

Ice Theatre of New York



Sixth Annual Halloween Skating Benefit
October 28, 1992

Dear Benefit Patrons,

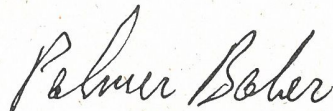
The Ice Theatre of New York company, its Trustees and Benefit Committee join in welcoming you to our benefit party at The Rink at Rockefeller Plaza and the American Festival Cafe.

We hope that you will particularly enjoy this event as we kick off our Winter 1992-93 season. This evening's performance exemplifies why the work of the company, reflecting the skills and talents of its skaters and choreographers, has been critically acclaimed. It is your support, with its enthusiasm and generosity, that makes the development of this fascinating dance form possible. We cannot thank you enough for it.

Sincerely,



Caroline Moore



Palmer Baker

Benefit Co-Chairs

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to Ice Theatre*

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by Dennis McGovern
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published in
American Skating World

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*Front cover:
courtesy Roy Blakey Collection*

Ice Theatre of New York, Inc.
Sky Rink
450 W. 33rd Street
16th Floor
New York, NY 10001
(212) 239-4320



Ice Theatre Of New York

— Dennis McGovern

New York Magazine pointed out one of the main claims to fame by the Ice Theatre of New York: "A Concern with making the skater sensitive to the edges of the skate blades as instruments for the projection of expression."

If one remembers the excitement created by Torvill and Dean's "Bolero" - or better still their performances to the music from "Barnum" and "Mack and Mabel," one knows how exciting ice dancing/theatre can be as long as there is still the element of the sport of figure skating and the discipline of ice dancing still present. Things change; sometimes for the better and sometimes not.

Ice Theatre is not only perserving a form that should be saved...rescued,

whatever...but is doing it with a style and class that is getting more and more unusual in the Big Apple.

Founded in 1984, this is the nation's first non-profit skating ensemble. One of its most unique qualities is that it is structured like established dance companies. Yes, it is dance, but it is on ice and it is also a company of skaters.

Slowly but surely they have developed a repertory of ensemble and solo pieces designed to showcase their company of professional skaters.

At the same time, according to their Founder and Director, Moira North, they have been working on educating an entire spectrum of skaters - competitors, pro-

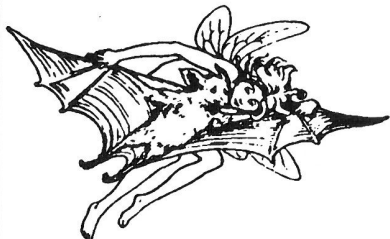
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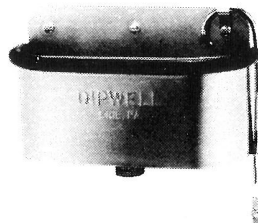
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fessional and recreational. At the same time, they work with choreographers (both beginners and established), musicians (giving composers a place to express their work) and designers.

Workshops given by Ice Theatre have been attended by skaters all over the country as well as at Sky Rink in New York, and the result to these sessions have invariably stimulated an interest in the sport/art as well as providing enjoyment for anyone lucky enough to be present. The benefits for training and thinking such as that provided by Ice Theatre are obvious for the competitive skater. There is the opportunity to be exposed to a theatricality that is often not present at an ordinary lesson. There is the exposure to the sense of theater and movement that is often lacking when the concentration is solely on spins and jumps.

A typical day – if there is such a thing for Ice Theatre at Sky Rink – is like a performance, or better still, a rehearsal for a major dance company.

On a particularly hot summer afternoon, I dropped in to watch a rehearsal and a class. The rehearsal was conducted by Debbie Brown, a choreographer/dancer with Cirque du Soleil from Montreal. She was working with two members of the company, Ararat Zakarian and Akop Manoukian, on a new piece. While she is a recreational skater, Debbie was experimenting and dealing with the skaters as she would with any two dancers. "I'm giving them movement – expressing the music. Maybe it's just as well that I don't understand all the technicalities of ice skating. We're putting a dance outline that will be developed on the ice."

(continued on page 9)



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Following the rehearsal (which took place simultaneously with a free skate session on the ice), Miss North and Rob McBrien, the Company's Artistic Director conducted a class for the assembled professional skaters. Overkill is harmful, so I won't say it was better than a lot of professional ice shows I've seen, but the work is so precise and clean and it is a pleasure to see talented skaters dancing - and skating - on the ice, that I felt like I should have been paying to be there. Will, that's a little extreme but I wanted everyone to see them in action. And this was a class! The commitment is awesome. The skaters were also anxiously awaiting a class with Debbie Brown off the ice following the class. Early in the summer, Dick Button hosted a benefit for IceTheatre to help their recently established rehearsal fund. The evening was described as "The Belita Benefit." The legendary skater/dancer/

actress was unique and remains so. On her brief appearance in New York, many of her fans turned out to meet her and at the same time contribute to a good cause. She pioneered developing the artistic side of figure skating, and still follows the sport. Her influence has also been felt away from the world of figure skating.

The Benefit included a showing of the 1946 film Suspense. Unfortunately, the film is not readily available to the general public, but it is an expression of the influence Belita had on the development of skating performances.

One thing is going to change in the next year or so for Ice Theatre. Plans have gone through, and work is underway on a new complex on the West Side of New York that will salvage the decaying piers by the rivers and result in new film
(continued on page 15)

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(anonymous donation)

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Ice Theatre of New York
Sixth Annual Halloween Skating Benefit

Open Skating* 6:30 p.m.
Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres 7:00 p.m.
Ice Theatre Performance 8:00 p.m.

Hitchcock Suite

premiere

Choreography
Rob McBrien

Music
Bernard Herman

Karen Alstadt
Amy Lynn Grossman

Akop Manoukian
Kenneth Moir

James Schilling
Robin Wagner

Laurie Welch

Ararat Zakarian

Duo

Premiere

Choreography
William Whitener

Music
Miles Davis with Michel LeGrand

Marina Kulbitskaya and Alexander Esman

Beethoven

(1990)

Choreography
Gary Beacom

Music
Beethoven's 5th Symphony

Gary Beacom

Chopin

(1992)

Choreography
Natalia Dubova

Music
Frederic Chopin

Maia Usova & Alexander Zhulin

A June Tango

(1992)

Choreography
Robert Dessrosier

Music
A June Tango-From the movie
The Moon & the Gutter

Toller Cranston

Dinner

8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

*Skate rentals compliments of The Rink at Rockefeller Plaza
Program and casting subject to change without notice

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studios, the Dennis Connor Marina and two new spaces for the new and improved Sky Rink. There will be a smaller, more theatrical space and then a larger Olympic size training area. There was always something wonderfully bizarre about going to the top floor at West 33rd street. I've read estimates of over ten thousand people a year coming to Sky Rink, but the two new venues will be welcome, and can only be a plus for both skating in general and for the Ice Theatre of New York. In talking about her company, Moira North almost echoes the sentiments expressed by Belita at the Benefit. "We really are determined to put it all together. We expect our skaters to dance and to ice dance and to work on both. They also have to have theatrical skills. To give a total performance, you have to have the range to interpret a host of different styles and characters."

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Rob McBrien
Artistic Director

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Gary Beacom
Patricia Dodd
Alexander Esman
Gia Guddat
Marina Kulbitskaya

Akop Manoukian
Kenneth Moir
Cecily Morrow
Iris Savernik
James Schilling

Robin Wagner
Doug Webster
Laurie Welch
Beth Woronoff
Ararat Zakarian

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**We'd like to thank everyone who has helped helped with this project from
inception to date**

Ice Theatre of New York is supported in part with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Lila Acheson Wallace Theater Fund, the Curtis McGraw Foundation, J.P. Morgan & Co., Incorporated, and through the generosity of individual supporters.

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**Ice Theatre of New York, Inc.
The Rehearsal Fund**

The Rehearsal Fund has been established by resolution of the Ice Theatre of New York Board of Directors to help cover the ongoing cost of ice time for the rehearsal schedules that are fundamental to the company's performance success. We think of the subscribers to this fund as special friends of Ice Theatre, and we are pleased to recognize their contribution to our development.



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