Salutes Ice Theatre & Moira North



Will Sears
2002 National Junior Pairs Champion
Ice Theatre Guest Performer

Please help us keep Will's memory alive and help young figure skaters throughout the United States achieve their dreams.

Please send donations to The Will Sears Memorial Fund c/o The Skating Club of New York, Chelsea Piers, Pier 62, Room 207, New York, NY 10011

The Skating Club of New York is a 501-C3 corporation and all contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

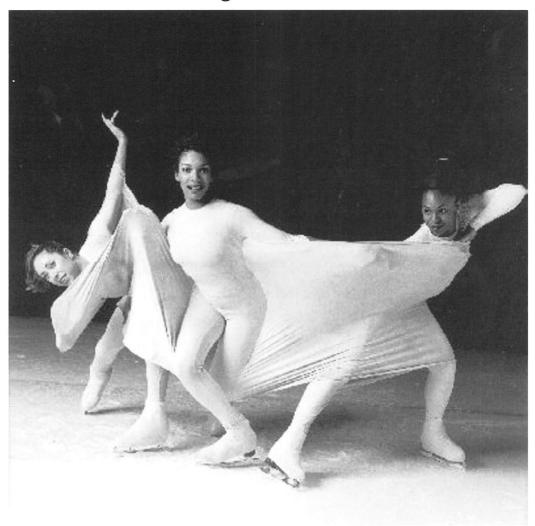
# CONGRATULATIONS, ADMIRATION AND AFFECTION TO

# Moira North

AND TO ALL OF THOSE WHO
JOINED WITH HER IN CREATING
THE ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK

PALMER BAKER

# CL&M applauds ITNY on achieving double decades . . .



Here's to ten years from today, When you land your triple!



#### Counselors at Law

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# Congratulations!

Moira and the Ice Theatre of New York

On 20 exciting years of superb and thrilling skating.

It's like being at the Ballet!

I wish you continued success.

Ruth Legon



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Monday, December 27. 2004 at 7 PM
Tuesday, December 28, 2004 at 7 PM
Wednesday, December 29, 2004 at 3 PM and 7 PM
Thursday, December 30, 2004 at 3 PM
Sky Rink, Chelsea Piers



For more information, please call (212) 929-5811 www.icetheatre.org

## "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams"

Eleanor Roosevelt

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEARS' HONOREE

### Moira North

THANK YOU FOR YOUR 20 YEARS
OF INSPIRATION AND DEDICATION TO THE

### ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK



Angelo J. Silveri

President & C.E.O.