

*Ice
Theatre
of
New York*

CELEBRATING THE JOY
OF DANCING ON ICE



2017 HOME SEASON PERFORMANCES OCTOBER 27, 28 & 30

ICE THEATRE BENEFIT GALA • October 30, 2017

US & World Champions **Tai Babilonia & Randy Gardner**

ITNY Alumni Award **Ari Zakarian**

Ice Angel Award **Missy Van Buren & Marilyn Kasputys**



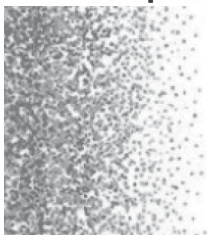
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ABOUT THE COMPANY

Ice Theatre of New York's mission is to create and advance dance on ice as an ensemble performing art and to provide education and public performances to people of all ages.

Founded by Moira North in 1984, ITNY created the first not-for-profit professional ice dance company in the U.S. and was the first to receive 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 created exclusive works by choreographers as varied as Edward Villela and Jody Sperling, modern dance choreographers Jacquelyn Buglisi, Elisa Monte and David Parsons, Performance Artist Ann Carlson and Emmy Award Winner Charles "Chucky" Klapow.
- ITNY trains company skaters and guest skating artists in its weekly Master Edge Classes at Chelsea Piers Sky Rink.
- We continue to collaborate with choreographers from both the dance and skating worlds, while exploring creatively exciting relationships with artists from theatre, music, and new media disciplines.
- ITNY is dedicated to making performances accessible to diverse audiences and presents many free performances featuring the current repertory throughout New York City.

ITNY also achieves its public arts and education mission by:

- commissioning new choreography, with pieces created by recognized and emerging dance and ice skating choreographers;
- offering free admission to more than a dozen public performances each year;
- holding free Master Edge Classes led by ITNY dancers for ice skating professionals and enthusiasts; and
- offering apprentice/training programs for aspiring ice dance artists; and facilitating educational programs on ice dancing and figure skating for school-aged children in Brooklyn, Queens and Upper Manhattan.

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(212) 929-5811 • itny@icetheatre.org • icetheatre.org



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Moira North

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jirina Ribbens

ENSEMBLE DIRECTOR

Elisa Angeli

ADMIN. ASSOC.

Justice Lee McConahea

GRANT WRITER

Mary Dugan

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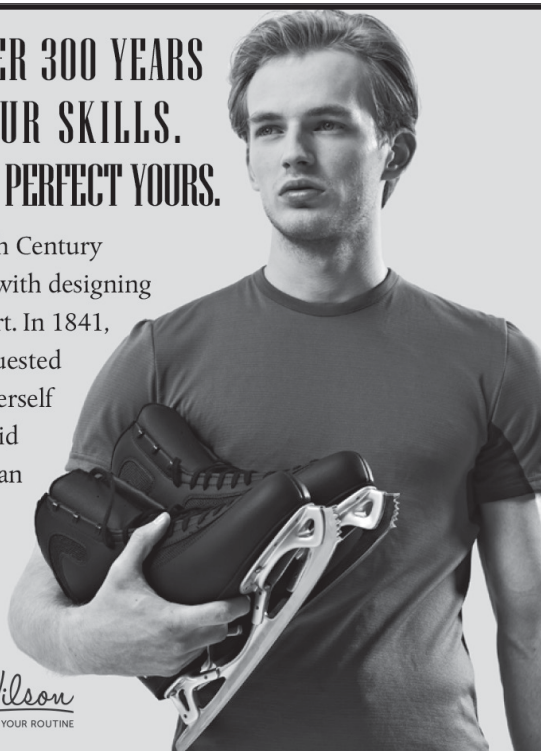
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HOME SEASON
OCTOBER 27 & 28, 2017

BENEFIT GALA & PERFORMANCE
OCTOBER 30, 2017

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GRANT WRITER
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ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK
Angela Chiang, Jordan Cowan, Joel Dear, Christian Erwin, Jennifer Gruver,
Eliot Halverson, Jessica Huot, Valerie Levine, Stephanie Spencer,
Tara Nicole Stamm, Conor Wagar, and Sally Jeanne Watkins

SCHOOL FIGURES
Denise Beaumont, Kate Mangiardi and Wendy Wilke

ITNY JUNIOR ENSEMBLE
Jennie Berlin, Emily Bleiberg, Ciara Flaherty, Anna Faulkner, Rae Han,
Catherine Mayer, Electra Scheiner, and Milly Wasserman

GUEST ARTIST
Olympic Champion, Evgeni Plushenko

LIGHTING DIRECTOR
Chris Lipari,
Lipari Production Group

COSTUME ATTENDANTS
Lisa Bradshaw
and Laura Moore

SOUND OPERATOR
Collin Priddy-Barnum

STAGE MANAGER
Armelle Harper



**CELEBRATING THE JOY
OF DANCING ON ICE**

2017 HOME SEASON

(program subject to change)

SCHOOL FIGURES

Performed by Denise Beaumont, Kate Mangiardi and Wendy Wilke

Poem read from "Serpentine Loop" by Elee Kraljii Gardiner

A Moira North and Elee Kraljii Gardiner collaboration

JUNIOR ENSEMBLE

Performed by Jennie Berlin, Emily Bleiberg, Ciara Flaherty, Anna Faulkner,

Rae Han, Catherine Mayer, Electra Scheiner and Milly Wasserman

Choreography by Christian Erwin

RHAPSODY IN BLUE

Performed by Angela Chiang, Jordan Cowan, Joel Dear, Christian Erwin,

Jennifer Gruver, Jessica Huot, Stephanie Spencer, Tara Nicole Stamm,

Conor Wagar and Sally Jeanne Watkins

Music by George Gershwin

Costumes by Laura Moore

Choreography by Elisa Angeli

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE (10/28 & 10/30 Only)

Olympic Champion **Evgeni Plushenko**

ARCTIC MEMORY

Choreography by Jody Sperling

Performed by Valerie Levine

Music by composers Brooks Williams and Beo Morales

Made possible with funding by Gertrude Vanderbilt Endowment

This version of "Arctic Memory" is adapted from material Sperling developed during a 43-day polar science mission to the Arctic. While there, as the first and to-date only choreographer-in-residence aboard a US Coast Guard icebreaker, Sperling danced on sea ice and made the short film "Ice Floe," winner of a Creative Climate Award. The work draws inspiration from modern-dance pioneer Loïe Fuller (1862-1928).



MALEVOLENT LANDSCAPE

Performed by Eliot Halverson

Music by Patrick O'Hearn

Originated & Choreographed by Gary Beacom

The performer personifies the malevolence in our current ecological landscape.

11/11

**Performed by Angela Chiang, Jordan Cowan, Jessica Gruver, Jessica Huot,
Stephanie Spencer, Tara Nicole Stamm, Conor Wagar, and Sally Jeanne Watkins**

Composed by Raphaël Beau

Choreography by Line Haddad

With the past and future trying to get our attention, we tend to forget the present

IN PASSING

Performed by Joel Dear and Christian Erwin

Music "When We Were Young" by Adele

Choreography by Joel Dear and Christian Erwin

Two men, strangers crossing paths in a busy city. Upon seeing a familiarity in the stranger's face,
a memory is restored as one man is transported back to a relationship unresolved.

SPECIAL PERFORMANCE (10/28 & 10/30 Only)

Olympic Champion **Evgeni Plushenko**

with Violinist Edgar Hakopyan

REQUIEM

Performed by Jessica Huot and Conor Wagar

Choreography by Gaiane and Akop Akopian

TANGO IMAGES

Performed by **Ensemble**

Jordan Cowan and Christian Erwin,

Elisa Angel, Jennifer Gruver and Stephanie Spencer

Tara Nicole Stamm and Sally Jeanne Watkins

Elisa Angeli and Jordan Cowan

Soundtrack from "The Tango Lesson"

Choreography by Peter diFalco

Re-staging by Elisa Angeli, with assistance from Jeremy Peterson

An exploration of the Argentine Tango in five segments: two group pieces that bracket three duets: one male duet (in the 1900's males acted out knife fighting), one female duet, and a classic male/female duet. This piece shows the amazing footwork and fierce passion that characterize the Argentine Tango.

FINALE



ABOUT THE EXECUTIVE STAFF

MOIRA NORTH (Founder/Director) Named one of the 25 Most Influential Names in Figure Skating by International Figure Skating Magazine, Moira North has been a driving force in the development of figure skating as a performing art. Since founding Ice Theatre of New York in 1984, she has commissioned renowned dance choreographers to make new works for the company while nurturing and developing choreographers from the world of ice. She has also been a catalyst in the development of other artistic ice dance companies in both Canada and the United States. Moira and partner Patrick Dean skated in Ice Theatre of New York's first work, a collaboration with Belgian dance choreographer Marc Bogaerts, which won them first place in the Free Dance at the Professional Championships in Jaca, Spain. In her subsequent work as Ice Theatre of New York Director, Moira has continued to integrate contemporary dance with ice choreography.

JIRINA RIBBENS (Executive Director) joined the ITNY staff in December 2004, after serving on the board since the founding of the company. Over the past 9 years Jirina has overseen ITNY's growth, such as the doubling of ITNY's operations budget, the expansion of its outreach programming for public school children, and ITNY's entry into new media, including a collaboration with Improv Everywhere, which received over 3.2 million views on You Tube. Prior to her work with ITNY, Jirina worked in a variety of positions in the entertainment and sports industries. During her time at Candid Productions she produced and managed events with two-time Olympic Champion Dick Button. She also worked as an Olympic sports consultant and producer for the networks at nine Olympic Games. In 2002 she received a Sports Emmy for Outstanding Live Sports Special, as Associate Producer for NBC for the Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games.

ELISA ANGELI (Ensemble Director/Choreographer) is an Italian ice dancer with recognition from the Italian Federation for Ice Skating, who studied Ballet with Ludmilla Vlassova (Bolshoi) and Giovanna Franzosi in Milan, and with Christine Wright at the Gibney Dance Center. She also studied Modern and Contemporary Dance at the Open Dance Center, New York, and at the Music, Art and Shows School, Milan. She studied Aerial Silks at the Streb Lab and at the Trapeze School in New York. Elisa had several years of contortion and extreme flexibility classes with J. Noan and O. Karmansky. Her expertise as a circus arts specialist allows Elisa to bring a unique element of excitement when skating as a principal performer and aerialist with ITNY. In 2009, Elisa participated with Ice Theatre of New York at the Premiere of "Wintuk" by Cirque du Soleil at Madison Square Garden. In Italy, she was an aerialist with the tour "Italian Champions on Ice," with Ghiaccio Spettacolo, and performed in Munich with Spotlight Productions. Elisa has been with ITNY since 2008, and was on ITNY's 2008 tour in France. In 2015 she became ITNY's Ensemble Director. Elisa also works with Cirque-tacular Entertainment as an aerialist (since 2014), with which she performed in the show "The Art of Circus" in September 2016.

JUSTICE LEE McCONNAHEA (Administrative Associate) joined ITNY in February of 2014 after having led a career that spans across film, television and stage. He is best known for his recurring role on Fox's hit comedy, "Glee." Throughout his career he has had roles in such notable television series as "Grey's Anatomy," "True Blood," "How I Met Your Mother," "Revenge," "Modern Family" and "90210." He's also lent his talent to such Feature Films as "The Muppets," "Rock of Ages," "The Dark Knight Rises," "Divorce Invitation" and others. In addition to his experience in Film and Television

he has worked as an Associate Publicist with Levine Communications, whose clients included Paul Stanley, Diamond Dallas Page, Pia Zadora and the late Donna Summer.

MARY DUGAN (Grant Writer) joined ITNY in December 2016 after a career in grant writing both for the Arts and for advocacy organizations, as well as serving nine years as a grant maker for the Jarvie Commonweal Service, which helped the elderly maintain their quality of life. In the Arts, she won grants for Harmonie Ensemble/New York and the Dwana Smallwood Performing Arts Center, while also having a long history winning grants for organizations advocating for immigrants, reproductive rights, formerly incarcerated women and public programs combatting poverty.

CHRIS LIPARI (Lighting Director) began his professional career as a dancer and figure skater, performing at Radio City Music Hall and in Las Vegas, Australia, Italy, Portugal, Tokyo and Saudi Arabia. After finishing a year-long international tour of the roller-skating spectacle "Starlight Express," Chris utilized his performing talents, business acumen and innate creativity to launch a career as a special events producer. Now, with more than 20 years of production and event experience in the corporate and non-profit sectors, he has helmed his own firm for the past 14 years. Skating and lighting design are both passions and he is pleased to once again light the unique works of Ice theatre of New York. Chris still enjoys skating and is a three-time Gay Games ice dance gold medalist. www.lpgny.com

ABOUT THE CHOREOGRAPHERS

GAIANE AKOPIAN and **AKOP AKOPIAN** (Choreographers) trained in the Vaganova Ballet Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia, as well as at the Yerevan Choreographic College in their native ICE THEATRE OF Armenia. They held positions in several European companies, beginning with the Armenian National Theater Opera and Ballet and the Opera and Ballet Theater in Gera-Altenburg, Germany, before going to West Michigan to join Grand Rapids Ballet Company in 2001. Akop and Gaiane were stars on stage with Grand Rapids Ballet Company until their retirement and then organized their own studio, Michigan Ballet Academy. Currently, Gaiane and Akop are on the Ballet Faculty at the Joffrey Ballet School.

GARY BEACOM (Choreographer) started skating on White Mud Creek in Edmonton, Canada, and eventually skated at the Royal Glenora Club at about age 7; his coaches there were Carolyn Dick, Eddie Collins and Michael Williams. He skated at Calalta Skating Club, in Calgary, also at an early age, with coach Sharon Lariviere and also skated at a few summer schools in Victoria at RCV Figure Skating Club with Ron Vincent. Next, he moved to Toronto Cricket, Skating, and Curling Club at age 12 with coach Sheldon Galbraith. He trained with Louis Stong at Weston and Granite Club and later with Ellen Burka, and went to Lake Placid to train with Tommy Litz. He trained with Carlo Fassi for one summer in Colorado Springs. He competed in 12 consecutive Canadian Championships, 1973 to 1984, placed 2nd in Novice, 3rd, 2nd, and 1st in Junior, and 3rd and 2nd in Senior. His first international competitions were Nebelhorn Trophy, Oberstdorf, Germany, and the St. Gervais Grand Prix, Switzerland, in 1976, placing 6th and 5th respectively. He placed 4th in Prague Skate, Czechoslovakia, 1977, then placed 3rd in both St. Gervais and Oberstdorf in 1978. He also competed in Ennia Cup, The Hague, The Netherlands, in both 1979 and 1980; Moscow Skate, in the former Soviet Union, 1981 and '83, and won the silver medal; and Skate Canada in 1983 and '84. Gary competed in Skate

America, at Lake Placid, in 1979. He competed in two World Championships where he placed 13th and 10th. He placed 11th in the 1984 Olympics. Gary is known as an outstanding, free-interpreting artist on ice. He has university degrees in both Philosophy and Physics and his choreography reflects his knowledge of both in the most truly creative way. Some of his best-known performances include “Alberta Biography,” “Malevolent Landscape,” and “I’m Your Man.” He was featured in Dance Magazine in a March 1995 cover story, appearing on the cover in a black, all-covering bodysuit from his piece, “Malevolent Landscape.”

PETER JOSEPH DIFALCO (Choreographer) Peter Joseph diFalco was a long-time New York-based ballroom and ethnic dancer, choreographer, performer and teacher, who touched the lives of countless students and dance enthusiasts and who was an integral part of the Jacob’s Pillow Dance scene in the 1940’s and 1950’s. DiFalco danced in over 125 concert performances in New York City and 96 at Jacob’s Pillow Theater in the Berkshires, where he also taught for four consecutive years. Born in Johnstown, Pennsylvania on March 19, 1924, Peter entered the Eleanor Oliver Dance School on a scholarship and began performing in his early teens. Within a year of his arrival in New York in 1946, as the male lead in La Meri’s Exotic Ballet Company, he partnered La Meri, who was among the first to bring indigenous dance forms to the stage. Peter continued in this capacity for five years. He choreographed solos and duets for himself and his students. DiFalco also made many television appearances including “Omnibus,” “Voice of Firestone” and “Dumont.” In 1955, he founded The diFalco Dance Theater, which toured the Atlantic seaboard and Midwestern United States for five years. The company performed benefits and sold-out performances at such venues as Carnegie Recital Hall, the Actor’s Playhouse and New York’s High School of Performing Arts. His ballroom dance career, his life’s second act, spanned more than 40 years. He taught at the Phillips Studio in Manhattan for 10 years and the Butler Dance Studio for 12 years. In 1986, he joined the Sandra Cameron Ballroom Dancers and performed a wide range of his ballroom choreography at venues including the 92nd Street Y and New York’s Marc Ballroom throughout the 1990s. In 1991, Peter choreographed “Tango Suite” for American Ballroom Theater, winning critical acclaim from New York City to Washington, D.C., in Alaska and Hong Kong. Bringing his skills to the ice, he choreographed Tango for Ice Theatre of New York. He also choreographed for and coached many top ballroom performers and competitors.

LINE HADDAD (Choreographer) is a World and Olympic pair skater and was the youngest athlete to compete at the Olympics. Former student of Oleg Vassiliev, she is two-time French National Champion, one-time Israeli National Champion. As a dancer, she graduated from the Paris Conservatoire in ballet and has also trained and performed in modern dance and argentine tango (NY City Center, Google, NY Live Arts, and The Madison Theatre). Line is an international choreographer and a consultant for the French Ice Skating Federation. She choreographed for various international skaters, among them are top-ten Olympic team Vanessa James/Morgan Cipres, world competitors Lola Esbrat/Andrei Novoselov and Laurine Lecavalier. She also coached skaters at ISU Grand Prix events (Skate America, Trophée de France). After touring with Philippe Candeloro and the French team, she joined the Ice Theatre of New York as a performer and worked with choreographers such as David Parson, Doug Webster and David Liu. She was also featured in Dance Visions on Ice on NBC starring Nancy Kerrigan and Evgeni Plushenko and well as in an episode of the TV show Glee. Academically, she received her Master of Arts in translation and linguistics in Paris, majoring in French, English and Spanish.

JODY SPERLING (Choreographer) A dancer-choreographer from New York City, Jody Sperling is

the Founder and Artistic Director of Time Lapse Dance. She has created 40+ works, including many furthering the legacy of modern dance pioneer Loie Fuller (1862–1928). Considered the preeminent Fuller stylist, Sperling has expanded the genre into the 21st century, deploying it in the context of contemporary performance forms. She has been nominated for a 2017 World Choreography Award for her work on the French feature film *The Dancer* (which premiered at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival), inspired by Fuller's life. Years of working in Fuller's idiom, which involves kinesphere-expanding costumes, has influenced Sperling's awareness of the body's relationship with the larger environment. In 2014, she participated in a polar science mission to the Arctic as the first, and to date only, choreographer-in-residence aboard a U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker. During the expedition, she danced on Arctic sea ice and made the short dance film "Ice Floe," winner of a Creative Climate Award. Sperling's current projects focus on using visual-kinetic narratives to connect choreography and climate science.

ABOUT THE COLLABORATORS

DENISE BEAUMONT (School figures) is an accomplished figure skater and triple gold medalist in figures, freestyle and dance. She was a competitor at the senior level and has performed professionally in Japan, with *Ice Follies* and with *Ice Theatre of New York*. Denise has been a professional figure skating coach for over 34 years, starting out at the old Sky Rink. Now teaching at Chelsea Piers, several of her students have gone on to become successful high level competitors. She loves teaching and attends skating conferences each year to hone her skills. She is a native New Yorker, and her daughter, Alana, has become a beautiful figure skater in her own right.

ELEE KRALJII GARDINER (Writer & Editor) is the author of the book of poems *serpentine loop* (Anvil Press), one of 2016's "most anticipated spring releases" and named to three "Best of" lists of the year in Canada. She is the co-editor with John Asfour of *V6A: Writing from Vancouver's Downtown Eastside* (Arsenal Pulp Press, 2012), which was shortlisted for the 2012 City of Vancouver Book Award, and her second book of poems, *Tunica Intima* (forthcoming 2018), has already been shortlisted for the Kroetsch Award for Innovative Poetry. She founded Thursdays Writing Collective, a non-profit organization of more than 150 writers in Vancouver, and she is the editor and publisher of eight of its anthologies. Elee is the daughter of Olympic gold and silver medalist Dr. Tenley Albright and is a dual US/Canadian citizen.

EDGAR HAKOPYAN (Violinist) is a pop violinist, composer, producer and actor, soloist of the International Centre of Arts "Russian Symphony Orchestra Prokofiev", winner of the Grand Prix of II Moscow international festival-contest of children and youth artistic creativity "Open Europe" and the status of "National Treasure".

KATE MANGIARDI (School figures) is the Skating Manager at Chelsea Piers Connecticut and a USFSA gold medalist in Moves in the Field. She has been coaching throughout the Tristate area for the past 15 years and currently is the assistant Intro and Beginner coach for the Skyliners Synchronized Skating Team. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts from Vassar and MFA in painting from RISD, she has been exhibiting her work in various museums and galleries. In 2009, Mangiardi was awarded the W.K. Rose Fellowship in the Creative Arts. Solo exhibitions include, Paintings, e Butler Institute of American Art, Youngstown, Ohio, and *Reflected Absence*, e Hunterdon Museum of Art, Clinton,

NJ. Recently, Kate had begun to merge her experience as a skater into her work. In Tracings, a video currently on view at the HVCCA in Peekskill, NY she skates a design of her own creation. Kate is excited and grateful for the opportunity to explore this new direction in her work with Ice Theatre of New York.

WENDY WILKE (School figures) toured worldwide with Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," Disney's "Princess Classics" and "Russian Ballet on Ice" as well as skating in films, TV and commercials such as "Blades of Glory," "Days of our Lives," "Mercedes," "AT&T," "United" etc. As a dancer, she also toured worldwide as a principal performer with Disney. She currently teaches skating – including school figures – in NYC and she enjoys performing with the Ice Theatre of New York.

ABOUT THE COMPANY

ANGELA CHIANG (Performer) Angela Chiang's passion for figure skating started as soon as she stepped on the ice at the age of four, for which she credits her mother's and grandmother's encouragement. After retiring from her competitive career in 2000, Angela joined ITNY as a young apprentice and became a full-fledged cast member on and off with the company since 2003. She has found skating with ITNY to be truly instrumental in developing her artistry and is thrilled to rejoin the cast. Angela is a United States Figure Skating double gold medalist, a graduate of New York University with a B.A. in Journalism and Metropolitan Studies, a former instructor for the Figure Skating in Harlem program, and a former member of the NHL's New York Rangers City Skaters squad, and has had the pleasure of performing in various shows and appearances throughout her career, including the Jimmy Fund's "An Evening With Champions." Angela continues to devote herself to her students and her love of coaching at Chelsea Piers.

JORDAN COWAN (Performer) Jordan Cowan has always loved to dance and perform. He started skating in Los Angeles and a few years later relocated to Michigan to find a partner in Ice Dancing. Over his and his partner Anastasia Olson's competitive career, they went to U.S. Nationals five times and competed internationally for Team USA. After their partnership ended in 2012, Jordan switched his focus to ballroom dancing, both teaching and competing professionally, moving from Michigan to New York in the process. He now studies Computer Science at City College while he coaches ice dancing in and out of the city. Jordan is thrilled to join ITNY and have the opportunity to bring his love for dance back to his first passion, the ice.

JOEL DEAR (Performer) Joel Dear, who started skating in elementary school in Michigan, has been a company member since 2008. Twice a U.S. National Medalist and six times a National Competitor, Joel has performed with Anna Myer and Dancers, and Tribe, The Dance Company, in Boston; on ice, he has also performed with Ice Dance International, Holiday on Ice, Bietak Productions ("Broadway on Ice," an aerial act for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines) and Aerial Ice Extreme (America's Got Talent Quarter-finals). Joel studied circus arts with Circus Center of San Francisco and Circus Warehouse, Queens. He has performed on TV in "Shall We Dance on Ice" Seasons 1 and 3 (February 2015 and February 2017), "America's Got Talent" Season 8 with Aerial Ice Extreme and "Hallmark's Home and Garden Holiday Special" (2016). Joel choreographed "In Passing," a duet to music by Adele, for ITNY (2017), and with Elisa Angeli created "Molecular," an aerial piece for three performers (2012).

CHRISTIAN ERWIN (Performer) Christian Erwin is a skater originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was a three-time U.S. National competitor and Regional champion, as well as a National and Sectional medalist. After retiring from competition, he moved to New York City and began performing with Ice Theatre of New York in 2014. He now spends most of his time coaching but enjoys the creative outlet that ITNY provides, as well as teaching and choreographing Ice Theatre's Junior Ensemble. He looks forward to many more seasons with the company.

JENNIFER GRUVER (Performer) Jennifer Gruver fell in love with the sport of figure skating at the age of six and that love has not wavered in her 21 years of skating. A Colorado native, Jennifer spent 16 years competing in the Southwestern Region before following her dreams of becoming a professional performer. After graduating from the University of Colorado with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Anthropology, Jennifer spent 5 years traveling the world with Disney On Ice. She wrapped up her touring career in December 2016 to chase down more of her dreams in New York City. In the few short months she has lived here, she finds herself coaching, choreographing and performing more than ever. Jennifer will be graduating with a Master's Degree in Tourism Management in the Spring of 2018. She is grateful to be welcomed into the ensemble of Ice Theatre of New York and to have had her debut performance at the 2017 Spring Unplugged Performance.

ELIOT HALVERSON (Performer) Eliot Halverson, a native of Minneapolis, started skating at age six. He was the 2007 U.S. Junior Champion, 2006 U.S. Novice Champion and 2004 U.S. Intermediate Champion. Eliot is a national- and international-level competitive choreographer and served as choreographer for the Bressanone Summer Skating Camp in the Italian Alps this year. He created "Swimming," a piece for three skaters to music by Florence and the Machine, for ITNY in 2016.

JESSICA HUOT (Performer) Jessica Renée Huot is the Skating Director and Skating School Director at Sky Rink Chelsea Piers, where she also teaches private skating lessons. Jessica is a six-time Finnish National Ice Dance Champion and USFS quadruple gold medalist. She and her ice dance partner competed in the World and European Figure Skating Championships in 2002–2004, as well as the Junior and Senior Grand Prix competition circuits from 1999–2003. Jessica received her Bachelor of Science in 2006 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, majoring in Brain and Cognitive Sciences. She went on to earn her Master of Music degree in Piano Performance from New York University in 2012. In addition to teaching skating, she teaches private piano lessons in the NYC area. She has performed for the Ice Theatre of New York since 2010.

VALERIE LEVINE (Performer) Valerie Levine has been dancing tap, jazz and ballet since she was 4 years of age, and started roller-skating at that time. After begging her parents for figure skating lessons, she started training at 11. She auditioned for Disney On Ice during high school and was accepted, but decided to get her bachelor's degree in college first. She went on to get her Senior Ladies Moves and Pre-golds in ice dance by 19, and skated as an ice girl for the NHL teams the New York Rangers and the New York Islanders during those years. She furthered her dance knowledge while in college getting her Bachelor's Degree in Product Management Textiles from the Fashion Institute of Technology. She minored in dance, and trained at the Broadway Dance Center in many dance styles, which led her to her current career as a professional belly dancer, ballroom dancer, Brazilian samba dancer, fire performer and the like. You can find out more about Valerie Levine on her website: Valerinadance.com

EVGENI PLUSHENKO (Guest Performer) Russian figure skater Evgeni Viktorovich Plushenko was born on November 3, 1982. He is a four-time Olympic medalist, a three-time World champion, a seven-time European champion, a four-time Grand Prix Final champion, and a ten-time Russian national champion. Plushenko's four Olympic medals tied Sweden's Gillis Grafström's record for most Olympic medals in figure skating. Plushenko graduated from Lesgaft University in 2005 and from the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality of the Saint Petersburg State University of Engineering and Economics in 2004. Plushenko currently performs in skating shows all around the world. He coaches skating – including Olympic Champion Adelina Sotnikova - and he opened his own skating school. He is married and is father to four children. Plushenko resides in St. Petersburg.

STEPHANIE SPENCER (Performer) Stephanie grew up in the mountains of Vermont and fell in love with skating at the age of 10. In addition to skating, she also studied acting and ballet. After graduating with a degree in Theatre from Middlebury College, she was thrilled to have the opportunity to perform on New York ice stages when she started skating with Ice Theatre of New York in the Spring of 2015. She has been coaching skating for over a decade and loves bringing the joy of the ice to skaters of all ages.

TARA NICOLE STAMM (Performer) Tara Nicole Stamm is an International Choreographer/National Coach, Dancer and Movement Consultant. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Dance from the University of Wisconsin and a Master's Degree in Dance/Movement Therapy from Columbia College, Chicago. She is a 2-time USFS Gold Medalist in Ice Dance and Moves in the Field. She has been integrating her knowledge of Laban Movement Analysis with the sport of figure skating through SOMA: techniques specializing in how the body moves through time, weight and space, to enhance the full body potential on the ice. She is an International Judging System components coach, specializing in all 5 categories, and works closely with athletes to educate, develop and improve their performance to maximize their score. She also has a passion for working with skaters who have special needs. She joined Ice Theatre of New York in 2015. Tara Nicole is a member of USFS, Professional Skater's Association and the American Dance Therapy Association.

CONOR WAGAR (Performer) Conor Wagar first became interested in skating at the age of 10, when he was taken to a Disney On Ice show. Amazed by the performers, he begged his parents to sign him up for lessons. Under the guidance of his coach, Doris Papenfuss, he competed at Junior Nationals with only two years of skating under his belt. Conor went on to compete at Eastern Sectionals and was an alternate for U.S. Nationals. He also became a triple gold-medalist in Moves in the Field, Freestyle and Ice Dance. Towards the end of his amateur career he went on to join the touring company of Disney On Ice and since 2015 he has performed with the talented, amazing cast of ice performers in Ice Theatre of New York.

SALLY JEANNE WATKINS (Performer) Sally Jeanne Watkins is a U.S. Figure Skating triple gold medalist and holds an Intercollegiate National Senior Ladies title. While Sally enjoys skating professionally, she also loves coaching and learning aerial arts. She recently earned her Master's in Environmental Engineering from NYU. Originally from Seattle, Washington, she currently lives in New York City. She is the Figure Skating and Special Events Director at the World Ice Arena in Queens. Sally Jeanne has been performing with Ice Theatre of New York since 2013.

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