

**DARE TO
BE
DIFFERENT**

*Ice
Theatre
of
New York*

THE NATION'S PREMIER
ICE DANCE ENSEMBLE

2011 BENEFIT GALA HONORING
JOHNNY WEIR



KATIE BOXWELL AND WILL SEARS



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

October 24, 2011

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome everyone to Ice Theatre New York's 2011 Annual Gala in honor of Olympian Johnny Weir.

Since its founding in 1984, Ice Theatre New York has brought together the very best that figure skating, dance, and theater have to offer. New York City is a major cultural capital, and Ice Theatre New York continues to make exciting contributions to our thriving arts scene. By collaborating with choreographers and groups throughout the five boroughs and across the East Coast, Ice Theatre New York has ensured that their 2011/2012 season will continue to push the boundaries of the art form and improve the state of the arts throughout New York City.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, congratulations to Johnny Weir and the ITNY team on all of your achievements so far. Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable event and continued success.

Sincerely,

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

Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor



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THANKS TO ALL OF OUR ICE THEATRE VOLUNTEERS



CHRISTINE C. QUINN
SPEAKER



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October 24, 2011

Dear Friends,

Greetings to everyone gathered here this evening at Ice Theatre of New York's (ITNY) 2011 Benefit Gala and Performance!

For over 25 years, ITNY has been dedicated to developing and promoting figure skating as a performing art. Through its impressive education, community outreach and training programs, it has reached out to the next generation of skaters and audiences alike.

On this special night of celebration, I would like to thank ITNY and its devoted staff for the wonderful work that they are doing to help under-served youth in our city and beyond through skating. Any one of the talented young people involved in these programs could become the next Olympic champion, TV star, head of a major company or whatever they dream of becoming.

I would also like to congratulate tonight's honoree, U.S. champion and two-time Olympian, **Johnny Weir**.

Please accept my very best wishes for a wonderful evening. Enjoy!

Sincerely,

Christine C. Quinn
Speaker



Photo: Debbie Hickey

Ice Theatre of New York



Photos: Irena Sapilak

Founded in 1984 by Moira North, Ice Theatre of New York (ITNY) presents on-ice dances that challenge the perception and conventional definitions of figure skating. ITNY was the first ice dance company to receive dance 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 been a pioneer nationally and internationally from Rockefeller Center to the Arctic Circle and has broken out of the traditional, arena setting, captivating theatre audiences on the proscenium stage. The company has also showcased its work with major dance presenters such as Boston's *Dance Umbrella*, *Dancing in the Streets* and *Creative Time*.

As the company enters the new season, it will continue its tradition of collaborating with choreographers from both the dance and skating worlds, as well as exploring relationships with artists from theatre, music and new media disciplines. 2011/2012 highlights include continued collaborations with Improv Everywhere, Julliard Dance Program and Fashion Week.

ITNY reaches out to the next generation of skaters and audiences through its exemplary education, community outreach and training programs. ITNY is dedicated to the education of the city's youth and in the 17 years of providing these programs it has reached over 25,000 children. This season, ITNY will also continue to present our series of free public performances.

Thank you for supporting Ice Theatre of New York. Your patronage gives us the ability to work toward our mission, and we are honored to have you join us to commemorate our achievements.

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

— Mayor Michael Bloomberg



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

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



JOHNNY WEIR

THE ART OF SHOWMANSHIP

by EDWARD Z. EPSTEIN

"I love Johnny Weir!" exclaimed leading fashionista Rachel Zoe, a sentiment echoed by Johnny's iconic friend Lady Gaga and many others in and out of the skating world.

While he "dares to be different," he has in fact achieved a higher goal: he dares to be himself, and does not take his success for granted. "I enjoy every second of my day, I realize how lucky I am, how fortunate. The sheer outpouring of love from audiences is thrilling. Many are afraid of success — I'm afraid of sharks and spiders."

Like Sonja Henie, the groundbreaker in the art of showmanship-on-ice (she introduced, among other elements, balletic moves, short skirts and a distinctive personality into competitive skating),

Weir is of Norwegian descent. Unlike Sonja, and most other skating champions, Weir was a *very* late starter on the ice. By the age of twelve, when he began, most serious competitors are already veterans. A rural Pennsylvanian, he started out self-taught, experimenting on the frozen Amish-country cornfields behind his home. His skates were old and worn out, but out there on the ice, it was magical. Horseback riding was another passion; a choice had to be made: skating had won his heart.

A skating career was a very costly undertaking — not only in dollars but in emotional commitment — and would require great family sacrifice. The Weirs forged ahead, Johnny's fearlessness, determination and dedication invaluable

natural assets. Within four years, at age sixteen, he won gold at the 2001 World Junior championships.

His sense of showmanship was anything but an asset in the formal and conservative world of competitive figure skating. Razzle-dazzle, "being different," was not a point-worthy element on a judge's computer; generating any kind of controversy was a skater's *bete noir*. Restraining his artistic sensibilities to conform to the stringent rules and regulations was highly stressful; over the years there were crises-of-confidence. Renowned coach Priscilla Hill was instrumental in his development; final results, more often than not, were rewarding and worth the effort.

"I saw that he had something unique

Congratulations Ice Theatre of New York,
Johnny Weir, Margarita Sears and Ice Rink Events.

Keep the ice filled with creativity and fun!

Love,
Moirá's Mom
Margaret





right from the beginning, and I told him so," states legendary former two-time World champion — and a master of the-art-of-showmanship herself — Aja Zanova Steindler (2005 Ice Theatre honoree). "I first met Johnny when he'd been invited to skate by the Harlem Skating Club at Central Park's Wollman Rink." (Aja was "looking after the rink" for her friend Donald Trump, who'd revitalized the venue.) "Johnny was unknown at that point. But after he skated, I went over to him and told him: 'You've got a *big* future. But you've got to work hard.' I loved his style — strong, elegant, dramatic. He had the potential to become a great artist."

Johnny persevered, achieving an enviable competitive record: in 2004, at the age of twenty, he became U.S. national champion. He retained the title

in 2005 and 2006 — few have won three consecutive National titles — earning a spot on the '06 U.S. Olympic team. At the Games that year, in Torino, Italy, he achieved second place in the short program, finishing fifth overall. The media adored him — "he delivers the best quotes!" — and he was described as "edgy, elegant and unpredictable." His impact and style were likened by some as "a combination of Toller Cranston, John Curry and Judy Garland." His costumes — "What's he going to wear?" — kept reporters, and the public, intrigued. Hurtful comments — "I know some called me 'Johnny Wierdo,'" he laughs today — came with the territory. "My family kept me grounded," he says. "Ultimately, I'm a small-town kid."

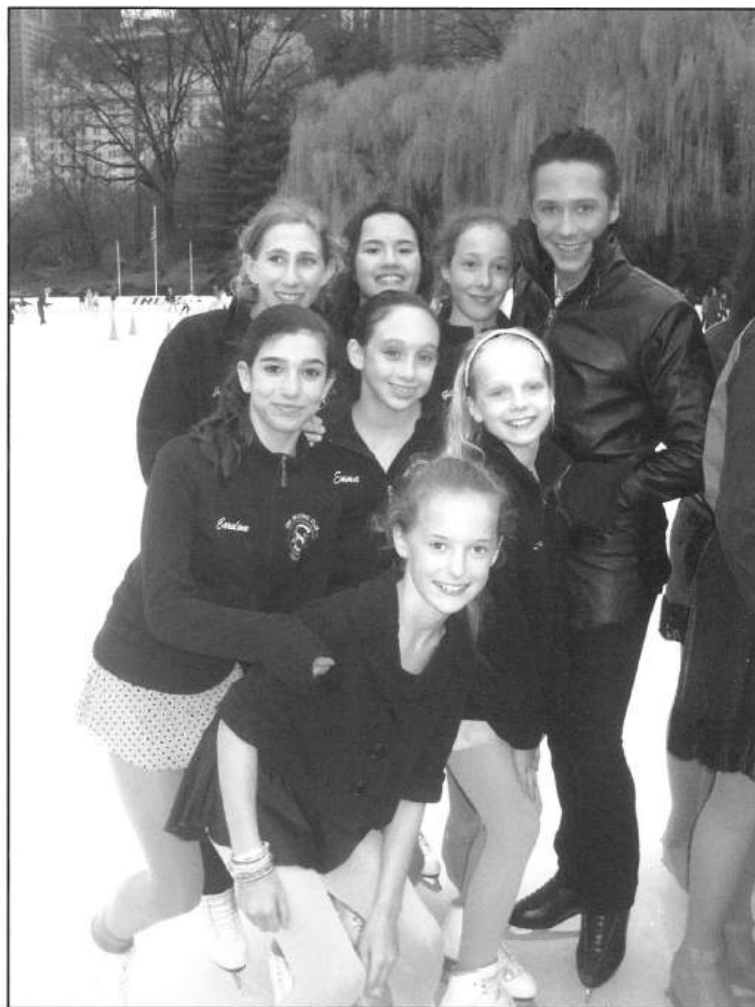
At the 2008 Worlds he won bronze — Team USA won no other medals at

that competition — and was voted US Figure Skating's Readers Choice Award for Skater of the Year (The Michelle Kwan Trophy). He won the award for a second time in 2010, the only skater other than Kwan to do so.

In 2010, at age twenty-six, he competed in his second Olympics, in Vancouver. (He's contemplating competing in the 2014 Games; "I like to keep my options open," he says.)

Which contemporary skater does Weir admire? "Evgeny Plushenko. I think he's the ultimate competitor. I'm not a competitor that way — he'll fight ferociously to win. He was always very nice to me, friendly, kind. I appreciated that, and won't ever forget it."

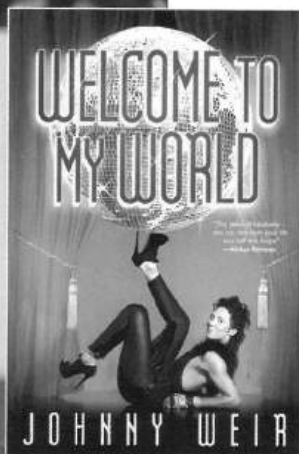
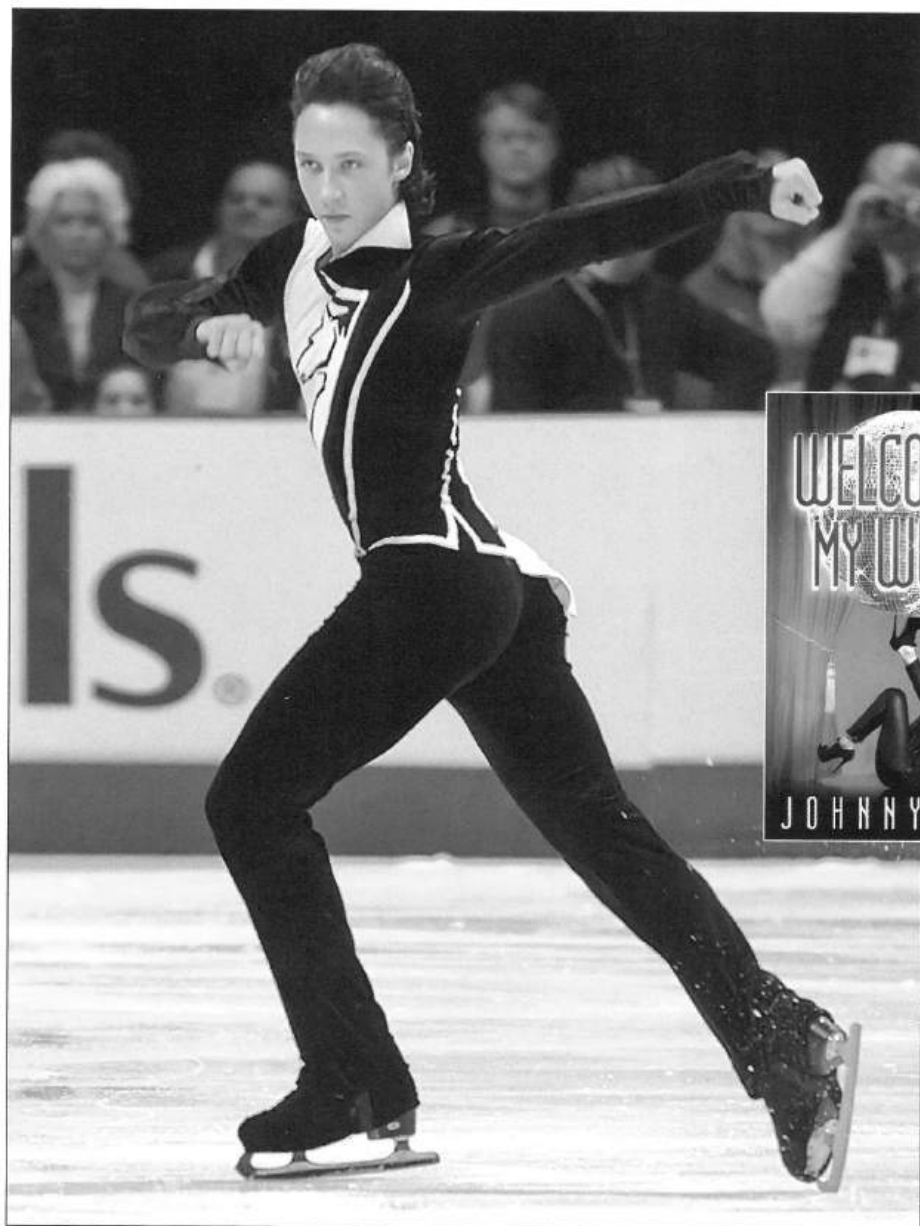
Johnny was the right personality, in the right place, at the right time, for his subsequent emergence into the big-time



JOHNNY AND MARGARITA:

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AND CONGRATULATIONS!

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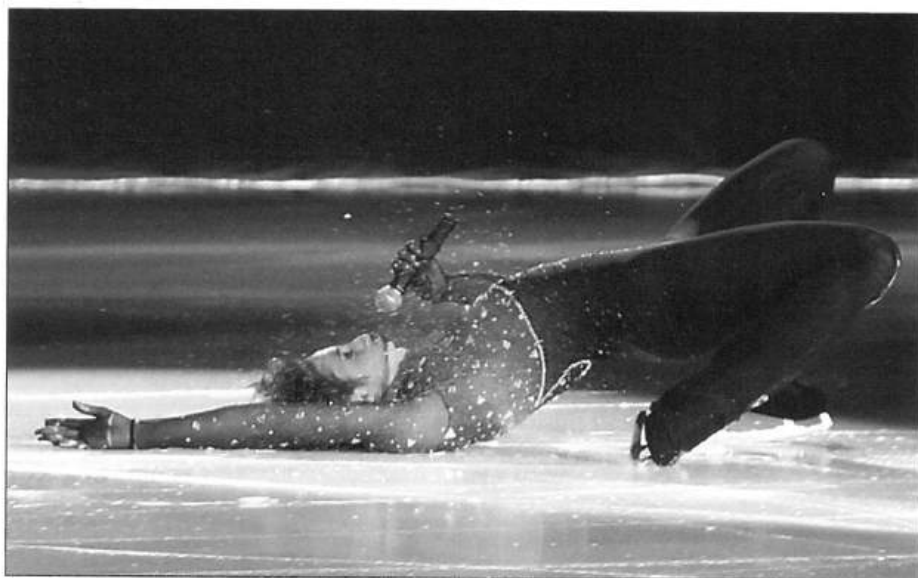
showbiz spotlight; he didn't do it alone. Of crucial importance was his good fortune in connecting with the right person, Tara Modlin, to manage and help shape his career.

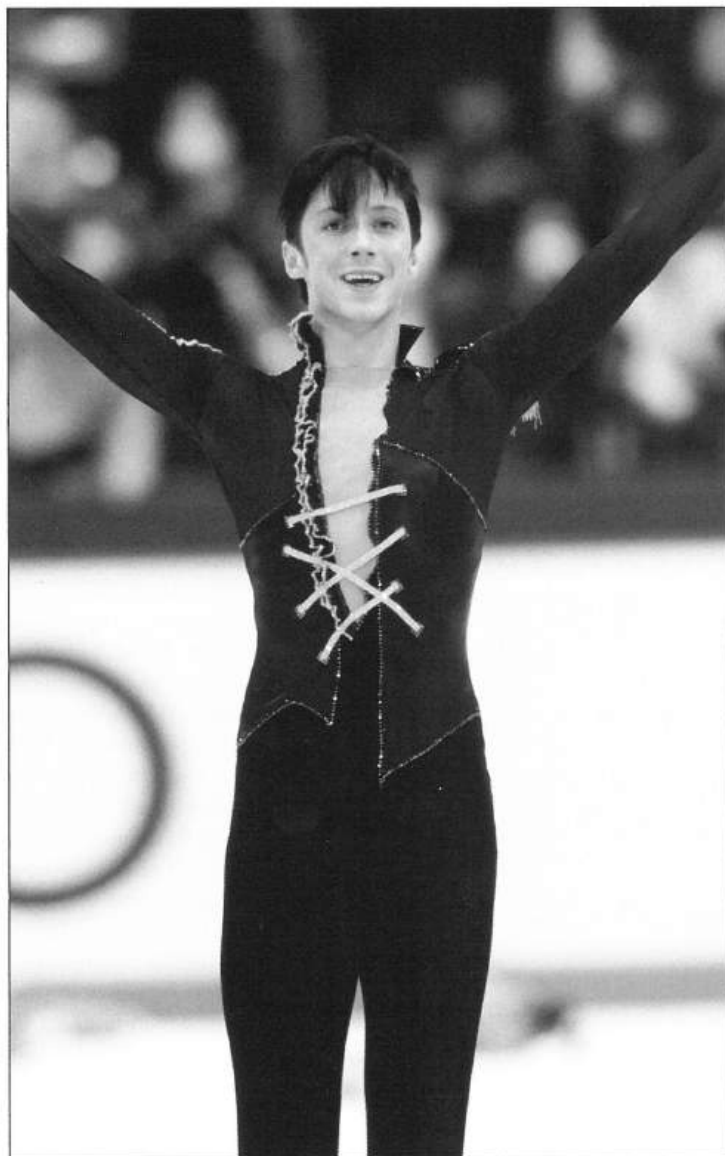
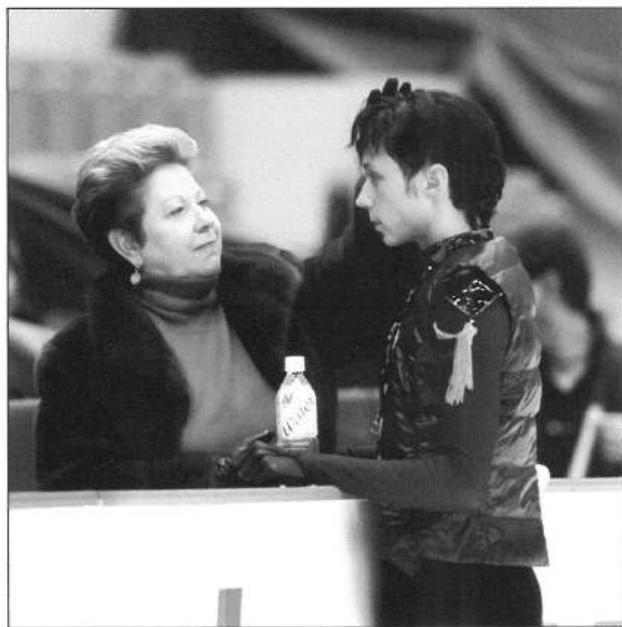
How did Tara and Johnny meet? "My grandmother, a big fan of figure skating, actually brought us together," recalls Tara. "I was a producer of an event at which Johnny was one of the skaters. At a get-together afterwards, my grandmother — who was gorgeous, on the inside as well as the outside, always impeccably dressed, make-up, hair perfect, she was a former debutante — there she was, deep in conversation with Johnny. They were seated at a table in a back corner of the room. It was a mutual admiration society between Johnny and grandmother, they appreciated each other's sense of style and beauty! That was the start of our beautiful relationship."

It remains a special relationship — Tara and Johnny are genuine, close friends. "You have to be, you have to really care about the person whose career you're managing for everything to fall into place." Both share the same work ethic: "We're in love with our work, and I'd sum up Johnny's success with two words: hard work. He's a worker, I'm a worker, and we've been very fortunate."

Johnny has proven successful with many endeavors off-the-ice: his TV reality series, "Be Good Johnny Weir," on the Logo Network, won the 2010 NewNowNext Award for Most Addictive Reality Star. He's written an autobiography for Simon & Schuster, "Welcome To My World," and has recorded his first single, "Dirty Love," a hot seller on iTunes. He's even established a clothing line, and does not dismiss the notion that he might enter the movie and television acting arena ("I've already gone on a few auditions," he notes).

The Human Rights Campaign—Seattle recently honored Johnny with the HRC Visibility Award, which is given to individuals "who are living open and honest lives." HRC spokesman Dr. Marty Lieberman noted: "Johnny has given courage to all the little boys and girls out





there who want to pursue their dreams." It was not a surprise when Johnny was selected as Grand Marshall of the 2011 Los Angeles PRIDE Parade, a source of enormous pride to Johnny.

Regarding his status as a pop-culture icon — on occasion referring to himself in the third person — "I'm *kidding* when I do that," he states emphatically, "It's a joke!"

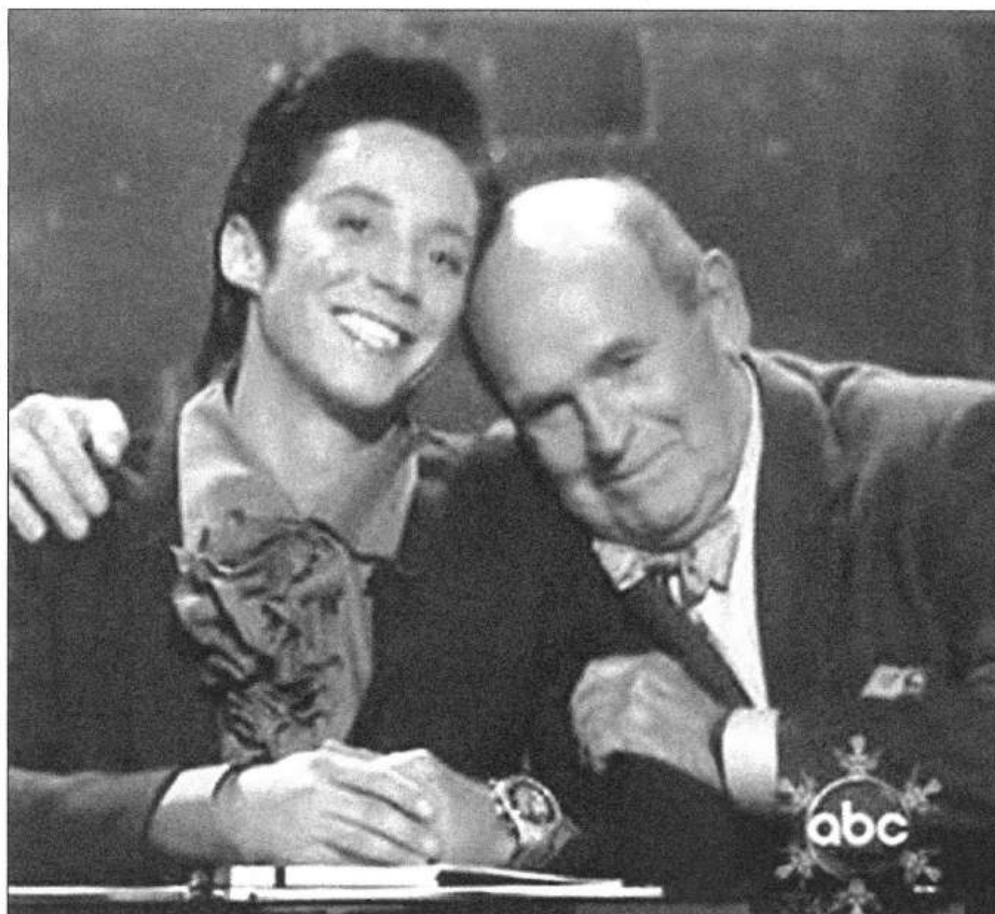
While skating has been the launch pad for a marvelous career, Johnny doesn't envision himself performing on ice indefinitely. Where does he see himself in ten years? "Happy, I hope!" he laughs.

How does he feel about ITNY? "I'm so excited to be honored by Ice Theatre because I've admired their commitment to the art and sport of figure skating for as long as I can remember. I'm also thrilled to have another opportunity to perform at my home base, New York City."

Johnny retains an unspoiled spirit, a sense of humor and wonder at all he has achieved thus far. "We're delighted Johnny is our honoree this year," states ITNY founder Moira North. "The joy and release of his work have enabled him to retain a fundamental simplicity, an honesty; and he's remained excitingly unpredictable, the true signature of a genuine artist."

Congratulations, Johnny Weir!

Edward Z. Epstein (edwardzepstein.com), author and playwright, has written a number of books — his subjects have included Lucille Ball, Lana Turner, Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward, Mia Farrow and Michelle Kwan (*Born to Skate: The Michelle Kwan Story*, published by Ballantine). A dedicated figure skater, a former Middle Atlantic States Novice champion, he organized a festival of Sonja Henie's films for New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) and wrote the official museum notes for the series. He's completed a novel, "KISS & CRY: Skating for Gold," and has written a play, "Ava," optioned by the great producer David Brown, based on the life of Ava Gardner.



Vera says:
Try a bow tie...
at least IT
has flair.

Congratulations
Dick Button

The Skating Club of New York
is proud to salute Club members
Johnny Weir
and Margarita Sears &
the Will Sears Fund



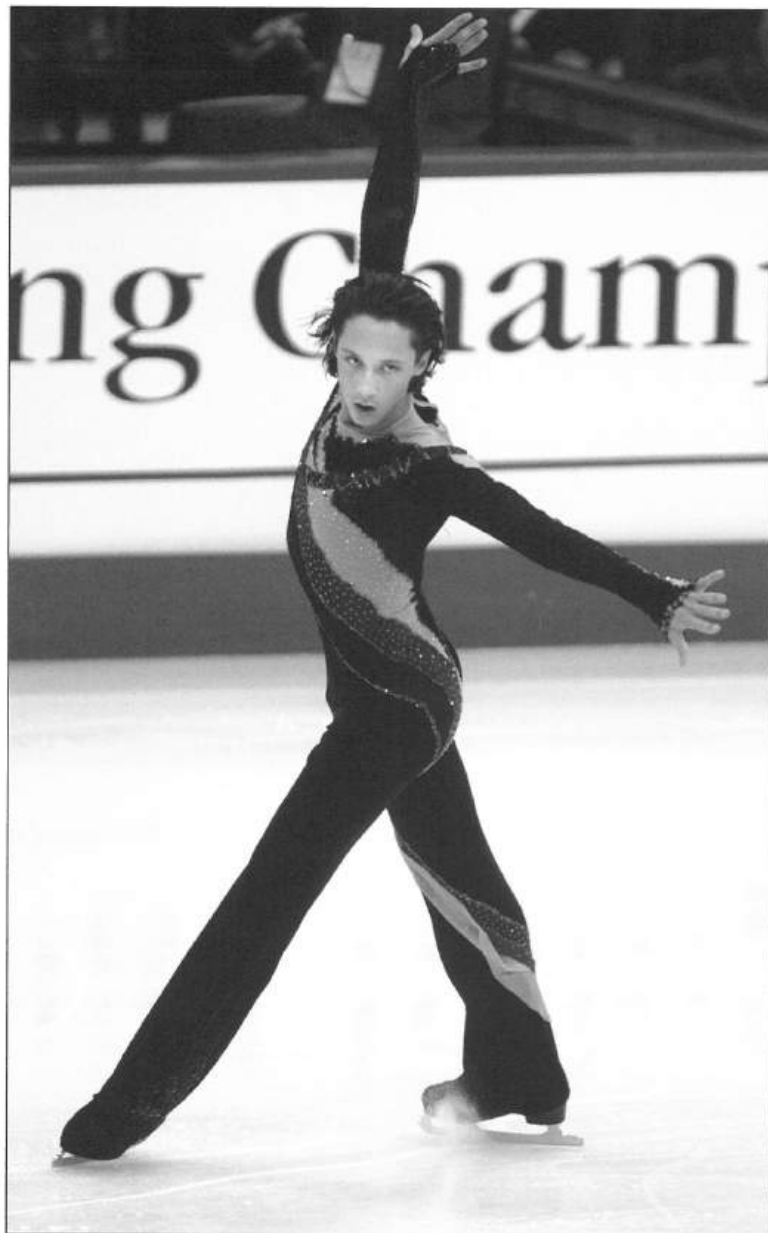
Johnny & ole Blue Eyes,
You did it your way.

With admiration,
Aja Zanova

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR GREAT SUCCESS
IN THE COMPETITIVE AND PROFESSIONAL WORLD
OF FIGURE SKATING, YOU ARE AN INSPIRATION,
KEEP ENTERTAINING US.

RICHARD DWYER

Congratulations Johnny Weir



The Hughes Family

John | Amy | Rebecca | Doug | David | Matt
Sarah | Emily | Taylor | Natalie | Alexandra | Charlotte



Dear Margarita,

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

*Ice
Theatre
of
New York*

Board of Trustees

AMAZING ANGEL: Mrs. Margarita Sears and the Will Sears Fund

by EDWARD Z. EPSTEIN

There is nothing more inspiring and moving than a human being's triumph over a personal tragedy, over loss...

Margarita Sears is an example.

She suffered an incalculable loss when her twenty-year-old son, Ariel William "Will" Sears, died in 2002. Will, with partner Katie Boxwell, had just won the U.S. Novice pair title, and an important skating career seemed imminent.

Will had been described as a "Renaissance man" — he was editing music for Johnny Weir; he'd written a screenplay, "Dare Greatly," and was studying acting.

His inexplicable death came as a shock.

Mrs. Sears was determined to preserve her beloved son's memory, and The Will Sears Fund was created; over the years it has contributed to a number of causes that would have been dear to Will's heart. Lucy Brennan, ISU judge and referee and veteran SCNY member, has noted: "All of us want to help develop pairs in the U.S. and we felt doing that was the best way to honor Will." For the past several years, The Will Sears Fund has contributed funds to hold pair critiques and seminars at the annual Middle-Atlantic States championships at Chelsea Piers in New York City.

The Fund has also been a faithful supporter of ITNY; recently, it has expanded into commissioning new works for the company (the latest will be created by Doug Webster).

"If ever there was someone worthy of our annual Ice Angel Award, it's Mrs. Sears," notes ITNY founder Moira North Colton. "She's an inspiration to those of us who know her, and an angel indeed to all of those she helps. Congratulations, Margarita. We love you."



Margarita and sister Olga

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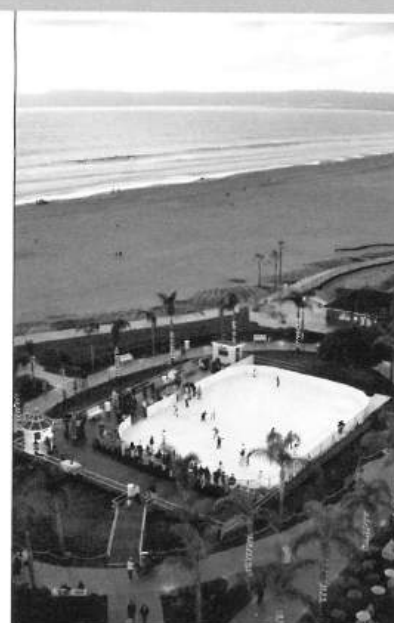
Ice Rink Events has grown to become a leading designer, manufacturer, installer, and operator of ice skating rink facilities worldwide. Inspired by their own years on the ice, Mike Clayton and Lena Gottschall, partners in life and business, have as their distinct mission to bring ice sports, ice performances, and the joy of ice skating to the masses.

Ice Rink Events' winter venues host more than 2,000,000 public skaters each season. Its flagship locations include the super-sized outdoor "Mega Rink" at The Zocalo in Mexico City, and "Skating By The Sea" on the beach at the Hotel del Coronado in San Diego. It has made ice surfaces for Hallmark, ABC-TV, FOX-TV's "Skating With Celebrities", and CBC's "Battle of the Blades". It has constructed outdoor stadium hockey rinks for the NHL Winter Classic, and for the "The Big Chill at The Big House" at the University of Michigan, with a record-setting 113,000 in attendance. It will also be making ice for upcoming productions of Disson Skating, which air on NBC.

The company makes ice for the U.S. and World Figure Skating Championships, most recently at the Worlds in Los Angeles, and the Nationals in Greensboro. It will be making ice for the 2013 Nationals in Omaha.

Ice Rink Events has been a major force in the creation of Citi Pond at Bryant Park, Newport Skates in Jersey City, the City Ice Pavilion in Queens, and the World Ice Arena at Flushing Meadows Corona Park, led by the company's New York manager and long-time rink veteran Ron Kraut.

Mike Clayton and Lena Gottschall are proud to support Ice Theatre of New York, including Moira North, Jirina Ribbens, and their creative and innovative team of choreographers and skaters, who bring outreach programs and performances to all of Ice Rink Events' locations in New York City.



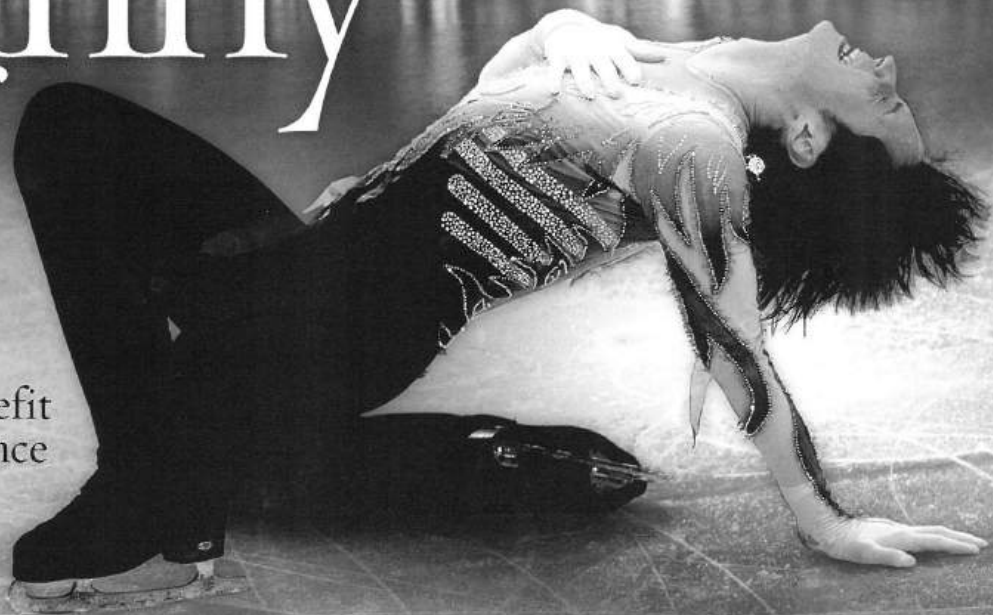
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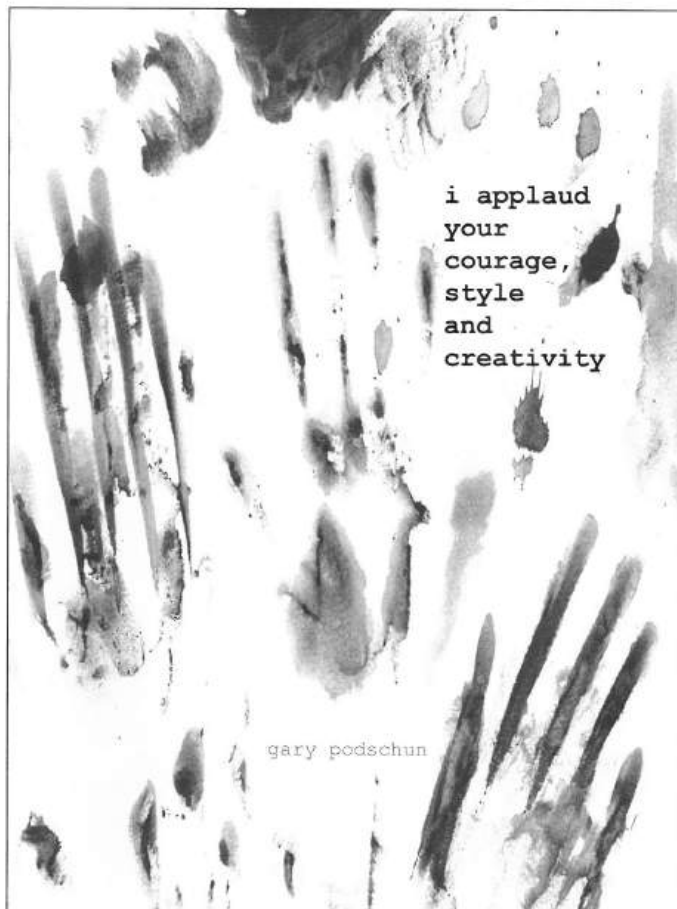
Johnny my hero and inspiration - the greatest figure skater fearlessly march to your own beat and never afraid to fall out of ugly you inspire and create breathtaking beauty the world is brighter and sparklier thanks to you

Love your aussie kitten
Koula Bouras
@jweaussiekitten



i applaud
your
courage,
style
and
creativity

gary podschun



*You actively redefine "artist / athlete"
by continually rising above
the mechanics of your sport
to create performances of
exquisite beauty & excitement;
drawn from the power of
skilled physicality,
a unique imagination,
and soul-baring emotion.*

Congratulations, Johnny!

Debora Walsh & Mario Imbrogno



To Johnny,

*An honor well deserved!
Your fans forever!*

Ruby, Lucy Emily Seavey



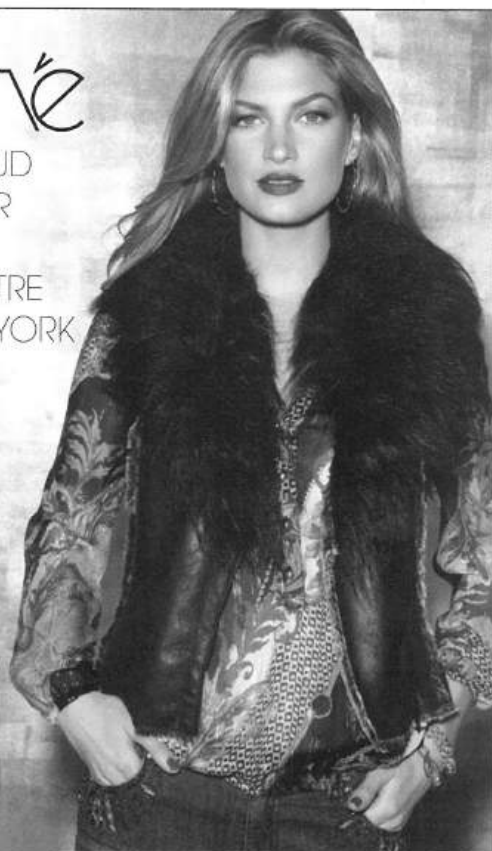
Johnny...
Thank you for being an inspiration to us.
YOU ROCK!

To Ms. Moira and Ice Theatre NY:
Thank you for showing us how beautiful
and artistic skating can be.

With love and admiration,
Vivien and Margaret Sheridan

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Strength*

*You are an inspiration on the
ice and off!*

With love and many hugs,

*Your Columbus fam!
Michele, Dawn, and Bob.*

Photo © David Ingogly

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Johnny!

THE COLLINS FAMILY
TOM, MICHAEL, MARK, AND MARTY



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and to
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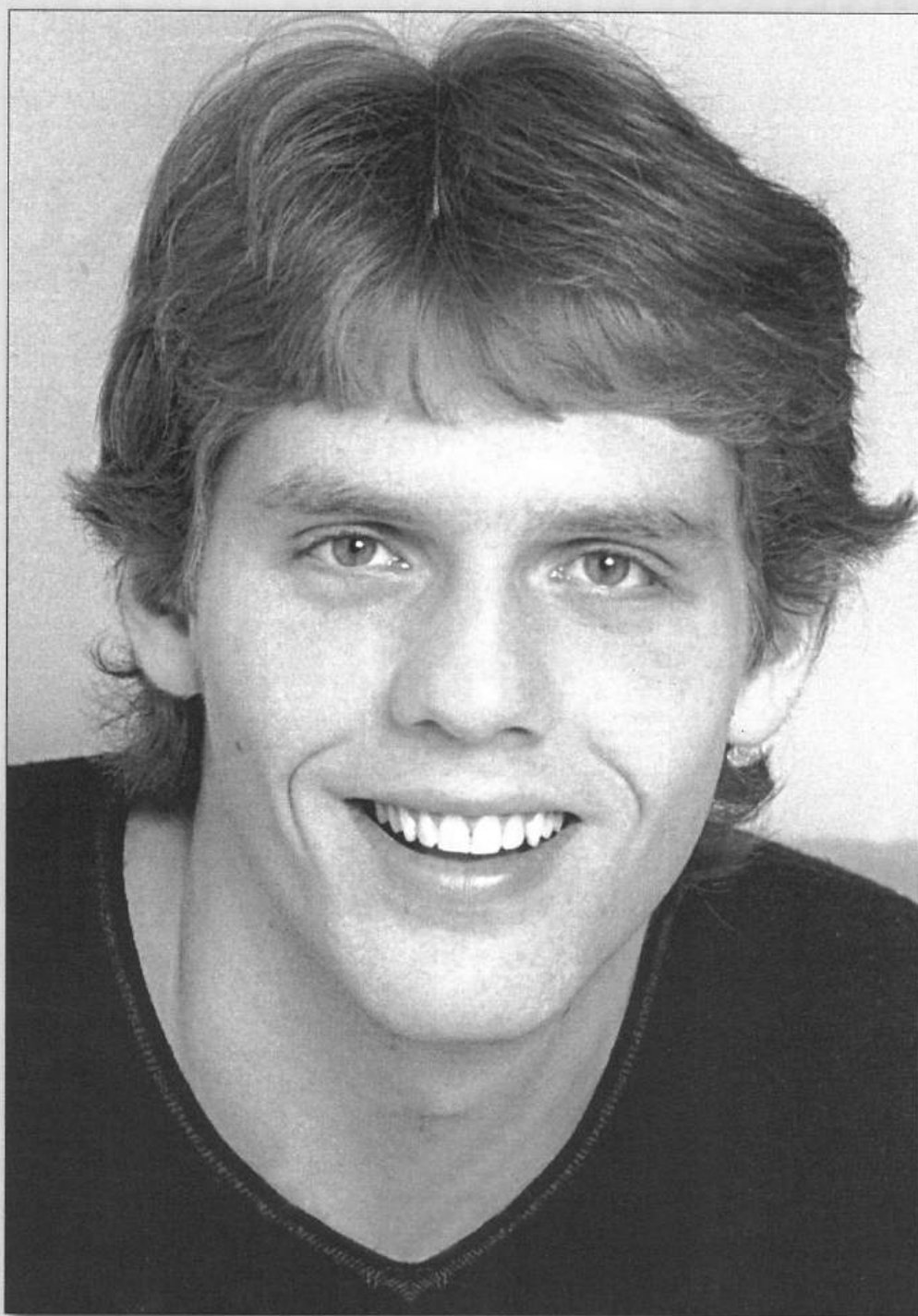
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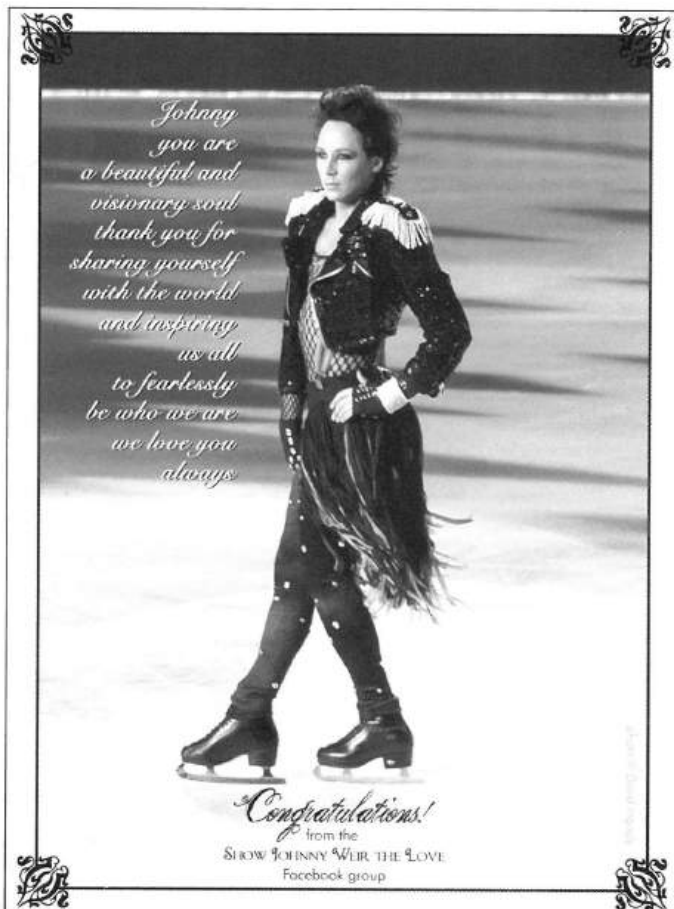
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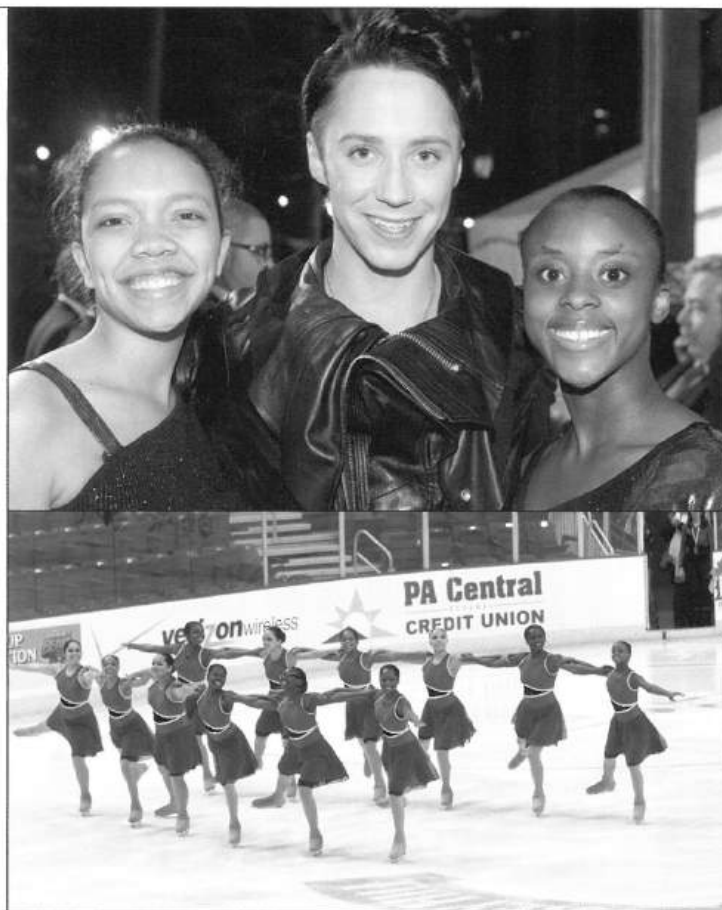
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it counts you twice...*

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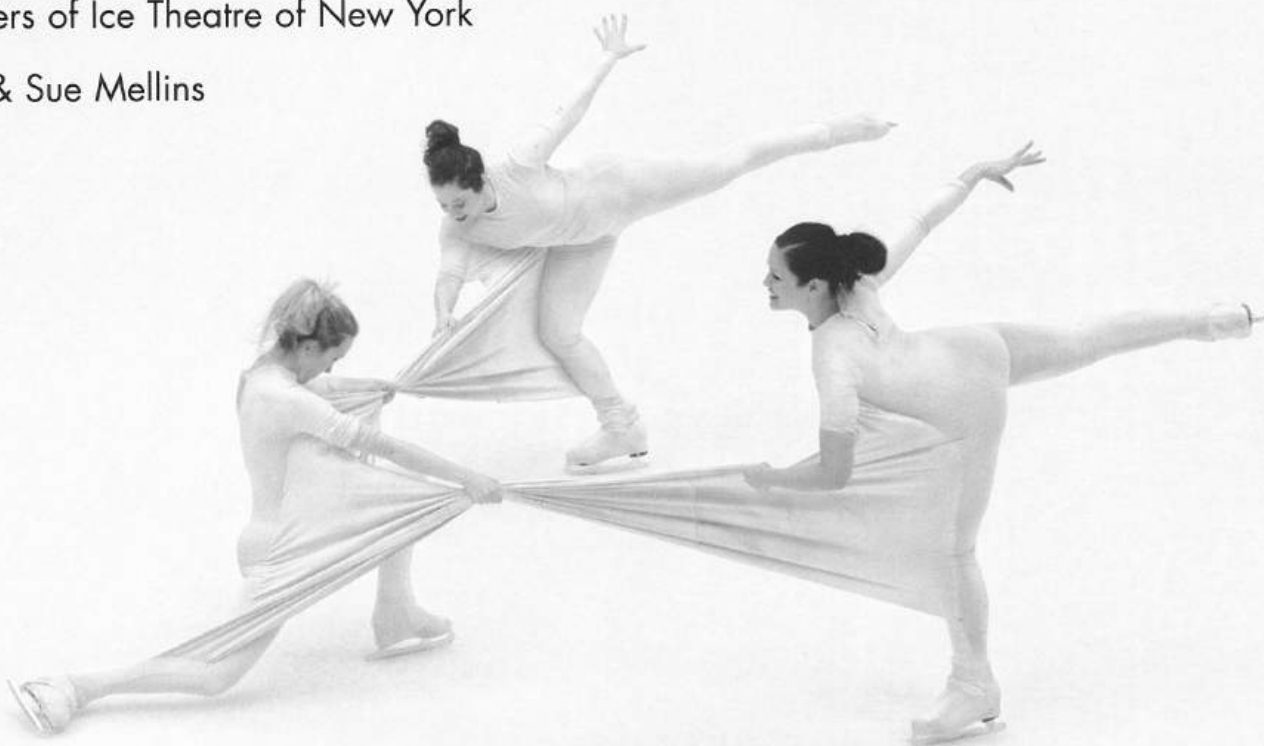
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■ HUMAN RIGHTS

Progress — and Fits and Starts — on Immigration

BY PAUL SCHINDLER

In a dizzying — and not fully transparent — series of developments this past week, the prospects for married same-sex bi-national couples hoping to stay in the US showed improvement, though how far-reaching the gains are remains uncertain as of press time.

In what appears to be the first such action of its type, an Immigration Judge in Manhattan, who works under the Justice Department, on March 22 adjourned deportation proceedings for the Argentine lesbian spouse of an American citizen to allow the couple to proceed with their application to have their marriage recognized for purposes of federal immigration law.

Also last week, Newsweek reported that the heads of two district offices, in Baltimore and Washington, DC, of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) — which is part of the Department of Homeland Security — had separately stated publicly they have put on hold the processing of any applications for spousal recognition or green cards from married same-sex couples. Such applications have routinely been denied in the past, so by putting them instead "in abeyance," USCIS would be strengthening the arguments a married same-sex

IMMIGRATION P. 4



ELIZABETH TAYLOR AND AMFAR FOUNDER DR. MATHILDE KRIM AT A 1985 AIDS FUNDRAISER

Elizabeth Taylor, AIDS Pioneer, 1932-2011

BY PAUL SCHINDLER

Elizabeth Taylor — who for a majority of Americans was a towering international film star and celebrity for their entire life — will likely be remembered most fondly in the LGBT community for her pioneering work in alerting the nation and the

world to the urgency of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

According to amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research, where Taylor served as the founding chair, the film star first became involved in HIV advocacy in December 1984, when she signed on as a major donor to AIDS Project Los

TAYLOR P. 40

■ COMMUNITY

Michael Lucas Says LGBT Center Pressed Jewish Group to Move Meeting

BY DUNCAN OSBORNE

Following his success at getting a group opposed to Israeli government policies toward Palestinians banned from New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center, porn impresario Michael Lucas is continuing to challenge the Center after a group he was scheduled to address there moved its meeting to his home.

"From this email it is very clear that the Center is lying when saying that they did not interfere by pressing GLYDSA to disinvite me," Lucas wrote in a March 25 email to Gay City News. "They absolutely did. This was the reason why GLYDSA moved their event."

GLYDSA, the Gay and Lesbian Yeshiva Day School Alumni Association, an Orthodox Jewish group, had invited Lucas to its March 24 meeting to discuss how he "worked hard this past month to thwart the Israeli Apartheid Week" activities from taking place at the LGBT Center.

While not alone, Lucas was the most visible opponent of allowing Siegfrieds, the group that was banned, to hold a March 5 party at the Center.

LUCAS P. 11

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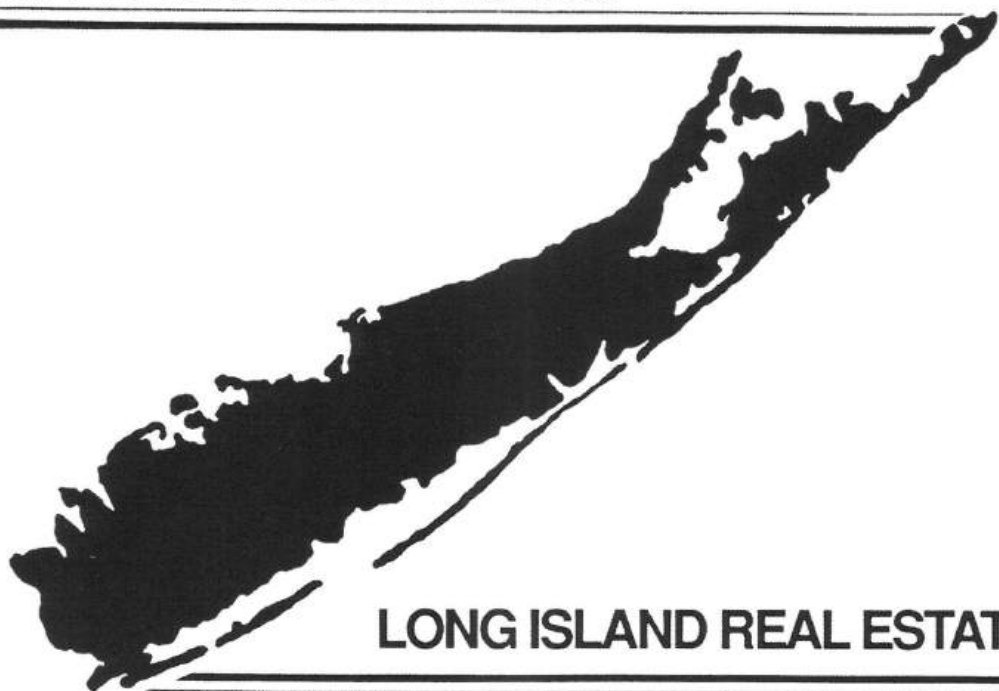
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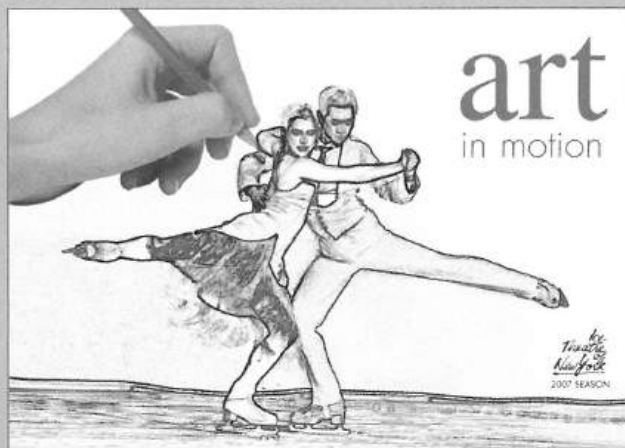
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Bill Candee





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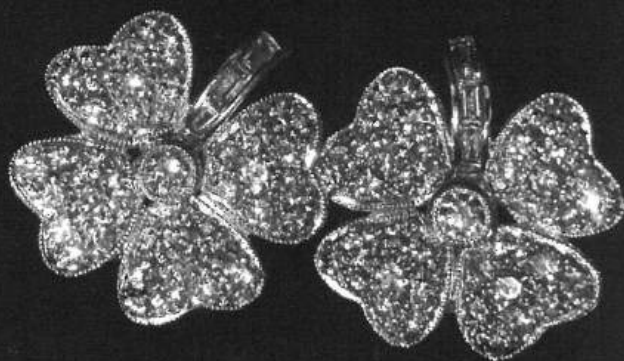
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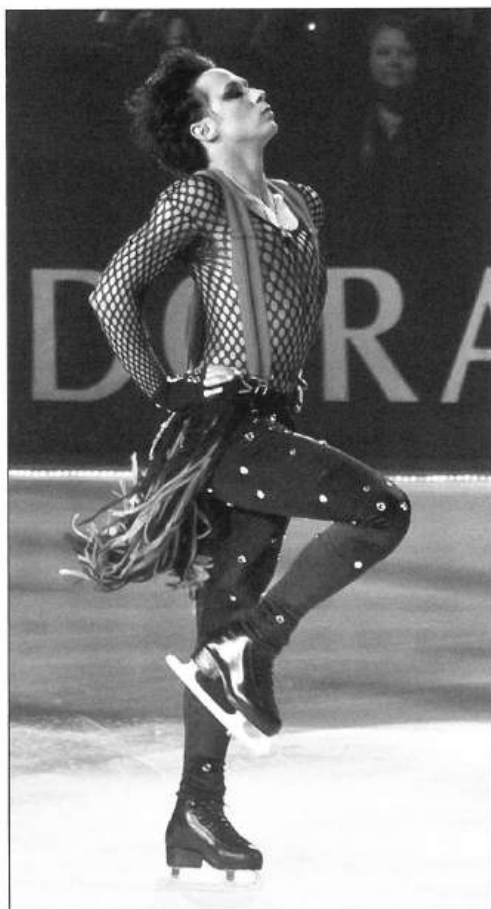
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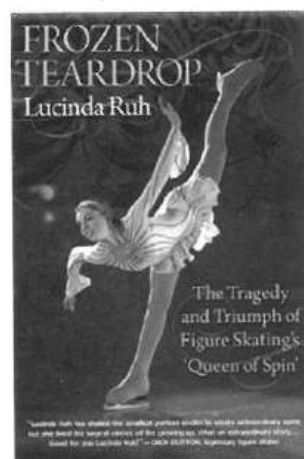


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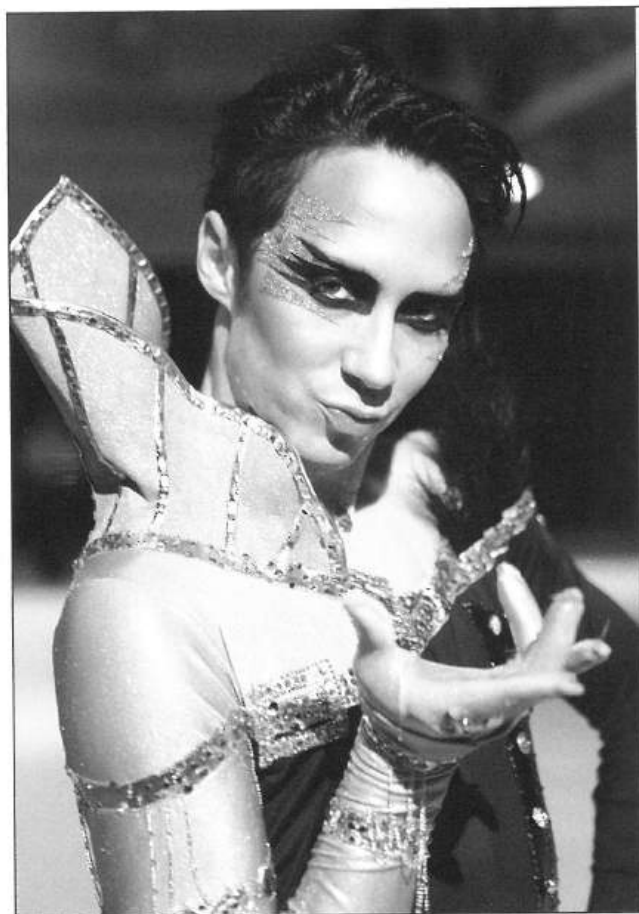


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Dear Johnny:

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You have changed my world and that of so many people around the globe.

As I once said to Viacheslav: "Johnny has a star that is very much unlike anybody else's, and is capable of things that no one else can accomplish."

It's been a wild and crazy ride, and I can't wait for the next turn ...

My love always,
Tara



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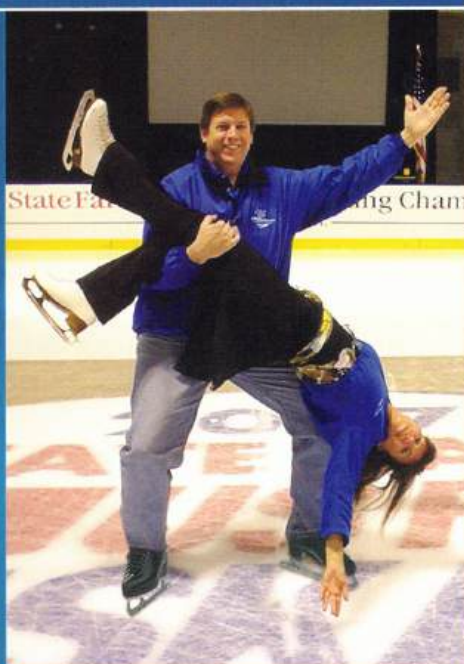
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