



















THE CITY OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE MAYOR NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

October 29, 2007

Dear Friends:

Welcome to a performance and benefit gala in honor of Sarah Kawahara, hosted by the Ice Theatre of New York.

It is a pleasure to join my voice with all those praising this innovative and skilled choreographer. As home to the Yankees, the U.S. Open, and a world-famous marathon, our City is the sports capital of the world – so we are especially appreciative of Kawahara's work to create incredible programs for Michelle Kwan, Dorothy Mill, Scott Hamilton, and others. We are a truly international metropolis, where 170 languages are spoken – so we were in a unique position to enjoy the 2002 Olympic Ceremonies, which she choreographed. Finally, we are home to a bustling film and television industry – so we loved her work on the Will Ferrell comedy *Blades of Glory*.

Since its establishment in 1984, the Ice Theatre of New York has combined the best of ice skating, dance, and theater to create cutting-edge performances – such as the one you'll all enjoy tonight – that represent the very best New York's creative community has to offer. This event is a great opportunity to recognize Ms. Kawahara, outgoing board member Peter Eurich, and all those who have contributed to the theater's success, while also raising the funds that will ensure even greater achievements on the horizon. On behalf of the City of New York, please accept my best wishes for a wonderful evening.

Sincerely,

Mihay R Bloombury

Michael R. Bloomberg Mayor



Theats





Ice Theatre of New York is an extraordinary organization, which has, for more than 20 years, changed the face of figure skating, by integrating the sensibilities of the contemporary dance, music and art worlds into performance skating.

Founded in 1984 by Moira North, Ice Theatre of New York is the nation's first not-for-profit ice dancing ensemble to be awarded grants as a dance company by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

In addition to pioneering skating as a performing art, Ice Theatre has also developed diverse performance programs to develop ensemble skaters and educational outreach programs to teach the basics of skating and develop new audiences for dancing on ice.

Outreach programs include the Lunchtime Concert Series at Rockefeller Plaza, and after-work Ice Concerts at Bryant Park, both free to the public: New Works and Young Artists Series at Riverbank State Park, dedicated to presenting present new works and providing free skating clinics for public school students from Harlem and Washington Heights.

Institutions like [Ice Theatre] are responsible for giving New York City the unparalleled artistic and cultural spirit that has made it the envy of the world. **Vartan Gregorian**, President of The Carnegie Corporation of New York, June 2007

⁶ Moira North has succeeded in establishing ice dance as a serious art form, in part by attracting grants to support leading modern dance choreographers...
 Some pieces seem like they would be perfectly at home, at say, Jacob's Pillow. ⁹
 — Jenny Hansell, from "Learning How to Dance on Ice. A New Art" in Millerton News, April 2007

Jacqulyn Buglisi, of Buglisi Dance, calls skating 'another art in the world of movement.'
 'I thought it was very interesting to try to bring my knowledge of movement through the Graham technique (to the ice).
 It was an investigation of the creative process.' **

 Lois Elfman, from "Fluid Movement" in Dance International Magazine, Winter 2006

Cover Photos: Alice Berman, Skater's Edge

We Salute Ice Theatre of New York and Sarah Kawahara



Best Wishes for Another Great Season!

Susie Gharib and Fereydoun Nazem Alexi and Taraneh



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SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

to these individuals and others whom we might have missed

Make up for Ice Theatre of New York provided by MAC Cosmetics



Special photography of Sarah Kawahara: Alice Berman/Skater's Edge

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The Art of Sarah Kawahara

- by EDWARD Z. EPSTEIN

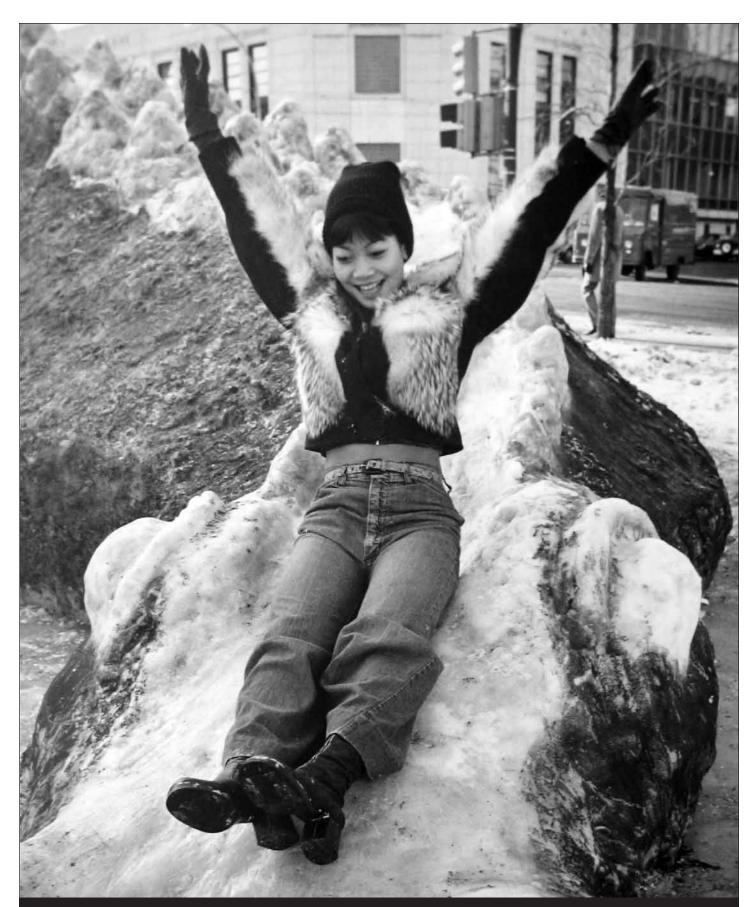
What do Peggy Fleming, Michelle Kwan, JoJo Starbuck, Dorothy Hamill, John Curry, Scott Hamilton, Pang and Tong, the 2002 Olympics, and Will Ferrell — *Will Ferrell*? — have in common? The one and only Sarah Kawahara, who has worked her magic for all of them.

Whether it's creating choreography for an individual or an ensemble, shooting a film or conceiving a concept, Kawahara has never followed the well-traveled road. "She always finds a new way to do things," observes her friend JoJo Starbuck, and it is exciting to watch Sarah work — her energy level is so intense, her movements so interesting, you can't take your eyes off her. All accounts confirm that from the beginning she's had that "something extra" that not only defines the tasks she undertakes but inspires those she works with to achieve their full potential.

Off the ice, Sarah's ingratiating smile, direct gaze, firm handshake and feminine demeanor bely the fact that she's a dynamo, a thoughtful woman who means business and whose persona is perhaps best described by two words: positive energy.

"My career has been so diverse, I've never been 'saddled' with it, never been 'typecast,' so to speak. For the most part, I've been happy with the finished product. I always strive for perfection, while realizing it's not available." A sense of humor has proven an asset in a profession that requires virtually superhuman focus, dedication and attention to detail. She grew up in Montreal; played piano, violin, and dreamed of becoming a ballerina. "Alvin Ailey's work had a big influence on me. I was encouraged to enjoy all the arts — theater, opera, movies. Gene Kelly in 'American in Paris,' and his 'Slaughter on Tenth Avenue' ballet in 'On the Town.' Fred Astaire's work, Cyd Charisse's."

When the family moved to Toronto, "we passed an outdoor ice rink and I wanted to skate. It turned out I was good at it, I loved to jump." The youngster's passion and enthusiasm did not go un-noticed. She trained at the Cricket Club, where her artistic potential was recognized and nurtured by coach Osborne Colson ("Mr. C"). "He was a great source of inspiration and



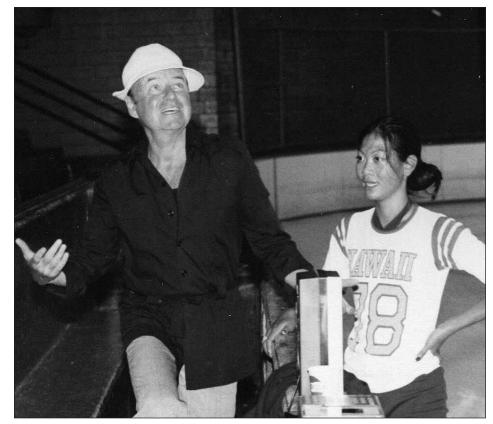
THANK YOU FOR THE JOY AND LOVE YOU BRING TO US EVERYDAY. JAMIE, ALYSSE, HAYLEY, THATCHER and HENRY the dog. strength," notes Sarah. "He was Sarah's mentor, he unlocked a whole new artistic world for her," notes JoJo Starbuck.

Toller Cranston observed with interest the young Kawahara of these years. With his usual flair, he has described her as "another of the golden guppies spawned by the Cricket Club, an artistic skater with an exceptional brain."

Sarah eventually faced a life-altering decision: "The time came when I had to make a choice: ballet or skating." Although an excellent dancer, she felt she was a better skater, followed her instincts and opted for skating

In the early nineteen-seventies, she joined the famed Ice Capades as a principal skater. She performed a memorable solo in the elaborate opening production number, and those on the scene recall that she was "realy something." "I got to express myself in Ice Capades," recalls Sarah, remembering how choreographer Bob Turk "encouraged and guided me."

JoJoStarbuck and her partner, Ken Shelley, former 3-time U.S. National Pairs



Sarah with renowned coach and mentor Osborne Colson.



DANGARR!



"The Story of Tsing-Tsu" Ice Capades 1975-1976 East Coast Tour

"You will always be my Tsing-Tsu!" Love, Ken

champions [and last year's ITNY honorees], were stars of the show, and JoJo and Sarah roomed together. "I loved studying Sarah, watching how she observed life," recalls JoJo. "She saw things with an artistic slant — so unique. In everything, even her make-up. On the ice, she never did things in an expected way, she was relentless in pursuit of creative expression. We were ideal roommates, because we were both very diligent about our work, and appreciated and valued what we were doing. We didn't take things for granted. Sometimes we'd talk into the wee hours of the night."

JoJo makes an interesting point: "When you do as many shows a week as we were doing in Ice Capades, you don't usually watch the other skaters perform. But Sarah's skating was so fascinating, a lot of us made a point to watch her. She was different, mesmerizing. Sometimes I'd see her in tears if her performance hadn't been perfect, she was really tough on herself. That's one of the things that made her great, I think." In later years, Kawahara had a reputation as quite a task-master. "Champion or chorus kid, Sarah pushes you till you get it," notes JoJo approvingly.

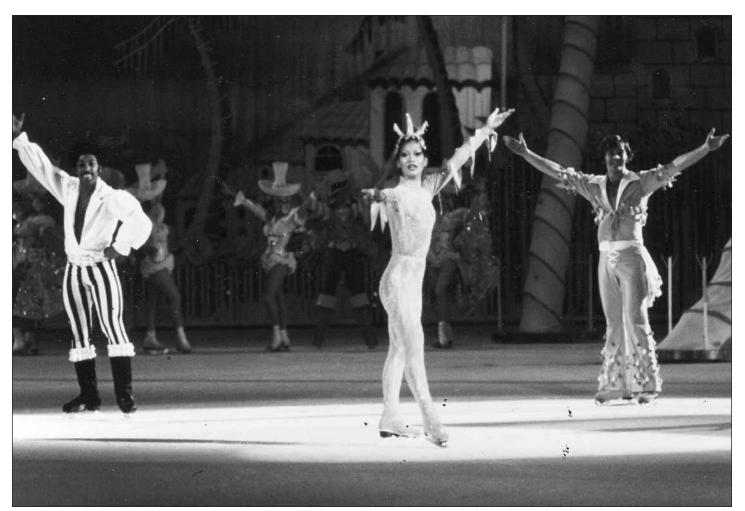
Touring with Ice Capades was an arduous, invaluable education in discipline, endurance and observing audience response to skaters' routines. "When creating a program for a competitive skater, you have the judges in mind," notes Sarah. "In professional skating, you have the audience in mind." From the beginning, Sarah's goal, with all skaters she worked with, was distinct: "I love to bring skaters to a place they weren't when they started with me."

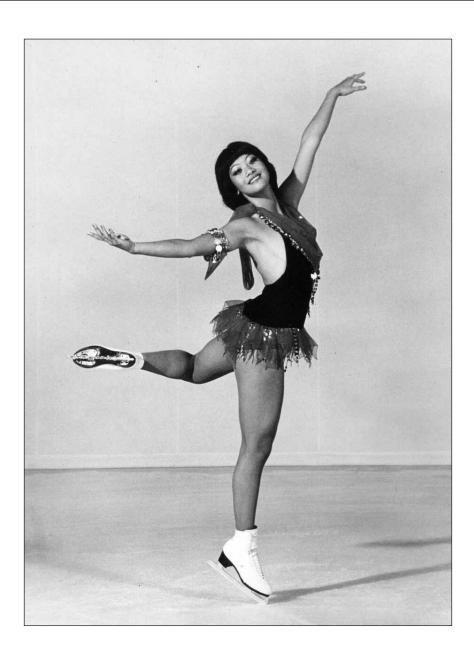
JoJo Starbuck recalls, "When Sarah created a solo for me, it was *really* hard, a total departure from everything I'd known. Everything was unique, a new challenge. The experience was well worth it."

"I was very lucky from the beginning," reflects Sarah, recalling JoJo and then Peggy Fleming's entrance into her life. "Peggy changed my professional life," states Sarah. Fleming saw Sarah perform, and recognized the similarity in their styles. "I did a piece for her when she was a guest-star in Ice Capades," recalls Sarah. Fleming had her own show, "Evening on Ice," and asked Sarah to choreograph the entire production. "It was a major step in my career," recalls Sarah. "Everyone wanted to work with me after that." Future endeavors included, with producer (and former competitive skater) Willy Bietak, "Fantasy on Ice," starring Dorothy Hamill, Babilonia and Gardner, and Brian Pockar. She created choreography for Robin Cousins, Charlie Tickner and legendary John Curry. Still in her prime as a performer, she skated in Curry's TV special, "Peter and The Wolf," and in Toller Cranston's "Strawberry Ice."

In '86, Kawahara returned to Ice Capades as head choreographer, a daunting assignment. Her approach, and philosophy, remained simple: "Just do it." She viewed the challenge on a mathematical level: "With groups of people, you utilize lots of math — multiples, shapes, getting it lyrically..." She never did things in an expected way — "expect the unexpected" might have been her motto.

Kawahara observes that today, as far as competitive skating is concerned, "It's *all* about math and numbers. It's as though the system is trying to take the human factor out of it. The individual who practices the



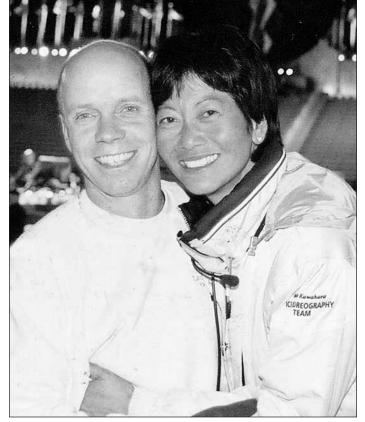


Congratulations to Sarah Kawahara, Peter Eurich and Ice Theatre of New York

Palmer Baker



Banff skating group.



Sarah with Scott Hamilton at the 2002 Winter Olympics.

smartest math in competition will win — if there's not enough content, the skater will lose."

In '86, another milestone for Kawahara: Scott Hamilton entered her life. America's reigning male superstar-on-ice was faced with a professional dilemma: he needed to inject fresh perspective into his work; he didn't want to skate programs similar to those of his competitors. World Professional competition was his current venue, and Sarah observed that his programs "didn't have a point of view." Being cute and funny was fine, but technical expertise had to be properly displayed within that context to win the competitions.

"It takes a long time to handle [Sarah's] way of movement," noted Hamilton. His stamina was put to the test, but his virtuosity emerged as never before. Their collaboration produced the desired results — a successful re-invention of Scott Hamilton. "I owe Sarah my entire professional career," he wrote in his autobiography. He has described Sarah bluntly: "She's a genius." They remain devoted friends.

In '89, performing programs created for him by Kawahara, Christopher Bowman won the U.S. Nationals, and was runner-up that year at Worlds. In '93, she devised Chen Lu's programs. That year, the USFSA Coach's Committee awarded Sarah the prestigious Paul McGrath Award, in recognition of her unique choreography.

Where does her inspiration spring from? "Everywhere. I draw from patterns in nature — the sun coming through the leaves, shadows when a cloud hits the rolling hills, colors and textures — the white windmills in California — the vast horizon — I choreograph so movements are a series of moving pictures..."

GUGGENHEIM



SOHO LOFT - MANHATTAN, NY

BONE/LEVINE ARCHITECTS 561 BROADWAY SUITE 8D NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10012 212-219-1038 WWW.BONELEVINE.NET In 2000, she began working on a project that, in sheer scope, was a breathtaking challenge on all levels: choregraphing the opening and closing ceremonies for the 2002 Olympics. "It was the kind of project that takes over your life, but I never felt I was drowning," she recalls. "It was a positive, complex experience — very, very interesting." She won an Emmy for her efforts.

One can understand why, in 2006, filmmakers Josh Gordon and Will Speck chose Sarah for a seemingly impossible task: to create the illusion of "real," i.e. believable skating routines et al. for a major motion picture featuring the greatest cast of nonskaters since Joan Crawford and James Stewart in "Ice Follies of 1939." "Blades of Glory," written by Jeff Cox, Craig Cox, John Altschuler and Dave Krinsky, was contemporary comedy at its broadest. Set in the world of highest-level competitive figure skating, Will Ferrell and Jon Heder toplined the cast. Kawahara describes the challenge of creating Olympic-caliber choreography for Ferrell and Heder - not only non-figure skaters but each over six feet tall — equivalent to "doing choreography for the Marx Brothers."

She advised the filmmakers right off the bat that their film would be outdated before it was released: "You utilize the old scoring system!" "Who cares?" they replied. The new system had unfortunately stripped away the suspense, and transparency, of the "old" system.

The film, one of the big hits of 2007, won plaudits from many critics, who took special note of its savvy skating sequences. Kawahara could add the medium of motion pictures to her resumé.

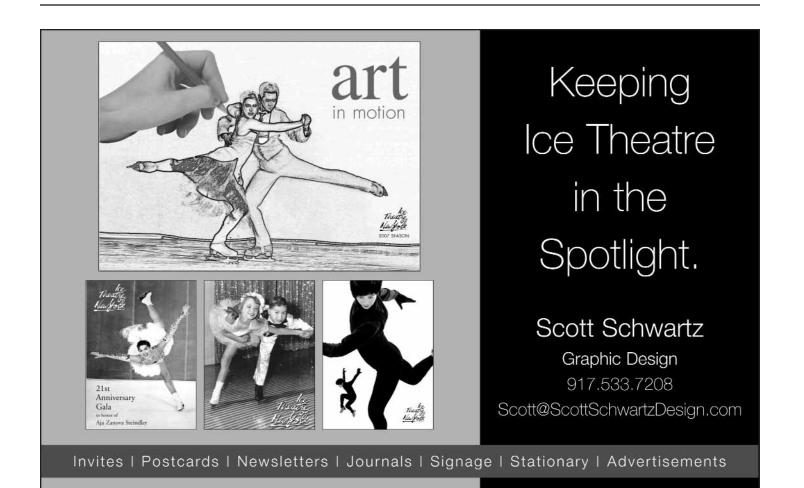
Sarah continues to demonstrate her versatility: she works with the Miami synchronized skating program, choreographed Feld Entertainment's "Anastasia on Ice," and the opening and closing numbers of Tom Collins's "Champions on Ice." She continues to create for competitive as well as professional skaters and one of her goals is to recreate, on film, under her direction, favorite routines she has devised over the years.

She hasn't sacrificed a private life. Married to Jamie Alcroft, of the popular comedy team "Mack and Jamie," the couple reside in California and have three children: Alyce, Haley and Thatcher. The two daughters, twenty and fourteen, are headed for careers in the arts; the son, twelve, is passionate about baseball.

"Sarah is an ideal choice for Ice Theater's annual award," states ITNY founder Moira North. "There are no boundaries stifling her creativity; she pushes the envelope, always, and the results benefit and inspire all of us. The art of Sarah Kawahara — her capacity for innovation — has advanced the art of skating. Sarah, for all you have accomplished, and will accomplish, on and off the ice, we happily salute you."

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EDWARD Z. EPSTEIN is author of twenty books, including "BORN TO SKATE: The Michelle Kwan Story" (Ballantine). Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, Mia Farrow, Jane Wyman, Lucille Ball and Jennifer Jones are among his other subjects. A lifelong figure skating enthusiast, Epstein is a former Middle-Atlantic States Novice champion. His biographical essay on Sonja Henie was published by "Scandinavian Review," and he helped organize a festival of Henie's films for New York's Museum of Modern Art (MOMA). He wrote the official Museum notes for the series. Epstein is a graduate of NYU.



Peter Eurich: Transitions

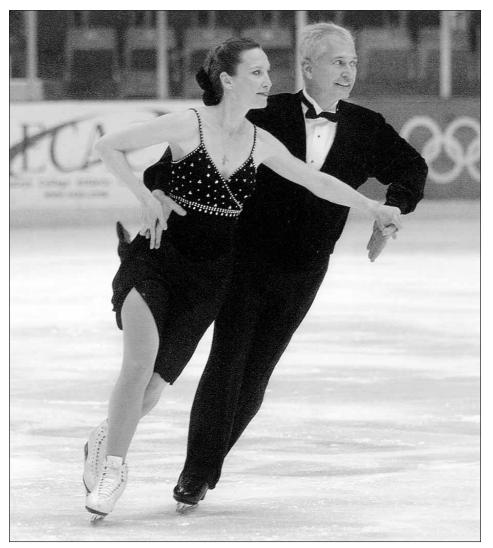
His passion for skating did *not* begin in childhood. Quite the contrary. He graduated from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, then spent twenty-eight years as an executive at IBM, in their New York and German offices. After taking early retirement, he set out in a completely new direction. He entered an ashram in the Berkshires, where he studied yoga and various forms of meditation. When he returned to New York City, he met a friend who had taken up skating. "Why don't you try it?" she suggested, "it's fun and it's challenging." It was 1996, Peter tried it and has loved it ever since.

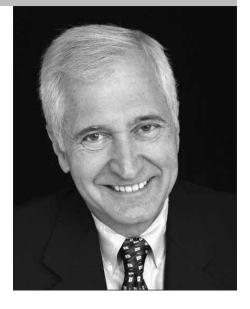
He became fascinated by ice dancing, and began lessons with Nina Newby, for-

by EDWARD Z. EPSTEIN

mer Ice Theatre performer. With his skating partner, under Newby's tutelage, the couple won the pre-Bronze level adult nationals, and competed in subsequent competitions at a higher level. He also became an original member of "Men in Sync," the synchronized skating team established by Newby. "We were a novelty and good competitors," recalls Peter. Despite ample publicity, including a major piece in The New York Times, "it was impossible to keep a team of ten men together for any length of time."

Peter skated frequently at Sky Rink, "during hours most people would be at work." One day he was approached by Moira North. "I was later told that Moira,





having seen me at the rink on many occasions, finally asked a fellow skater: 'Who is he?' She asked me if I'd like to be a volunteer at ITNY."

Moira's eye for talent was, as usual, on target. The association has lasted ten years, during which Peter has become an ITNY board member. "If ever there was a person who deserves our Ice Angel Award, it's Peter," states Moira. His expertise at problem-solving has proved invaluable. Among other accomplishments, he was instrumental in enabling ITNY to skate, on stage, on ice. "The first time was in Detroit," he recalls, and that almost didn't happen. Getting ice on stage was quite a challenge, one that had presented often insurmountable problems in the past. "If I had read John Curry's book before I undertook the project, I would never have gone forward with it. Too many problems!"

He worked on another undertaking with the Wollman Rink at Central Park, which led to his eventually becoming a vice president of the New York Skating Club. One of his responsibilities there is organizing and running the Middle-Atlantic championships.

Peter believes the time has come for another life transition. "It seems my passions run in ten-year arcs," he notes, and he's searching for an endeavor that will satisfy his interest in social issues. Meanwhile, he continues ice dancing, and attends Ice Dance weekends at the Princeton Skating Club in Princeton, New Jersey. "One night is devoted to ballroom dancing," he notes. His parents were ballroom dancers. Anyone want to take a bet on what at least one of his future passions will be?



Dear Peter,

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

You truly are an Ice Angel.



Board of Trustees

Congratulations Sarah



You're the Best! Love, Aja Zanova

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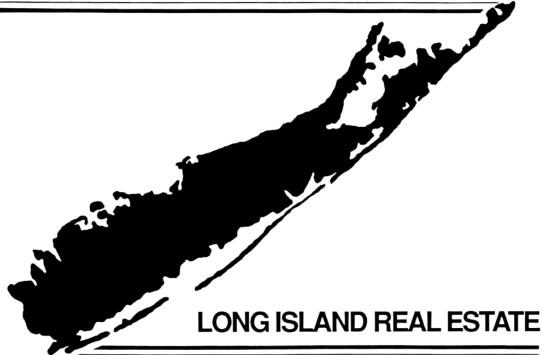


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to

Peter Eurich

Our Ice Angel and SCNY Vice President

The Skating Club of New York



Congratulations Sarah!

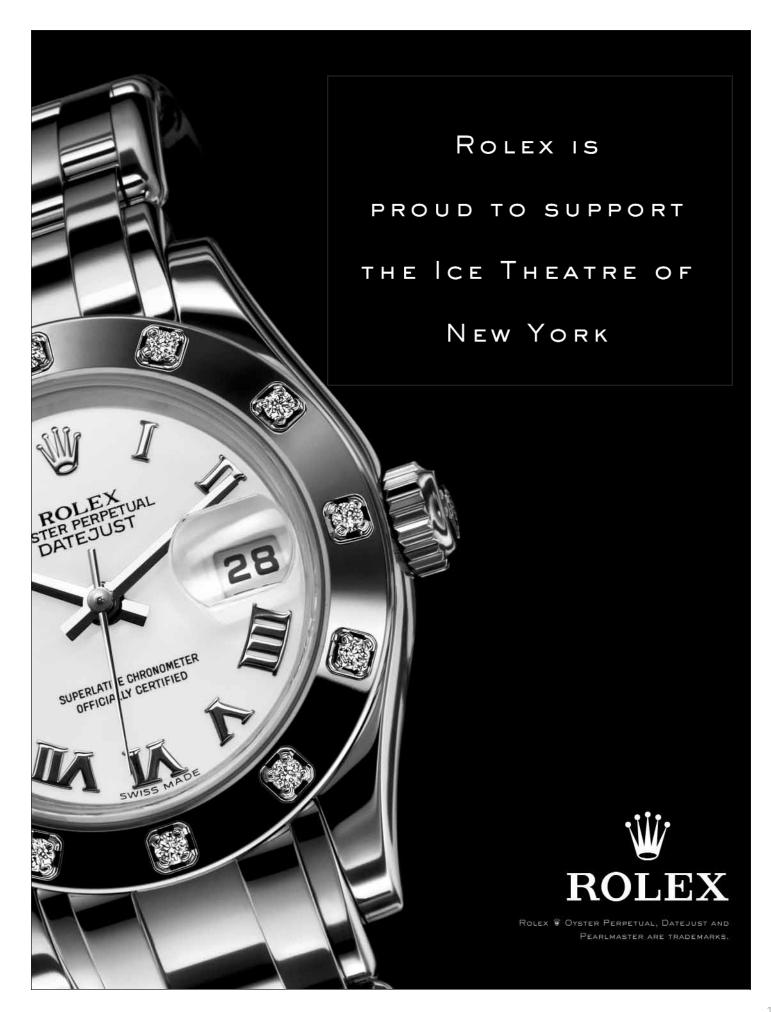
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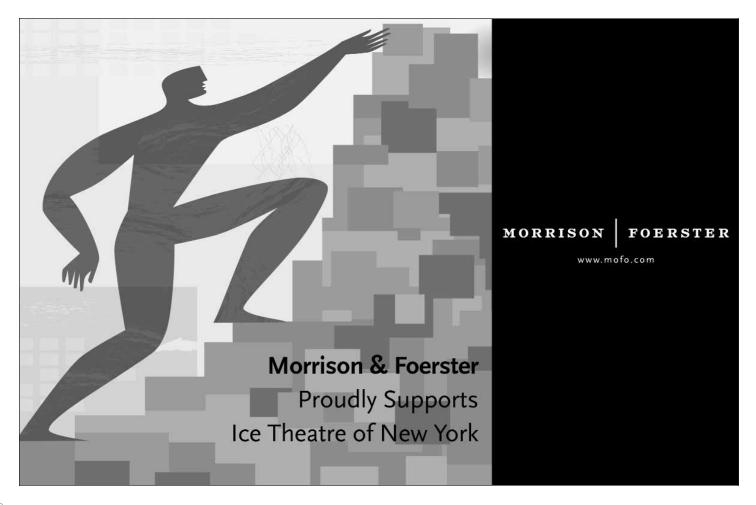


Kudos, Sarah.

Your energy, creativity, and vision have left their mark around the world. I'm glad to have had the opportunity to work with you for the Japan Show.

...and special thanks, Peter, for your dedication and tireless work that have helped make ITNY the success that it is!

Denise Beaumont



Congratulations to Sarah Kawahara and Peter Eurich

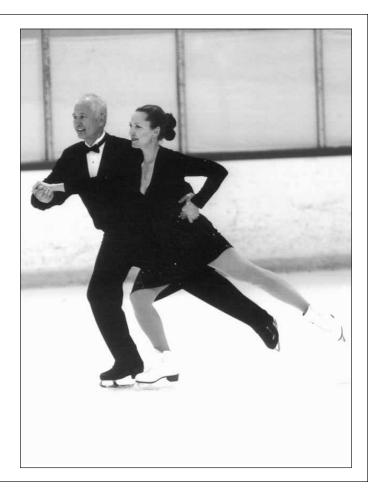


and to Ice Theatre of New York for their wonderful accomplishments.

Barbara & Bill Candee

Congratulations Peter on a well-deserved honor.

Kathy & Phil Feuerstein





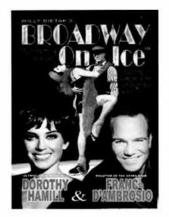
The successes you have earned have touched so many lives. Thank you for sharing your talent with this world. You are beyond exquisite!

All my love, Joanna Ng

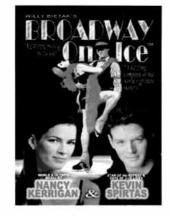
To the man whose dance card is always filled,

Congratulations Peter!

Mark Schwartz







Thank you Sarah

For so many years of your wonderful contributions to so many of our shows!























Keep the pterodactyl flying!

In appreciation for the innovative work of Ice Theatre of New York

Congratulations

Sarah Kawahara and Peter Eurich

Callan, Koster, Brady & Brennan, LLP Counselors and Attorneys at Law One Whitehall Street New York, NY 10004 (212) 248-8800 Fax: (212) 248-6815 www.ckbblaw.com

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VERA WANG

Congratulations to Sarah Kawahara

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Congratulations Sarah!



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Ice Theatre of New York!

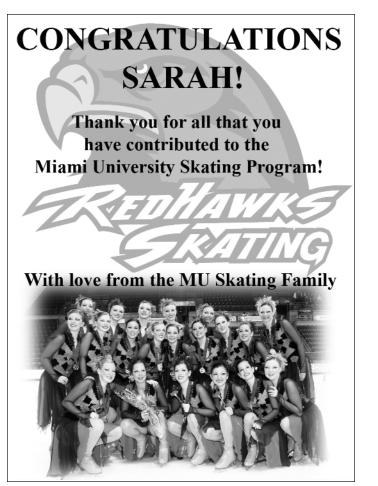
Keith C. Champagne



Congratulations to Sarah Kawahara

The Hughes Family

John • Amy • Rebecca • David • Matthew Sarah • Emily • Taylor • Natalie • Alexandra





To Sarah!

You did some of our most creative and enjoyable work. Thank you for encouraging us to think way out of the box! Congratulations!

– Tai and Randy

To Ice Theatre of New York and Sarah Kawahara

Congratulations in celebration of your creativity on ice.

Robin Wagner



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Congratulations Sarah!

You are magnificent!

Love, Mindy Hall



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Congratulations to Sarah Kawahara, Peter Eurich and Ice Theatre of New York



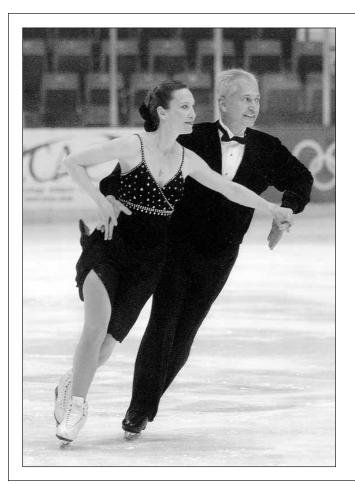
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To Moira,

When ITNY counts its blessings it counts you twice...

Charles A. Kerner CPA (212) 675-4030



CONGRATULATIONS PETER

We've always admired you on and off the ice.

The Weisblum Family

We salute the Ice Theatre of New York and tonight's honorees, Sarah Kawahara and Peter Eurich





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Sundays at 5:00 PM

Host and Producer James C. Goodale

Congratulations Peter! Your commitment, energy and passion for ice dance and the Ice Theatre of New York is inspiring.

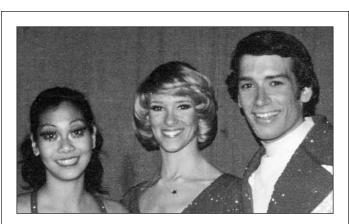
> You truly are an Ice Angel! James Schilling

In recognition of your commitment and accomplishments, congratulations to Peter Eurich!

> John Fitzgerald Acosta of Smith Barney 212.643.5842

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Dear Sarah,

What a joy to watch you explore the World of Skating, creating, reinventing and contributing so much for all future skaters to aspire to! From Atlantic City to Sabi Sabi, Africa, I've loved sharing rehearsals, dressing rooms and life with you my dear friend. Here's to at least another 35 years more!

Love, JoJo



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Congratulations to Sarah Kawahara

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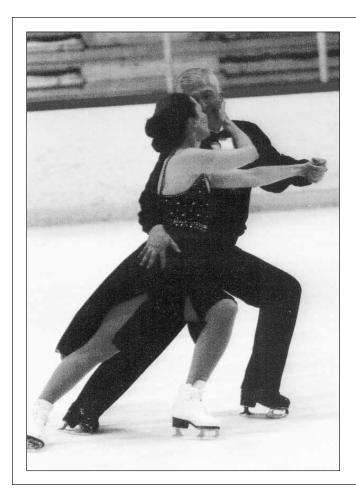
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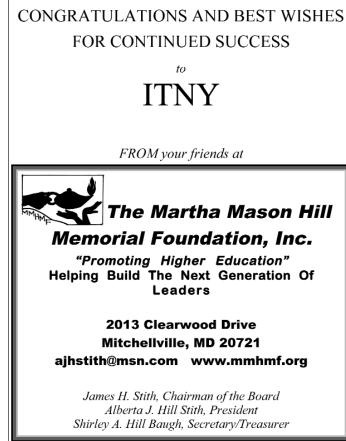
Ruth Legon

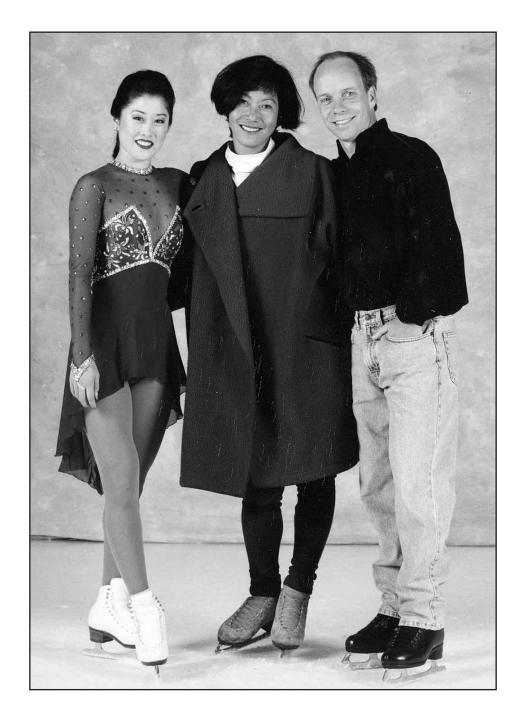


Congratulations to Peter Eurich and to Ice Theatre of New York

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Congratulations to Sarah Kawahara, Peter Eurich and Ice Theatre of New York Marilyn, Joe and Joy Kasputys



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We wish we could be with you tonight. You changed our lives and we are grateful. You are the ultimate ice dancer. Congratulations for this honor — you deserve it. Have an amazing evening.

Love, Jamie, Cindy, and Doug

Bravo, Sarah and Peter

Stephen G. Epstein Edward Z. Epstein Congratulations to

The Ice Theatre of New York and

Sarah Kawahara

for your creative contributions

to the art of figure skating.



With best wishes for continued success, Bob and Debbie Gordon

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to

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And

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Congratulations Peter! We always knew, you are the best! We love you!



Congrats Sarah and Peter!

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Be inspired to skate like Sarah...

Congratulations Lloyd. Skate for fun!

With love, Mom Angela Ting

Congatulation Ice Theatre



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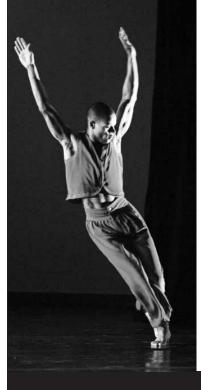
Dr. Rena Clarkson salutes all the smiles on the ice.



CONGRATULATIONS Sarah Kawahara, Peter Eurich and Ice Theatre of New York

Roland W. Betts Tom A. Bernstein David A. Tewksbury

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Saluting Peter Eurich for his exemplary service to the Ice Theatre of New York

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CONGRATULATIONS PETER EURICH!

Thank you for all you've done for skating in New York City



From everyone at the Wollman Rink Skating School

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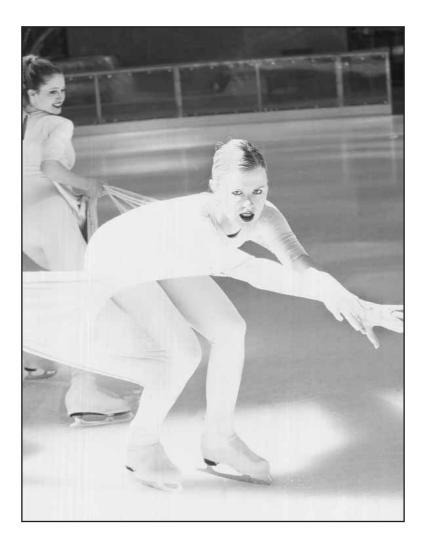
CONGRATULATIONS SARAH

from the cast, crew and staff.

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Warmest congratulations to Sarah Kawahara, Peter Eurich and the Ice Theatre of New York



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We are very happy to celebrate together with lce Theatre of New York the remarkable and superbly inspiring Sarah Kawahara, and the enthusiasm and dedication of Peter Eurich.



Congratulations and our Best Wishes to the new Co-Artistic Director of Ice Theatre of New York-the passionate, innovative, and uniquely-talented David Liu.



To Moira North and her creative, energetic team of skaters we wish you all a wonderful Skating Season of great achievements!

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