

Wednesday, May 20 & Thursday, May 21, 1998
7 PM
Sky Rink/Chelsea Piers
Pier 61

# A PROGRAM NOTE FROM ICE THEATRE

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Ice Theatre's final performance of the season. We are excited by this year's program in that our representation is entirely group work, including three premieres featuring the Ice Theatre Ensemble. Since its founding in 1984, Ice Theatre has offered its audiences a repertory which illuminates the rich variety of moods, styles and forms that make a stage of frozen water.

Over the years ITNY has been immensely enriched by the inspiration of dance choreographers. Tonight, we will see Donlin Foreman's innovative work in progress for six skaters, Extasis, set to the music of Shostakovich. JoAnna Mendl Shaw has returned to Ice Theatre to set a piece for three skaters entitled A Conversation with Angels. This striking visual presentation, set to music by Cam Millar, has a transcendant, spritual quality. We have also provided opportunities for ice choreographers to develop their craft. Tonight, you will see a premiere from Doug Webster, Cabaret Mañana, set to the music of Esquivel, a playful dance that evokes images of martinis and mayhem. In addition, Webster's Danse Macabre and Appalachia Waltz, created with JoAnna Mendl Shaw, will appear on the program.

Both Shaw's and Foreman's new works were developed in part during our first residency at Lake Placid. The Olympic Regional Development Authority and the skaters and residents of Lake Placid welcomed ITNY with enthusiasm, for which we are most grateful. During the three week stay, ensemble skaters learned new works, while Lake Placid skating students took part in on and off-ice classes taught by ensemble members and our choreographers in residence. The residency was made possible by public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency.

Our ensemble features several new members from around the world. We are pleased to welcome them to New York and to Ice Theatre. Their contribution this year has been significant. We also want to thank all of those skaters who trained and performed with us throughout the year.

Joining us as guests this year are three-time National Silver medalist and 1997 American Open Ladies Champion, Lisa Marie Allen, 1998 Olympic competitor David Liu, and Sebastian Britten, a Montreal native who recently won the men's title at the Professional Championships in Jaca, Spain.

I trust you will enjoy this evening of artistic skating and invite you to glide with us into another performance of innovations in dance on ice.

Until next season,

Moira North, Founder/Director, Ice Theatre of New York

Program and casting subject to change without notice.

# ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK

In Concert '98
Moira North - Director

#### The Ensemble

Judy Blumberg

Yuri Chesnichenko

Jamie Coffey

Kenny Moir

Andrew Naylor

Yaroslava Nechaeva

Susan Pereira

Max Sevostianov

Rosanna Tovi V

COMMISSION

Tian Yi Zhang

#### **Production Staff**

Abe Hernandez

Jim Lucash, Sky Rink Special Events Sid Morgan, Sky Rink Coordinator for In

Concert '98

**Lighting Design** 

Tyler Micoleau for Bentley Meeker Lighting & Staging, Inc.

Production Intern

#### ice Theatre of New York is supported by:

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# For their special efforts, ice Theatre expresses its deepest gratitude and appreciation to:

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### A Special Presentation

### JUNIOR PERFORMANCE CLUB

Music Giuseppe Verdi Choreography Victoria Lyras Costumes Victoria Lyras

**Performers** 

Christina Deegan Julia Freidman Ester Iskhakova Emma Levine Raye Levine Sofia Lifgren Marielle Mindlin Megan Nashban Ross Palash Matthew Reitzfeld Richard Reitzfeld Eric Woodhams Julie Golden Julia Haltigan Miranda Kimball Claire Bertin-Lang Stephanie Moratta Amaryllis Wang

As we approach the Millenium we would like to profile our Junior Ensemble. . . some of whom may be in future ice ballets. Before we begin tonight's program, please welcome the Junior Performance Club.

## Tonight's Program

DANSE MACABRE

(1997)

Music Saint-Saens Choreography
Doug Webster

Costumes Capezio

Performers

Judy Blumberg Yuri Chesnichenko Jamie Coffey Andrew Naylor Yaroslava Nechaeva Susan Pereira Max Sevostianov Rosanna Tovi Doug Webster Tian Yi Zhang

#### SCENT OF A WOMAN

Music Scent of a Woman Choreography
Tom Dickson

Performer Lisa Marie Allen

**NIGHTMARE** 

Music Brain Bug Choreography David Wilson Costumes Line Perijny

Performer Sebastian Britten



# EXTASIS A Work in Progress

Music Shostakovich Choreography
Donlin Foreman

Performers

Yuri Chesnichenko Andrew Naylor Yaroslava Nechaeva Max Sevastianov Rosanna Tovi Tian Yi Zhang

This piece was made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a State Agency.

IT'S TIME

Music Linda Eder Choreography
Lisa Marie Allen

Performer

Lisa Marie Allen

M.A.Y. IN THE BACKYARD

Music Ryuchi Sakamoto Choreography Brian Wright & David Liu

Performer

David Liu

**CABARET MAÑANA** 

Premiere (1998)

Music Juan Garcia Esquivel Choreography Doug Webster Costumes Leonardo Iturregui

Performers

Judy Blumberg Jamie Coffey Kenny Moir Susan Pereira Max Sevostianov Rosanna Tovi Doug Webster Tian Yi Zhang

pause

# A CONVERSATION WITH ANGELS (1998)

Music Cam Millar Choreography JoAnna Mendl Shaw Costumes
Susan Soetaert

**Performers** 

Cam Millar Susan Pereira Tian Yi Zhang

A man might wish for immortality.

He might seek out conversations with angels.

Best he keep his feet planted on the earth,

Perhaps his dreams will soar.

I'VE GOT RHYTHM

Music George Gershwin Choreography
Io Io Starbuck

Performer

David Liu

SARASWATHY

Music Majoly

Choreography
Majoly, David Wilson,
& Sebastian Britten

Performer

Sebastian Britten

- APPALACHIA WALTZ (1997)

Music Yo Yo Ma, Edgar Meyers & Mark O'Conner

Choreography JoAnna Mendl Shaw & Doug Webster

Costumes
Donna Langman

#### **Performers**

Judy Blumberg Yuri Chesnichenko Andrew Naylor Yaroslava Nechaeva Rosanna Tovi Doug Webster

This piece was made possible in part with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

#### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Lisa Marie Allen is an Olympian, a mom, a coach, a charter officer of the new Professional Figure Skater's Cooperative, and co-founder of the City of Angels Ice Theatre. She is the 1997 American Open Ladies Champion. Lisa Marie was a 3-time U.S. Ladies Silver Medalist, 1980 Olympic Team Member, and 5-time World competitor. Lisa Marie has performed around the world, most recently in "The Memory Of All That ... Gershwin on Ice".

<u>Judy Blumberg</u> glides effortlessly between roles as skater, coach, skating commentator, and motivational speaker for youths. With former partner Michael Seibert, Judy was 5-time U.S. Dance Champion, 3-time World Bronze medalist, 2-time Olympian, as well as U.S. National and World Professional Champion, and was recently inducted into the U.S. Figure Skating Hall of Fame. Judy holds a BS degree, with a concentration in Human Movement Studies, from Hunter College and co-direct's the ITNY Ensemble.

Sebastian Britten realized a long held dream this year by receiving five perfect marks during the 1998 Professional Championships in Jaca, Spain. Sebastian became the Men's champion at Jaca, winning with his technical program, entitled Nightmare. A Montreal native, Sebastian is known for his spellbinding artistry on ice. As an amateur, he was 3-time World Team Member, 1994 Olympic Team Member, and 1995 Canadian Men's Champion. Sebastian also works as a skating coach and choreographer in Montreal.

Jamie Coffey is a multi-talented performer, having developed skill and presence as a skater, dancer and actress. This June, Jamie will graduate from the two-year actor's program at the William Esper Studio. Jamie was a 3-time National Ice Dance Competitor. Before coming to ITNY, Jamie skated in Disney on Ice's Wizard of Oz touring production.

<u>Donlin Foreman</u> (Choreographer) is Co-Director and Choreographer with Jacqulyn Buglisi of Buglisi/Foreman Dance, now in its fourth season. In his 18-year association with the Martha Graham Dance Company, Foreman was coached and directed by Ms. Graham in every major role in the repertory. Donlin's choreograpy has been presented nationally and internationally, and he previously choreographed the duet *Black Ice* for ITNY, which premiered at Madison Square Garden. He is an Associate Professor of Dance at Barnard College and is the author of a collection of poetry entitled <u>Out of Martha's House</u>, published in 1992.

David Liu completed his amateur career at the 1998 Winter Games in Nagano. David was also an Olympian in 1988 and 1992. At the Albertville Games, commentator Scott Hamilton remarked, "David . . . is one of the best artistic skaters in the entire field. . .", a strength that comes in part from his dance training. George Balanchine placed David in a prestigious, accelerated class at the School of American Ballet on full scholarship. He performed at Lincoln Center with the New York City Ballet and in the School of American Ballet's Annual Workshop. David is now training for the American Open Pro Championships, where he will make his professional competitive debut.

#### ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Cam Millar (Composer) was very active as a freelance trombonist and composer in Canada before coming to New York. He is now scoring music for film projects, arranging music and playing with the very funky band "Gravy Train". Cam recently received an award from the New York State Council on the Arts to compose music for ITNY. Cam skated with his trombone in David Dorfman's Choose, Lose and in his own work, Upon Lake Cocytus.

Kenny Moir is proud to have appeared with ITNY for over 13 years. A native of Vancouver, Kenny, a Canadian Triple Gold Medalist, eight-time National singles competitor, has performed live and on television in solo, duet and ensemble works in the U.S., Canada, and Europe. A graduate of Pace University, Kenny is a dedicated coach for Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers and is a board member for the Sky Rink Winter Games Training Facility.

Yaroslava (Yasa) Nechaeva and Yuri Chesnichenko began skating in Moscow as young children. They became an ice dance team in 1986. During their amateur career, in which they competed nationally and internationally, they trained with Natalia Linichuk, and later, Natalia Dubova. Yasa and Yuri began skating professionally three years ago. As professionals, they toured in England with the production of The Phantom of the Opera on Ice and Torvill and Dean's Ice Adventures. They are happy to be skating with ITNY and performing new dance works.

Moira North (Founder/Director, ITNY) has been a driving force in the development of figure skating as a performing art. Since founding ITNY in 1984, she has been a catalyst in the development of other artistic ice skating companies in both Canada and the U.S. Moira and her partner Patrick Dean skated ITNY's first work. This piece was a collaboration with dance choreographer Marc Bogaerts and won them first place in the 1984 Professional Championships in Jaca, Spain. They also received a special music award. In her subsequent work as ITNY Director, Moira has continued to integrate dance and performance artists into the repertory of ice choreography and classes. She has studied several dance forms, including the Martha Graham technique, Japanese Butoh with Sankai Juko, and Hatian and African dance. Moira is a member of the Professional Teaching Staff at Sky Rink/Chelsea Piers, and she previously served as co-director of the Sky Rink Skating School.

Susan Pereira is enjoying her first of many years skating with ITNY. She has been skating professionally since age 15, performing in ice shows around the world including Ice Capades and the world-renowned Sun Valley Ice Show, held each summer in Sun Valley, Idaho, which is her home ice. She is happy to have glided into New York City where she is attending Columbia University, and doing what she loves most, skating.

IoAnna Mendl Shaw (Choreographer) is a choreographer, teacher and movement coach, working with dancers, gymnasts and ice skaters. JoAnna's work has been presented in New York at Dance Theatre Workshop, Dancespace at St. Mark's, DIA Center for the Arts, and the 92nd Street Y. In 1997, JoAnna and Doug Webster created Appalachia Waltz for ITNY. JoAnna has received two NEA Choreographic Fellowships. She is known for her large site specific works, including a month-long festival for downtown Seattle and a recent commission for the Neuberger Museum at SUNY Purchase. JoAnna has taught at the Laban Institute, the Limon Institute, and is on the faculty at Dancespace in New York City. She also teaches abroad.

<u>Max Sevastianov</u> is an accomplished ice dancer. He was born in Chelyabinsk, Russia and began skating at age six. He was a National and International ice dance competitor. Max has performed as a principal skater in several ice shows, including *Warner Brothers on Ice*, where he skated the role of Mr. Freeze. In addition to deep edges and strong partnering work, Max brings to the ITNY ensemble a special creative spirit.

Rosanna Tovi and Andrew Naylor joined forces in 1994, while starring in Dorothy Hamill's Cinderella. Rosanna is from New York City, and Andrew comes from Nottingham, England. Rosanna was a U.S. National medalist and International team member. Andrew, 6-time British Pair Champion, skated in European, World, and Olympic competition. Rosanna and Andrew have starred in the Nutcracker on Ice and Walt Disney's World on Ice, and recently toured with Torvill and Dean's Ice Adventures. They are newly named British Professional Champions from their showing at the 1998 Championships in Jaca, Spain.

Douglas Webster has always enjoyed the freedom and flair of figure skating. Doug became a national competitor as an amateur. He was a soloist in Broadway on Ice, and performed in HBO's Carmen on Ice, Boy Meets World, and an ABC Disney television special. Doug credits much of his success to past mentors: Audrey Wiesinger, Sandra Bezic and Sarah Kawahara. Doug co-directs the ITNY Ensemble and has created ensemble works, including Appalachia Waltz (in 1997 with JoAnna Mendl Shaw), Danse Macabre and Cabaret Mañana. Doug holds a BA in English Literature from William and Mary College. He is also an actor and has appeared in commercials, soap operas, regional theater and Off-Broadway.

<u>Tian Yi Zhang</u> is a native of Harbin, China, and was two-time National Ice Dance Champion of China in 1995 and 1996. She attends Liberty High School in New York, and is also a ballet student. Tian Yi is happy to be skating with ITNY this season.

#### ABOUT THE ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK

The mission of Ice Theatre is to develop ice skating as a performing art through its performances and educational outreach programs. Ice Theatre has created an environment in which professional skaters from various backgrounds can collaborate with choreographers, musicians, writers, and visual artists to create and perform new works. It is the nation's first not-for-profit ice dancing ensemble to be awarded grants by The National Endowment for the Arts and The New York State Council on The Arts as a dance company. Since its inception, the company has created a repertory of over sixty works that includes choreography by major modern dance choreographers Ann Carlson, Laura Dean, Donlin Foreman, David Dorfman, Lar Lubovitch, JoAnna Mendl Shaw, and Elisa Monte, as well as works by ice choreographers. The repertory ranges from 12-skater ensemble dances to solos, duets, and trios, with music from classical to contemporary.

Ice Theatre has produced programs with such renowned skaters as John Curry, Toller Cranston, Paul Wylie, Nancy Kerrigan, Maia Usova and Alexander Zhulin, Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko, Gary Beacom and Katherine Healy. Ice Theatre of New York is currently The Ice Dance Company in Residence at the Chelsea Piers Sports and Enteratinment Complex.

Ice Theatre has participated and developed the New Works and Young Artists Series at Riverbank State Park in Harlem. This program is dedicated to giving emerging choreographers and young performers an opportunity to present new works to audiences of school children from the area. Ice Theatre also conducts "Learn to Ice Dance Classes" for New York City public school children. The students are taught the basics of skating and dance, with an emphasis placed on full body awareness, musicality, proper stretching and strengthening techniques, and performance skills, working toward creating physically aware and interesting young artist/athletes.

### Ice Theatre of New York, Inc.

Chelsea Piers, Pier 62, Rm. 312, New York, NY 10011 Phone (212) 929-5811 Fax (212) 929-0105

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Enclosed please find a list of names, addresses, and telephone numbers to add to the Ice Theatre mailing list.

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# SAVETHEDATEH



forn les Thealm of New York on the evening of Thursday, fune 4, 1998, at the Marriott Marquis as we hence Scott Hamilton.

Proceeds from this party will benefit the Reheaved Fund of the Ice Theatre of New York, allowing this handwarive group to continue its performances in the 1698-99 senson.

Nekets are \$200 each or two Mokets for \$325 and are selfing fash. If you are interested in attending, please call 212-929-5811 storector on invitation.

# SAVE THE DATE!!



Join Ice Theatre of New York on the evening of Thursday, June 4, 1998 at the Marriott Marquis as we honor Scott Hamilton.

Proceeds from this party will benefit the Rehearsal Fund of the Ice Theatre of New York, allowing this innovative group to continue its performances in the 1998-99 season.

Tickets are \$200 each or two tickets for \$325 and are selling fast. If you are interested in attending, please call 212-929-5811 to receive an invitation.