

# The Cutting Edge

SPRING 2007

*Ice  
Theatre  
New York*

"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."

— **Jenny Hansell**, from "Learning How to Dance on Ice. A New Art" in *Millerton News*, April 2007

"Jacquelyn 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

## SAVE THE DATE

### 2007 BENEFIT GALA ANNOUNCEMENT

Please save the date for Ice Theatre of New York's 2007 **Performance and Benefit Gala** at Chelsea Piers on October 29, 2007. This year we will honor Emmy award winning ice skating choreographer **Sarah Kawahara** known for her cutting edge interpretations and versatility.

As well as having been the head choreographer of Ice Capades,

Sarah has choreographed competitive and professional programs for skaters such as Michelle Kwan, Dorothy Hamill, Peggy Fleming and Scott Hamilton. She was the ice choreographer of the 2002 Olympic Opening and Closing Ceremonies and more recently of the Will Ferrell movie "Blades of Glory!"

**Toller Cranston** says that Sarah "is an artistic skater with an exceptional brain... one of the best choreographers in the world today." **Scott Hamilton** wrote in his autobiography "I owe Sarah my entire professional skating career. She's genius."

In addition we will be recognizing outgoing board member **Peter Eurich** for his tireless contributions as board member and volunteer for Ice Theatre as well as so many other skating organizations in the NY Metropolitan Area.

The event will begin at 7pm on **Monday, October 29, 2007** with a performance by the Ice Theatre of New York ensemble and guest stars at Chelsea Piers' Sky Rink. We will then adjourn to the "Lighthouse" (the event center directly below the ice rink) for cocktails, dinner and festivities. Please call the office for tickets and congratulatory messages in the Benefit Journal at (212) 929-5811.



*Sarah Kawahara*

Dear Friends,

Years ago, David White of Dance Theater Workshop observed, "Audiences, like artists, are trapped into categories not of their own making." It seems to me from the responses of our audiences that they are not only open to but expecting new forms of ice performance... especially from Ice Theatre. Audiences worldwide have known little of any forum in which the cultivation of artistic impression overrides a concentration on technical prowess as the "raison d'être" of ice performances. It was in recognition of this need that Ice Theatre of New York was founded and continues to provide such a unique and important venue for skating artists.

At the beginning of this year I put in place a Planning Committee from our board of trustees with the mission of putting together a three-year plan for our **25th Anniversary**. This committee proposed that we hire skaters on a more continuous basis so that they could take class and rehearse choreography for our upcoming season. This would ensure a commitment to a core of skaters in order that they train as an ensemble and develop their performance skills as artists. This will commence this fall at the Long Beach Arena under the direction of newly appointed Co-Artistic Director **David Liu**. We are very excited by this development and welcome David Liu's transition from choreographer to an in-house director. We are looking forward to presenting his new work, along with new pieces by **Douglas Webster** and **Peter diFalco** in the upcoming season. We hope you will be able to attend our performances at Long Beach, our Gala and Home Season at Sky Rink, and our concert series at Bryant Park, Rockefeller Plaza and Riverbank State Park.

With your financial contributions we will not only maintain the important work that we are doing but we will also be able to provide the means to significantly increase our exploration of the endless possibilities of movement on ice. Please help us enter our upcoming season with renewed enthusiasm and support!

Thank you,

**Moira North**

Founder/Artistic Director

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW



*JoJo and Ken perform  
for Gala audience.*

### 2006 BENEFIT GALA

Ice Theatre of New York Honored Skating Legends, **JoJo Starbuck** and **Ken Shelley**, at the company's 22nd Anniversary Gala Benefit on October 24, 2006. The gala evening began with a performance at Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers that included solos by Olympic Champion, **Oksana Baiul**; company principal, choreographer and 3-time Olympian, **David Liu**, new company member **Suzanne McDonald**, and a duet by guest artists, **Robin Sudekamp** and **Jonathan Poitras**, of Disney on Ice. To the delight of the audience **Starbuck and Shelley** came out of retirement to give a surprise performance to the music of *Friends*, an original composition by Jordan Bennett. Cocktails, dinner and celebrations followed at The Lighthouse at Chelsea Piers, where Olympic Silver Medalist, **Paul Wylie**, was Master of Ceremonies. Many thanks to our Co-Chairs, **Ann Greenthal**, **Joan Sabatino** and **Diane Samuelsen**, as well as all our volunteers who made this Benefit a great success.



*JoJo & Ken with Benefit Co-Chairs.*



*David Liu, Elisabeth McGraw Webster and Paul Wylie.*



## CONCERT SERIES

### Rink at Rockefeller Plaza

Ice Theatre celebrated its 21st season at the world's most famous rink, the Rink at Rockefeller Plaza, with a series of free lunchtime concerts in February and March. As always we are grateful for the chance to showcase our work at the Rink and we thank **Carol Olsen & Restaurant Associates** for their continued support.

### Pond at Bryant Park

For the second year Ice Theatre presented an evening concert series at the Pond at Bryant Park from October to January. We would like to thank **Itai Shoffman** from Bryant Parks Events and **Meg Akabas**, former Ice Theatre performer, for giving Ice Theatre this opportunity.

*Jennifer Wester and Daniil Barantsev in "After Midnight."*

## RESIDENCY

Ice Theatre of New York held its **residency**, partially funded by **NYSCA**, in **Saugerties, NY** this past April. Thanks to former Ice Theatre member, **Beth Woronoff** and the **Boundless Edge Skating School** we found a home at the **Kiwanis Ice Arena**. The company created new repertory and rehearsed in preparation for upcoming performances in the NY Area and a mini-tour in France in 2008. This residency couldn't have happened without the generosity and support of **Betsy and Doug Wilson**, who opened their home to the skaters; **Ed and Kate Fondiller** for their hospitality at **Total Tennis**; **Greg Helsmoortel**, Town Supervisor; **Greg Chorvas**, **Rob Kleeman** and the **wonderful staff** at the Kiwanis Ice Arena.



*Choreographer Doug Varone, Bentley Roton and Gregory Carey co-founders of the Kaatsbaan International Dance Center with company members.*



*Off-ice rehearsal for Peter diFalco's flamenco piece translated by Douglas Webster.*



*David Liu with company members and apprentice, Felicia Zhang.*

## COLLABORATION WITH "SLEEPWALKERS" SHOOT

In July 2006 Ice Theatre's Artistic Director, Moira North helped cast a skater for a segment of **Doug Aitken's Sleepwalkers** exhibit, which was a number of short films projected simultaneously onto the glass facades of the **Museum of Modern Art**. Aitken's fable has images of **Lucinda Ruh** spinning on the ice incorporated in the fantasy life of the Char Marshall (Cat Power) character. It was really exciting for Ice Theatre to have a second opportunity to work on a project involving public art organization **Creative Time**. The exhibit ran from January 16 to February 12, 2007.



*Raye Levine, Mrs. Ruh, Moira North, Doug Aitken, Lucinda Ruh at Staten Island Pavilion shoot.*



## EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



*Suzanne McDonald assisting a participant.*



*Jennifer Wester and Daniil Barantsev with participants of the skating clinic.*

### 2007 NEW WORKS & YOUNG ARTISTS SERIES AT RIVERBANK STATE PARK

Ice Theatre held its **12th New Works and Young Artists Series at Riverbank State Park Skating Complex** this spring. This series is the company's signature outreach program, designed and performed specifically for children in the Washington Heights and Harlem

communities. It is a free performance followed by a free skating clinic.

For the 10th-time Ice Theatre provided skating clinics for NYC school children as part of the annual **Sports and Arts in Schools Festival** in February at Riverbank State Park.



*Tree Lighting at Rockefeller Center.*

We had a busy Holiday Season skating at many events and **tree lightings**, including at **The Rink at Rockefeller Center**, **Riverbank State Park Ice Rink** and **Reckson Center on Long Island**, which was televised on Channel 11. In November the Ice Theatre dance team, **Jessica Huot** and **Juha Valkama**, was chosen to collaborate on a project to promote the **New York City Opera's production of Hansel & Gretel** at Bryant Park. The company also performed at skating parties for a Canadian Tourism event at Bryant Park, Merrill Lynch at Rockefeller Center, and Empire Entertainment at the Steiner Studios in Brooklyn. On January 1 Ice Theatre skaters, **Olivia Serafini**, **Michaelee Scarincio**, **Katrina Hacker**, and Jessica Huot and Juha Valkama, skated at the **Inauguration Event for Eliot Spitzer** in Albany, NY.

Ice Theatre of New York recently joined **The Chelsea Cultural Partnership, Destination Chelsea**, a coalition of cultural organizations and businesses located in Manhattan's Chelsea. Its mission is to increase the public's participation in, and enjoyment of, Chelsea's rich cultural and entertainment life. Founded in 2003 by **Dance Theater Workshop** in association with **The Joyce Theater** and the **Atlantic Theater Company**, it brings the community's wealth of cultural institutions together to work cooperatively toward building awareness of all that Chelsea offers.

### CAPEZIO DONATION

A big thank-you to  
Liz Livingston and Capezio  
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Founded 1984

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# COMPANY NEWS

Ice Theatre of New York received a grant from **The Robert Sterling Clark Foundation** to strengthen our visibility. With the grant, we hired **Ellen Jacobs Associates**, which has provided media representation, public relations and publicity for almost every major dance company in the world. We are pleased to have Ellen on board!

In September **Moira North** and **Jay Colton** gave a party at the Bikini Bar in Tribeca to thank their medical team and friends for their generous support during Jay's kidney transplant in December 2005. Both donor, Moira, and Jay have recovered splendidly.

**Tyrrell Cockrum** and associate artistic director, **Douglas Webster**, were international TV stars in Holland on the show **Sterren Dansen Op Het IJs (Stars Dancing on Ice)** this year. Ice Theatre is proud of their intrepid application of performance skating.

This summer Douglas Webster is helping to choreograph Disney on Ice's newest show, High School Musical.

Company member, **Kate Liberman**, will be starting medical school at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in the fall of 2007. Congratulations on your acceptance and good luck in your studies, Kate!

**Angela Chiang** graduated from NYU in May 2007. She is taking a year off to teach skating at Sky Rink and then she will be applying to journalism graduate school.

**Kim Navarro** and **Brent Bommembre** placed 4th at the 2007 U.S Figure Skating Championships. The dance pair was featured on the USFSA website in March doing a question and answer session with young figure skaters.

**Judy Blumberg**, Ice Theatre's Ensemble Director and an Integrative Nutritional Consultant, adopted a baby girl, **Etienne**, from China in September of 2006. Etienne celebrated her second birthday in April at the ITNY Residency. We wish Judy all the joys of motherhood.

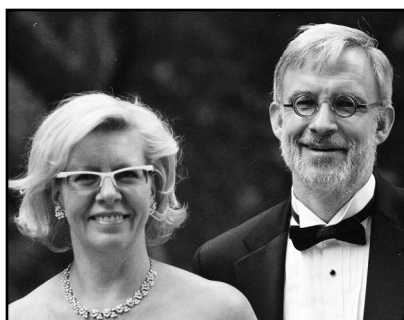
Moira North met up with former ITNY General Manager, **Michiko Grasso** and long-time ITNY artistic advisor, **Joseph Koudelka**, at a celebration of his new photography book published by **Aperture**.

Finally, an enormous congratulations to Ice Theatre's Executive Director, **Jirina Ribbens**, who is newly married to her sweetheart, **Christopher Archer**.

Ice Theatre thanks computer wizard Jeffrey Shaw from Computer Bakery for generously donating his time. We also say a big thank you to the interns, **Haengwon Park** and **Jin Young Ann**, who came to us from Korea. Another special thank you to **Marilyn Meyerson**, **Emmanuelle Lescure**, **Lauren Murawski**, and **Carina Covella** and to all of our volunteers who have helped us this past year. We couldn't do it without you!



*Judy Blumberg & Etienne*



*Jirina Ribbens & Chris Archer.*



*Launching of Koudelka book at Aperture.*

# Ice Theatre of New York

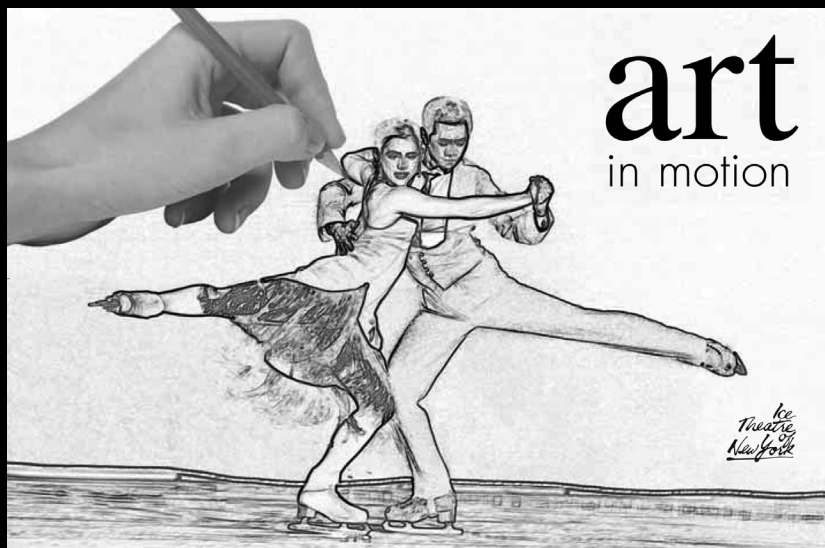


Photo: Bryan Doyle/Doug Aitken Workshop

Skating: "...combines and surpasses the joys of flying and dancing; only in a certain type of a dream do we ever else attain a higher degree of the same ravishing experience of exultantly skimming the earth."

— Ernest Jones, *Biographer of Freud*

Ice Theatre of New York has redesigned its website — [www.icetheatre.org](http://www.icetheatre.org) — and some of our repertory is featured on YouTube. You can link to it from the website or go to YouTube.com and insert Ice Theatre of New York in the search window. Happy viewing!



## MARK OUR UPCOMING EVENTS

### ARENA OF LONG BEACH GRAND REOPENING

Long Beach, NY  
Saturday, October 20, 2007

### 2007 BENEFIT GALA

The Lighthouse, Chelsea Piers  
Monday, October 29, 2007

### HOME SEASON

Sky Rink, Chelsea Piers  
October 31-November 2, 2007

### ICE CONCERT SERIES

October 2007 through April 2007  
Bryant Park, Rockefeller Center & Riverbank State Park

To learn more about the Company and its upcoming activities, please visit our website at [www.icetheatre.org](http://www.icetheatre.org)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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