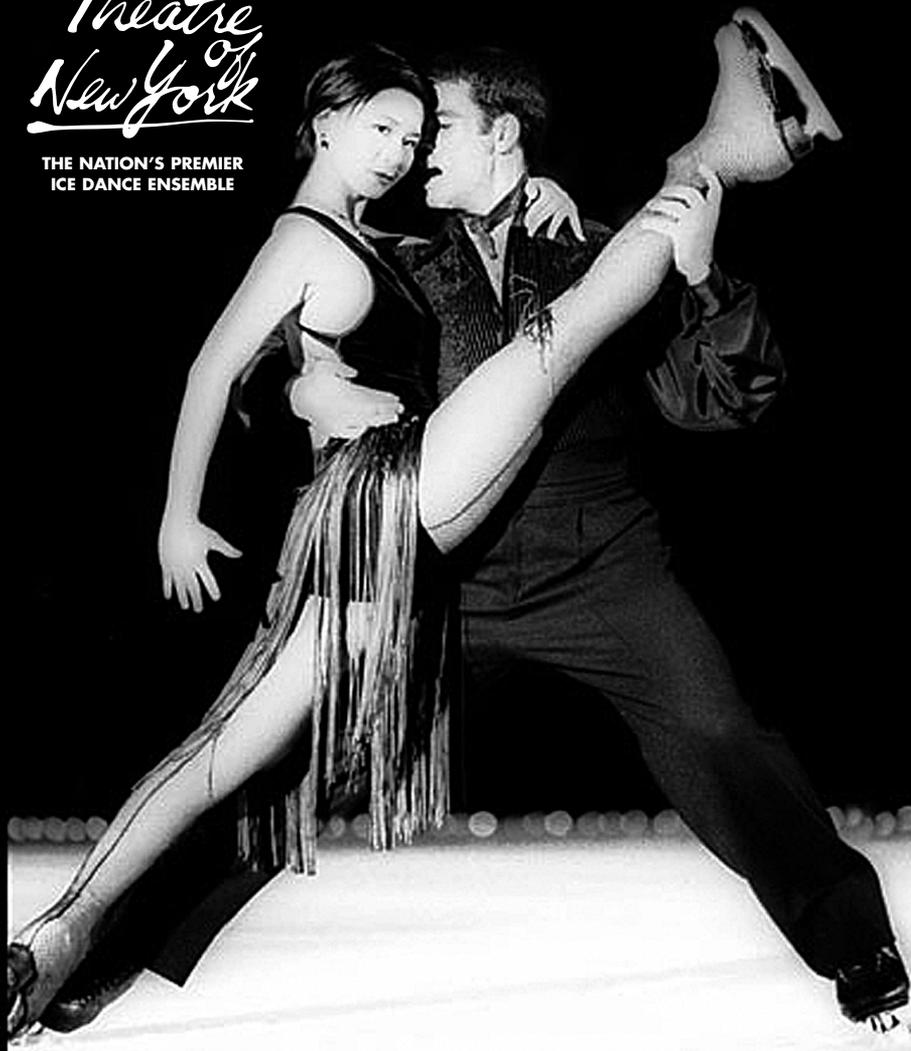


Ice Theatre of New York

THE NATION'S PREMIER
ICE DANCE ENSEMBLE



2011 HOME SEASON | October 20-22, 2011

2011 ICE THEATRE BENEFIT GALA | October 24, 2011

Honoring Johnny Weir

Ice Angel Award to Margarita Sears and the Will Sears Fund
Arts & Business Partnership Award to Ice Rink Events

Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers | Pier 61 | 23rd Street & the Hudson River



Photo: Debbie Hickey

Ice Theatre of New York



Photos: Irena Sapilak

Founded in 1984 by Moira North, Ice Theatre of New York has changed the face of figure skating by creating works that integrate the sensibilities of contemporary dance, music and art. Through its performances in both traditional and alternative venues, ITNY presents on-ice dances that challenge the perceptions and conventional definitions of figure skating. ITNY was the first ice dance company to receive dance program 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. In addition to building and performing works of artistic merit, ITNY also reaches out to the next generation of skaters and audiences through its exemplary education, community outreach and training programs.

As the company begins its new season, ITNY will continue its tradition of collaborating with choreographers from both the dance and skating worlds, as well as exploring relationships with artists from theatre, music and new media disciplines. 2011-2012 season highlights include: ITNY's 2011 Benefit Gala and Performance honoring Johnny Weir (Mon, Oct 24), continued collaborations with Improv Everywhere, Julliard Dance Program and Fashion Week, free performances as part of the *City Skate Concert Series* at Rockefeller Center, Bryant Park and Queens's World Ice Arena; *New Works & Young Artists Series* at Riverbank State Park in Manhattan, City Ice Pavilion and World Ice Arena in Queens to serve city school children; special holiday performances at Rockefeller Center, Riverbank State Park, Bryant Park, and Chelsea Piers, and the Winter Festival in Milford, PA. <http://www.icetheatre.org>.

Thank you for supporting Ice Theatre of New York. Your patronage gives us the ability to work toward our mission, and we are honored to have you commemorate our achievements.

“ Since its establishment in 1984, the Ice Theatre of New York has combined the best of ice skating, dance and theater to create cutting edge performances that represent the very best New York's creative community has to offer. “

— Mayor Michael Bloomberg



Ice Theatre of New York is supported, in part, by public funds from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.

ITNY also receives funding from The Pioneer Fund, The Will Sears Fund and its generous private patrons.

Make-up provided by MAC.



THE NATION'S PREMIER
ICE DANCE ENSEMBLE

2011 HOME SEASON
Thursday, October 20 –
Saturday, October 22, 2011, 7:00pm

2011 ICE THEATRE BENEFIT GALA

Honoring **Johnny Weir**
Ice Angel Award to Margartita Sears
and The Will Sears Fund
Arts & Business Partnership Award
to Ice Rink Events

Monday, October 24, 2011, 7:00pm

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR/FOUNDER

Moira North

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jirina Ribbens

ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Douglas Webster

ENSEMBLE DIRECTOR

Eve Chalom

PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE

Aretha Aoki

THE ENSEMBLE

Alizah Allen, Elisa Angeli, Ali Blank, Brent Bommentre, Eve Chalom,
Joel Dear, Taylor Grant, Lauren Hunt, Jessica Huot, David Ings,
Alicia Jackson, Kevin Sidwell, Jamie Silverstein, Michael Solonoski,
Wendy Wilke, Greg Wittrock and Sarah Zanolli

GUEST ARTISTS

Penny Coomes & Nicholas Buckland

2011 HONOREE

Johnny Weir

LIGHTING DESIGNER

Chenault Spence

LIGHTING ASSISTANT

Alex Goldberg

PRODUCTION STAFF

Tinc Design and Productions

2011 HOME SEASON

October 20-22, 2011

(program subject to change)

PRIMAVERA

Choreography by Douglas Webster

Music by Ludovico from the album *Divenire*

Performed by **Alizah Allen, Ali Blank, Brent Bommentre, Eve Chalom, Joel Dear, Taylor Grant, Lauren Hunt, Jessica Huot, Alicia Jackson, Kevin Sidwell, Jamie Silverstein, Michael Solonoski, Wendy Wilke and Sarah Zanolli**

Mastery of edges is the key to skating. Jumps and flying spins are energetic developments of edges and turns that are performed on the surface of the ice. Mastery of edges and turns facilitates athleticism and is inseparable from artistry.

FALLING LEAVES

Choreography by Douglas Webster

Costumes by Katherine Patterson McDowell

Music by Michael Nyman from the film, *The Piano*

Performed by **Elisa Angeli and Eve Chalom**

Commissioned by The Will Sears Fund.

ENDURANCE

Young Artist Showcase Presentation*

Choreography by Kate McSwain

Music by Thomas Newman from Selections from *Towelhead* and *Six Feet Under*

Performed by **David Ings and Sarah Zanolli**

In this piece, the traveler experiences the full range of human emotion as well as curves, twists, and zigzags on her journey of life caused by various obstacles placed in her way by Fate.

*Young Artist Showcase is an online contest for skating choreographers with mentorship from some of the foremost artists in skating, dance and entertainment.

DRAUGHTSMAN'S CONTRACT

Choreography by Elisa Monte

Costumes by Karen Young

Music by Michael Nyman

Performed by **Brent Bommentre, Joel Dear, Jessica Huot, Alicia Jackson, Kevin Sidwell, Jamie Silverstein, Michael Solonoski and Wendy Wilke**

Deconstruction of the formal court dance, brought to life with brilliant costumes and innovative partnering.

Commissioned by NYSCA

RONNIE RESENTMENT

Choreography and Performance by **Greg Wittrock**

Music by DJ Stix

In this piece we experience the angry teenager who transforms his anger into movement art.

CARUSO

Choreography and Performance by **Elisa Angeli**
Music by Lucio Dalla, sung by Luciano Pavarotti
An aerial and ice piece

DARE GREATLY

Choreography by Douglas Webster
Music by Coldplay
Costumes by **Katherine Patterson McDowell**
Performed by Taylor Grant, Lauren Hunt and Jessica Huot
“It was the first thing he thought of in the morning and the last thing he thought of at night.
It was as important to him as air.” – Will Sears, from his screenplay “Dare Greatly”
Commissioned by The Will Sears Fund.

TRANSITIONS

Choreography by Douglas Webster
Music by Kronos Quartet Performs Philip Glass
Costumes by Leo Iturregui — Parke & Ronen
Performed by **Brent Bommentre, Joel Dear, Taylor Grant, Jessica Huot,
Jamie Silverstein, Michael Solonoski**

INNER EYE

Choreography by Jim May
Special thanks to Britt Nhi Sarah for envisioning this collaboration.
Music by Caccini, *Ave Maria*
Costumes by Stephanie Handler
Performed by **Elisa Angeli, Eve Chalom, Jessica Huot, Alicia Jackson and Wendy Wilke**
Commissioned by Ken Kuchin

Pause

VIVA ELVIS

Choreography by Philip Askew
Music from Cirque Du Soleil
Performed by **Penny Coomes and Nicholas Buckland**

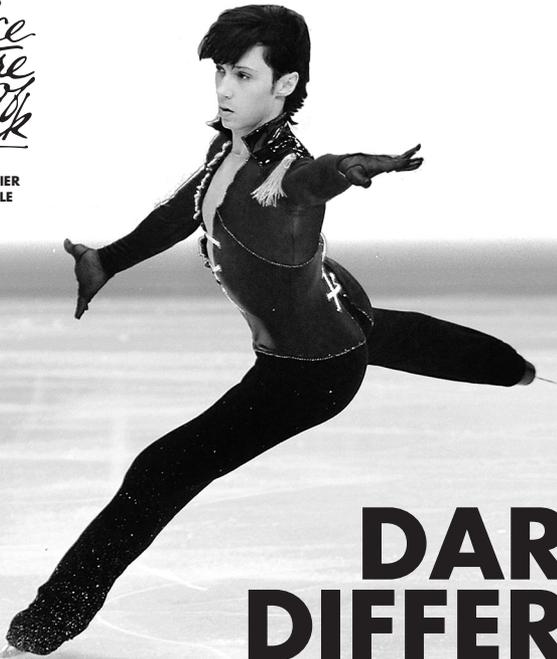
TANGO IMAGES

Choreography by Peter diFalco
Music from the film *The Tango Lessons*
Costumes by J’ordy
Performed by **Elisa Angeli, Brent Bommentre, Eve Chalom,
Joel Dear, Taylor Grant, Lauren Hunt and Alicia Jackson**

FINALE

Ice
Theatre
of
New York

THE NATION'S PREMIER
ICE DANCE ENSEMBLE



DARE ^{TO BE} DIFFERENT

2011 BENEFIT GALA AND PERFORMANCE Honoring Johnny Weir | October 24, 2011

(program subject to change)

CARUSO

Choreography and Performance by **Elisa Angeli**
Music by Lucio Dalla, sung by Luciano Pavarotti
An aerial and ice piece

PRIMAVERA

Choreography by Douglas Webster
Music by Ludovico from the album Divenire
Performed by **Alizah Allen, Ali Blank, Brent Bommentre, Eve Chalom,
Joel Dear, Taylor Grant, Lauren Hunt, Jessica Huot, Alicia Jackson, Kevin Sidwell,
Jamie Silverstein, Michael Solonoski, Wendy Wilke and Sarah Zanolli**
Mastery of edges is the key to skating. Jumps and flying spins are energetic developments of
edges and turns that are performed on the surface of the ice. Mastery of edges and turns
facilitates athleticism and is inseparable from artistry.

MEDITATION

Choreography and Performance by **Johnny Weir**
Music by Jules Massenet, *Meditation From Thais*

FALLING LEAVES

Choreography by Douglas Webster
Costumes by Katherine Patterson McDowell
Music by Michael Nyman from the film, *The Piano*
Performed by **Elisa Angeli and Eve Chalom**
Understudy: Jessica Huot
Commissioned by The Will Sears Fund.

RONNIE RESENTMENT

Choreography and Performance by **Greg Wittrock**
Music by DJ Stix

In this piece we experience the angry teenager who transforms his anger into movement art.

TRANSITIONS

Choreography by Douglas Webster
Music by Kronos Quartet Performs Philip Glass
Costumes by Leo Iturregui — Parke & Ronen
Performed by **Brent Bommentre, Joel Dear, Taylor Grant, Jessica Huot, Jamie Silverstein, Michael Solonoski**

INNER EYE

Choreography by Jim May
Special thanks to Britt Nhi Sarah for envisioning this collaboration.
Music by Caccini, *Ave Maria*
Costumes by Stephanie Handler
Performed by **Elisa Angeli, Eve Chalom, Jessica Huot, Alicia Jackson and Wendy Wilke**
Commissioned by Ken Kuchin

BAD ROMANCE

Choreography by Johnny Weir & Nina Petrenko
Music by Lady Gaga
Costume designed by Johnny Weir, made by Stephanie Handler
Performed by **Johnny Weir**

TANGO IMAGES

Choreography by Peter diFalco
Music from the film *The Tango Lessons*
Costumes by J'ordy
Performed by **Elisa Angeli, Brent Bommentre, Eve Chalom, Joel Dear, Taylor Grant, Lauren Hunt and Alicia Jackson**

FINALE

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

ALIZAH ALLEN (Performer), formerly an apprentice member of Ice Theatre of New York, competed in the '96 & '97 U.S. National Ladies Championships. After a long hiatus from the ice, she is proud to perform with Ice Theatre again. She recently received her Ed.M in Psychological Counseling from Teachers College, Columbia University. She especially wants to thank her husband, without his love and support she would not be skating and graduating simultaneously!

ELISA ANGELI (Performer) was born in Milan, Italy. After a successful career as a competitive ice dancer, she skated shows choreographed by Barbara Fusarpoli and others in Italy and Europe. Elisa began performing with Ice Theatre of New York in its 2005 season and accompanied Ice Theatre on tour in France in 2008 and 2009. She has been a valued company member both as a performer and a teacher. Aside from skating, Elisa is dancing for the Italian dance company, Magma Dance Company, a combination of African and contemporary dance; and has been studying aerial at the Trapeze School of New York. She starred both as a skater and as an aerialist in "Cocktail on Ice" in Italy and recently performed as an aerialist on ice with the Ghiaccio Spettacolo in Italy and Europe.

ARETHA AOKI (Production Associate) is originally from the Pacific Northwest and moved to NYC in 2008 after graduating from Smith College (MFA). In addition to her work with Ice Theatre, she is a dancer and choreographer. Her piece, "The Turning of Events", features two incredible ice skaters, and will be shown as part of Fresh Tracks at New York Live Arts, December 7-10.

ALI BLANK (Performer) started her 26-year ice skating career in her hometown of Nashville, Tennessee. As a competitor, Ali is an internationally ranked skater in both singles and pairs, and is a triple USFS gold medalist. She turned professional at age 18 and travelled the world skating with Disney On Ice. In 2006, Ali starred in the Radio City Rockettes show in New York City as a pair skater. Ali has been coaching at Chelsea Piers for the past 8 years and also coaches at Figure Skating in Harlem, where she was awarded "Coach of the Year" in 2009. She graduated from the Fashion Institute of Technology in 2005, majoring in Fashion Merchandising Management. Ali launched her own custom-designed, screen-printed line of apparel, www.ablankexpression.com, in 2006, and her line is being sold in boutiques around New York City. Ali is thrilled to be performing again with Ice Theatre of New York.

BRENT BOMMENTRE (Performer) is from Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania and is an American ice dancer. With partner Kimberly Navarro he is the 2008 and 2009 US bronze medalist and 2008 Four Continents bronze medalist. He previously competed with Allison Sietech, Kirsten Frisch, and Kendra Goodwin. Navarro and Bommentre represented the United States at the World Championships in 2010 before announcing their retirement from competition on May 11, 2010. Brent is excited to be once again, skating with Ice Theatre of New York.

EVE CHALOM (Ensemble Director/Performer) is a two time world competitor in ice dancing, has undergraduate degrees from the University of Michigan in English and Philosophy, and is currently working on a master's degree in Dance Therapy from Pratt Institute. She also teaches skating to a large, interesting variety of students. This is her third year working with the Ice Theatre of New York, and she loves having the on ice performance opportunities and getting to work with such a great cast of people! She has also danced in several small modern dance companies in the ten years she has been in New York and loves her hobbies of Contact Improvisation, other types of dance, massage, and yoga.

PENNY COOMES & NICHOLAS BUCKLAND (Guest Artists) teamed up in 2005 where they trained at The National Ice Centre, Nottingham. In December 2009 they moved to New Jersey to train under 2-time Olympic Champion, Evgeny Platov. They are 2010 British Silver Medalists and were selected to represent Great Britain at the 2010 Winter Olympics.

JOEL DEAR (Choreographer) quickly fell in love with skating in elementary school when a section of the school playground flooded and froze over. Joel is a two-time US National Medalist and a four-time US Figure Skating team member. In 2008, Joel joined the Ice Theatre for the French tour and the 2008 Gala. In addition to skating, Joel works as a professional dancer, trained in a range of styles. Joel choreographed "Maybe this Time" last summer for the Young Artist Showcase: a skating choreography competition to nurture and promote creativity in young and aspiring choreographers. His work was shown at Ice Theatre's 25th Anniversary Gala. Joel has performed in numerous professional ice skating and dance shows around the world including a recent tour with Holiday on Ice in Europe.

PETER DIFALCO (Choreographer) is a master teacher of the tango and other ballroom dances, and has had a rich and varied career as a dancer, choreographer and dance company director for more than 40 years. DiFalco started out as an ethnic dancer working with La Meri at Jacob's Pillow. At Ted Shawn's invitation, he was a member of the pillow's faculty from 1946-53, teaching and dancing with luminaries such as Ruth St. Denis, José Limón and Anthony Tudor, both during the summers and regular seasons. From 1956-59, he directed his own DiFalco Dance Theatre, which traveled throughout the United States and appeared frequently on TV. He is a coach, choreographer and instructor for some of the world's best-known competition and exhibition couples, and resides in North Carolina.

TAYLOR GRANT (Performer) joined the Figure Skating Collegiate Team at Dartmouth while completing her undergraduate degree in psychology, after skating competitively for 12 years. Taylor was a co-captain of the team and led them to three national championships. She was also inducted into the Dartmouth Hall of Fame, "Wearers of the Green," for her performances at the 2004 Collegiate Nationals. After graduating, she skated professionally for four years with Willy Bietak Productions on

Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines until moving to New York City in July. Currently, Taylor is studying at the Pratt Institute doing a Master's Degree in Communications Design.

LAUREN HUNT (Performer) is a USFS Gold Medalist with over 16 years of skating experience. She was a US National Synchronized Skating competitor as well as a freestyle competitor. She has coached skating for over ten years, and coached the 2009 Intermediate National Synchronized Skating Champions. She is currently the Skating Director at World Ice Arena, with a successful program that was recently featured on the cover of ISI's Edge Magazine. She is a graduate of the prestigious LaGuardia H.S. of Music and Art for vocal performance, as well as the American Musical and Dramatic Academy, and is currently completing a Bachelor of Fine Arts at The New School. She is also a singer/songwriter and has performed to packed houses at numerous venues throughout NYC, most notably the Cutting Room and the legendary Bitter End. She is thrilled to be making her debut with Ice Theatre of New York.

JESSICA RENÉE HUOT (Performer) is a second year Master's student in the Piano Performance Program at NYU's Steinhardt School. She and her ice dance partner, Juha Valkama, are former three time Finnish National Ice Dance Champions and three time World and European Figure Skating Championship competitors. Jessica and Juha both started studying at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the fall of 2002 and continued skating competitively for two years, including at the 2003 and 2004 European and World Championships. After graduating from MIT in June of 2006, Jessica and Juha, now husband, moved to Manhattan. They performed with the Ice Theatre of New York in the 2006-07 season, and Jessica started performing with ITNY again in 2010. Jessica has also been teaching figure skating regionally and is team coach for the newly formed NYU Figure Skating Team. Additionally, she is an Adjunct Instructor at NYU where she teaches private piano lessons and a piano instructor at the Hoboken School of Music.

DAVID INGS (Performer) has devoted his entire life to the sport and art form of figure skating. Starting to skate at the age of 9, David was a quick study, and soon started getting a reputation for himself as a force to be reckoned with. Recognized as 3 time Scottish Senior Men's Champion, and 3 time British Senior Men's bronze medalist, he was also a reserve member of the British Olympic team for the Winter Olympic Games in 1994. Since 1997, David has skated as a principal skater in a number of renowned professional ice shows such as but not limited to; the Hot Ice show in Blackpool, United Kingdom, Holiday On Ice show "Diamonds" around Europe, tours with Willy Bietak for Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines and, most recently, Phantasialand in Germany. David is new to the United States, having received his Green Card in September of 2010, and has been a full time coach on Staff at Wollman Rink in Central Park NYC since that time. David's first love is performing, and he is glad that the Ice Theater of NY has allowed him this chance to share his passion with everyone once again.

ALICIA JACKSON (Performer) is originally from Baltimore, MD where she trained as a singles skater and developed an early love for artistic ensemble skating as a member of Rob McBrien's competitive Theater on Ice team. She has performed professionally with The Next Ice Age for several years, joining the company at the age of 18 as both a skater and costume designer. Alicia recently completed her BFA in Fashion Design from New York's Fashion Institute of Technology, and currently has her own business creating custom sportswear and costumes for all levels of amateur and professional figure skaters for competition, theater, and television. She is thrilled to be back on the ice and able to continue her skating career as a part of the Ice Theatre Ensemble!

JIM MAY (Choreographer) has been a dancer on the New York scene for over 40 years. His aim as Artistic Director of the Sokolow Theatre Dance Ensemble is to expand the art of dance to include the other arts (music, theater, painting, literature), working toward a progressive new style of Theater/Dance. He is excited to bring these ideas to the ice theater. Mr. May was a devoted disciple of Anna Sokolow for 35 years and danced with the Jose Limon Company from the early 1960's and continues to embrace these two dance styles. He is the recipient of a 1999 Bessie Award for lifetime achievement, has received three Fulbright scholarships, The Marcus Award for Teaching Excellence. has been on the faculties of SUNY Purchase, Juilliard, and Princeton University and teaches regularly at Peridance. His choreography has been in the repertory of Dance Conduit of Philadelphia, Dance Forum Taipie, Le Concert Impromptu of Paris, and remains resident choreographer of Sokolow Theatre Dance. He recreates Anna Sokolow's repertory worldwide as a recognized authority of her works.

KATE MCSWAIN (Choreographer) holds a Theatre degree from the University of Colorado and has extensive training in many forms of dance and yoga, as well as a certification in Pilates. In 2010, she was selected to be a finalist in the groundbreaking, "Young Artists Showcase" international choreography competition directed by Audrey Weisiger. Kate has choreographed for Olympians, Rachael Flatt and Jeremy Abbott. She has worked with the American Ice Theatre in San Francisco, CA, as well as directed seminars for elite national/international level competitors. Currently, Kate travels and choreographs for competitive skaters and various professional productions, directs her "Sk8tivity" artistic clinics, and performs in professional ice shows.

ELISA MONTE (Choreographer) was trained in classical dance at the School of American Ballet and in Pilates with Kathy Grant. Monte performed for many years with The Martha Graham Dance Company, Lar Lubovitch, and Pilobolus, among others. Monte's choreography is widely recognized for its highly athletic and sensual style, as well as its technical and physical acuity, exploring a multitude of topics and themes. Monte created her signature work, Treading, in 1979, which was originally commissioned by the Martha Graham Dance Company. Her other 40 works include such renowned pieces as Dreamtime, Run to the Rock, Light Lies, and Pigs and

Fishes, originally commissioned by Alvin Ailey. Monte has taught workshops and master classes in residencies around the world. In New York City, Monte has taught at Steps on Broadway, Peridance, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Studio, New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and Barnard. In New York State, Monte has conducted residencies at the Lake Placid Center for the Arts, SUNY/Fredonia, SUNY/Buffalo, Hamilton College, and the new Kaatsbaan International Dance Center. Additional teaching residencies have included Robert Redford's Sundance Institute, Southern Methodist University in Dallas, California State University's Summer Arts program, Philadanco, and Dance Strides Barbados, among others across the US and abroad.

MOIRA NORTH (Artistic Director/Founder), named one of the 25 Most Influential Names in Figure Skating by International Figure Skating Magazine, 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 Ice Theatre of New York's first work, a collaboration with Belgian dance choreographer Marc Bogaerts, which won them first place in the Professional Championships in Jaca, Spain. In her subsequent work as Ice Theatre of New York Director, Moira has continued to integrate contemporary dance into the repertory of ice choreography.

JIRINA RIBBENS (Executive Director) joined the Ice Theatre of New York staff in December 2004, after serving on the board since the founding of the company. Over the past 20 years Ribbens has worked in a variety of positions in the entertainment and sports industries, including as 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. During her career at Candid Productions she produced and managed events with two-time Olympic Figure Skating Champion Dick Button. Since the inception of Ice Theatre of New York, Ribbens has produced the video portraits of the honorees, including Olympic champions and skating icons such as Dick Button, Scott Hamilton, Starbuck & Shelley, the legendary Protopopovs, and fashion designer Vera Wang. Ribbens is happily married to Christopher Archer and they reside in Harlem.

KEVIN SIDWELL (Performer) is excited to be skating with the 'creative' Ice Theatre of New York for a second season. Kevin has performed all over the world in ice shows with Disney On Ice for 5 years. He also performed lead roles in exhibition shows in London, Oxford, and Birmingham, England; and in a live Christmas television ice show in Frankfurt, Germany. He competed nationally in the UK in many

competitions in free, pairs, and dance. He also competed in three World Synchronized Skating Cups for the nationally selected Great Britain senior team, and internationally and nationally with local Junior and Senior Synchronized teams. He loves coaching figure skating, is a keen tennis player, and a big soccer fan.

JAMIE SILVERSTEIN (Performer) is delighted to be joining ITNY for it's home season! Jamie is a US Olympian (Ice Dancing) and some of her competitive highlights include: 1999 Junior World Champion, US World Team Member, 2-time US Senior National Medalist, and US Junior and Novice National Champion. Jamie is also a Magna Cum Laude graduate of Cornell University and a registered yoga instructor (RYT 200). Off the ice, Jamie currently works as a program manager and yoga therapist for an eating disorder recovery center. Jamie also developed BEyoga (Body Empowerment Yoga), a program that benefits eating disorder recovery, which she has brought to in-patient treatment centers and ED conferences in NY.

MICHAEL SOLONOSKI (Performer) is a native of Allentown, PA and is a 2010 graduate of Drexel University with a bachelors degree in Architecture. He began skating at age 15 and his career highlights included 4 U.S. National Collegiate medals, a U.S. Jr. National bronze medal, and being a senior international competitor for the United States. Having skated professionally for one year, Michael joined Holiday on Ice's European production "Festival" last fall. He plans to return this November for the 2nd year of the tour.

CHENAULT SPENCE (Lighting Designer) is renowned throughout the world as lighting designer for opera, ballet, and theatre. He has been lighting designer for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre for thirty years; and for the Opera Company of Philadelphia, for which her received two Emmy awards for *The Damnation of Faust* and *Un Ballo in Maschera* with Luciano Pavarotti. He is a resident lighting designer for Dance Brazil, New York Baroque Dance Company, Saeko Ichinohe Dance Company, and the Long Leaf Opera Company. His work has also been seen with Lyon Opera Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Washington Ballet, Erick Hawkins, Jose Limon, Bat-Dor Dance Company of Israel, The National Ballet of Iran, and other opera, theatre and ballet companies throughout the world.

DOUGLAS WEBSTER (Associate Artistic Director) had the pleasure of working on ABC's *Skating With the Stars*, *Disney on Ice*, *Holiday on Ice*, *Stars on Ice* and *Sterren Dansen Op Het Ijs*. He has created productions for many companies, including Volkswagen (*The Autostadt*), Swarovski, Escada, Cingular Wireless, and The Sun Valley Group and has also choreographed for many World and Olympic medalists. Douglas is currently directing and choreographing Ice Theatre of New York's Christmas show in Dollywood and is excited to return to the city and continue an ongoing relationship with the Company.

JOHNNY WEIR (2011 Honoree) is a 3-time National Champion, World Bronze Medalist and 2-time Olympian. He is the star of his own hit TV Show on the Logo Channel, “Be Good Johnny Weir”. He is most well known for his artistry both on and off the ice. From original costume design to innovative choreography and interpretation of music, Weir is one of most avant-garde performers of his generation. Since the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games Johnny has used the power of the media to inspire young artists all over the world. Additionally he has penned an autobiography titled “Welcome To My World” and launched his own capsule collection of Little Black Dresses with edressme.com.

WENDY WILKE (Performer) toured the world with Disney on Ice “Beauty and the Beast”, “Princess Classics,” and “Russian Ballet on Ice”. She skated, danced and acted in films, television and commercials such as “Blades of Glory”, “Days of our Lives”, “Mercedes,” “Maybelline” and “AT&T”. Some of her choreography credits include “GAP”, “ABC Sports” commercials, “Be Good Johnny Weir” promo, “Brian Setzer Orchestra” music video, and “General Hospital”. Wendy was also the on-set acting coach for the long running TV series “7th Heaven”. As a dancer she performed for Disney musical theatre shows “Musical Moments of Disney,” “Anamazement” and “Winter Wonderland” at Disneyland and internationally. Special thanks to Mom and Dad inspiring creativity and creating the opportunity to make skating a reality.

GREG WITTRUCK (Performer) is an experimental theater artist who uses the mediums of ice skating, masks, dance and sculpture to explore, communicate and characterize the human condition. A distinguished artist in the worlds of ice skating and dance, Greg was selected as a dance and movement instructor for the Cirque Du Soleil, has worked as an ensemble member of the Ice Theater of New York and has opened for Cyndi Lauper. He appears in the documentary film “Dances of Ecstasy”. Greg’s masks, characters, and choreography work is featured in the rock video, “Down to the Sea”, for U.K. recording artist Tim Booth. With a B.A. from Virginia Commonwealth University in Communication Arts and Design, Greg has exhibited his papier mâché celebrity sculptures to critical acclaim at numerous New York venues. His design talents have led to a pictorial feature in Spin magazine and award-winning art direction for various music labels and writers, including Gabrielle Roth’s music label Raven Recording.

SARAH ZANOLLI (Performer) is a New York City-based skating coach and performer. She holds a USFS gold medal and has performed with the Ice Theatre of New York since 2010, skating in ice shows at venues such as Bryant Park and Rockefeller Center; on synthetic ice at the Jacob Javits Convention Center and the gay pride parade; and on roller skates at various public and private events. Sarah has a BA in Education Studies from Eugene Lang College, The New School for Liberal Arts and has taught high school English. In addition to coaching at Wollman Rink in Central Park, Sarah is a seamstress and freelance costume designer.

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President, Moira North
Secretary, Frances Black
Treasurer, Missy VanBuren

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■ HUMAN RIGHTS

Progress — and Fits and Starts — on Immigration

BY PAUL SCHINDLER

In a dizzying — and not fully transparent — series of developments this past week, the prospects for married same-sex bi-national couples hoping to stay in the US showed improvement, though how far-reaching the gains are remains uncertain as of press time.

In what appears to be the first such action of its type, an Immigration Judge in Manhattan, who works under the Justice Department, on March 22 adjourned deportation proceedings for the Argentine lesbian spouse of an American citizen to allow the couple to proceed with their application to have their marriage recognized for purposes of federal immigration law.

Also last week, *Newsweek* reported that the heads of two district offices, in Baltimore and Washington, DC, of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) — which is part of the Department of Homeland Security — had separately stated publicly they have put on hold the processing of any applications for spousal recognition or green cards from married same-sex couples. Such applications have routinely been denied in the past, so by putting them instead "in abeyance," USCIS would be strengthening the arguments a married same-sex

IMMIGRATION P. 4



ELIZABETH TAYLOR AND AMFAR FOUNDER DR. MATHALDE KORM AT A 1985 AIDS FUNDRAISER

Elizabeth Taylor, AIDS Pioneer, 1932-2011

BY PAUL SCHINDLER

Elizabeth Taylor — who for a majority of Americans was a towering international film star and celebrity for their entire life — will likely be remembered most fondly in the LGBT community for her pioneering work in alerting the nation and the

world to the urgency of the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

According to amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research, where Taylor served as the founding chair, the film star first became involved in HIV advocacy in December 1984, when she signed on as a major donor to AIDS Project Los

TAYLOR P. 40

■ COMMUNITY

Michael Lucas Says LGBT Center Pressed Jewish Group to Move Meeting

BY EUNICAN OSBORNE

Following his success at getting a group opposed to Israeli government policies toward Palestinians banned from New York City's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center, gorn impresario Michael Lucas is continuing to challenge the Center after a group he was scheduled to address there moved its meeting to his home.

"From this email it is very clear that the Center is lying when saying that they did not interfere by pressuring GLYTSA to disinvite me," Lucas wrote in a March 25 email to *Gay City News*. "They absolutely did. This was the reason why GLYTSA moved their event."

GLYTSA, the Gay and Lesbian Yeshiva Day School Alumni Association, an Orthodox Jewish group, had invited Lucas to its March 24 meeting to discuss how he "worked hard this past month to thwart the Israeli Apartheid Week activities from taking place at the LGBT Center."

While not alone, Lucas was the most visible opponent of allowing Siegelbushers, the group that was banned, to hold a March 5 party at the Center.

LUCAS P. 11

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FUNDERS

The Pioneer Fund | Gertrude Vanderbilt Endowment
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Ice Theatre of New York is supported, in part, by public funds
from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs,
in partnership with the City Council.

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