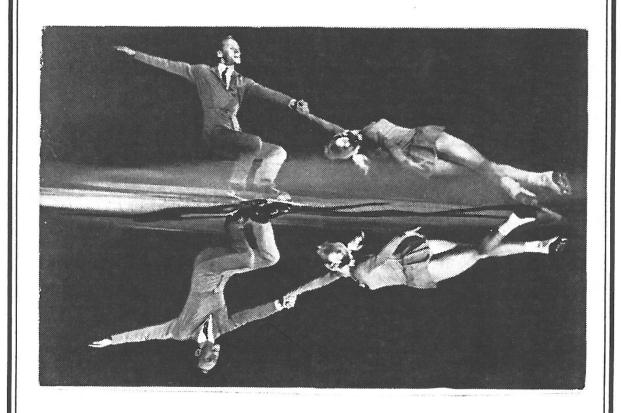
## ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK



Celebrates the Artistry of

**OLEG and LUDMILA** 

**PROTOPOV** 

June 8, 1993

### The Protopopovs

The Protopopovs have certainly had an important historic influence on the development of pair skating. Against all odds they became four-time World Champions and two-time Olympic Champions, 1964 and 1968, as well as four-time World Professional Champions.

They completely changed the style and substance of pair skating-they brought new techniques and precision into the sport and incorporated ballet movement into their work--elevating pair skating to a higher standard of atheleticism and aesthetic. When they started, there was just one classic spiral; now there are four, three created by the Protopopovs--the Life, the Love and the Cosmic Spirals.

After viewing some of this rare footage that we will be seeing tonight, Jacqueline Du Bief, former World Champion (1952) said, "It is not figure skating. It is not ballet. It is pure poetry".

Interestingly enough, they credit other skaters for giving them inspiration, notably, Dick Button. "In 1961, I saw Dick Button skating in Moscow with the Ice Capades and I was absolutely excited by his jumps and style of skating". Later, the Protopopovs and Button developed a strong friendship.

### **Dick Button**

Dick Button dominated the world of figure skating for a seven year period, winning two Olympic Gold Medals (1948, 1952), five World Championships and seven U. S. titles. He is the only skater ever to make a grand slam sweep of all major titles. A Harvard graduate, he also earned a degree from Harvard Law School, and in June of 1988 received an honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters from Buena Vista College. As an expert analyst for over twenty years in ABC's award winning coverage of the Winter Olympics, he is easily recognized as the tuxedoed analyst of numerous skating telecasts; in 1981 winning an Emmy Award for outstanding sports personality. He is the creator of the highly successful television sports series, The Superstars, and in 1974 pioneered the concept of competitive professional skating, creating the World Professional Figure Skating Championships in 1980, and the Challenge of Championships in 1985.

#### Ice Theatre of New York

## The Rehearsal Fund Benefit presents

## An Evening with the Protopopovs hosted by Dick Button

Cocktail Reception

6:30 pm

Opening Statement - Moira North

8:00 pm

Dick Button introduces the Candid Production footage

-clip of 1963 World Championships in

Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

-clip of 1968 Olympic Games, Grenoble, France

-Ave Maria from the 1983 World Professional Championships

Change of tapes Anecdotes by Doug Wilson, ABC Sports

Dick Button introduces Oleg and Ludmila Protopopov

Video Screening with commentary by Oleg and Ludmila Protopopov

Questions & Answers moderated by JoJo Starbuck and Ken Shelley 9:00 pm

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Coffee and Dessert

9:30 pm

Good Night!

10:00 pm

# Ice Theatre of New York, Inc. The Rehearsal Fund Members

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\* Sponsoring Members (as of 6/04/93)

### Special Thanks

Audio Visual Workshop • The Baker Co. • Allison Billingsby • Roy Blakey Dick Button • Sharon Cohen • Edward Z. Epstein • Todd Palmer • Jirina Ribbens Stephen Sterling • Marc Wien Video Planning

#### ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK

Ice Theatre is directed by Moira North and Rob McBrien. The company's extensive repertory includes a variety of pieces featuring some of the most prominent modern dance choreographers working today, combining the traditional with the unconventional in music and movement to expand the dimensions of ice performance. Another aspect of the company's mission is to recognize and teach a historical perspective on the generations of ice choreographers and performers whose work has contributed to the evolution of artistry in skating performance.

The company's work has been recognized by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts, the Lila Acheson Wallace Theatre Fund, Curtis McGraw Foundation, Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York Charitable Trust, Philip Morris Companies Inc., and Telesector Resources Group.

Ice Theatre's work is based on a knowledge and concern for technical excellence applied to an artistic purpose.