



*Ice  
Theatre  
New York*

CELEBRATING THE JOY  
OF DANCING ON ICE

# ITNY: UNPLUGGED

PERFORMANCE AND  
SKATE WITH THE COMPANY

**THURSDAY,  
JUNE 16, 2016**

SKY RINK AT CHELSEA PIERS



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Photo: Darial Sneed

ITNY's mission is to elevate dance on ice as a performance art. Through its performances in both traditional and site-specific venues, ITNY presents ice dance that helps to open one's eyes to seeing skating in new and unexpected ways. ITNY was the very 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.

- ITNY has created exclusive works by choreographers as varied as ballet great Edward Villella, modern dance choreographers Jacquelyn Buglisi, Elisa Monte & David Parsons, Performance Artist Ann Carlson and Emmy Award Winner "Chucky" Klapow.
- ITNY trains the company skaters and guest skating artists in its weekly Master Edge Classes at Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers.
- 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 reaches its public arts and education mission by:

- commissioning new choreography, with performances from recognized and promising ballet and ice skating artists
- offering free admission to more than ten public performances each year
- holding free Master Classes led by ITNY dancers for skating professionals and enthusiasts
- offering apprentice/training programs for aspiring ice dance artists; and facilitating educational programs on ice dancing and figure skating for school-aged children throughout the NYC area.

**62 Chelsea Piers, Suite 308, New York, NY 10011**  
**(212) 929-5811 • itny@icetheatre.org • icetheatre.org**



**CELEBRATING THE JOY  
OF DANCING ON ICE**

# **ITNY: UNPLUGGED 2016**

## **CRESCENDO**

Choreography by: Elisa Angeli

**Performed by Company Members and Apprentices**

**Elisa Angeli, Mauro Bruni, Christian Erwin, Jessica Huot,  
Justine Marie Kelleher, Raye Levine, Bridie Myles, Stephanie Spencer,  
Tara Nicole Stamm, Matt Thomas, Sally Jeanne Watkins, and Conor Wagar**

A class piece based on the Company's Master Edge Class exercises —  
our "ballet barre" on ice, where the simplest of ice dance edges crescendo  
in both beauty and difficulty.

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## **TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL JACKSON**

Music: Michael Jackson

Choreography and Performance:

**Elladj Baldé**

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## **FIGURES**

Elisabeth L'Heureux

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## **JAMES BOND MEDLEY**

Music: Bond Movie Soundtracks

Choreography: Andrew Lavrik

**Oona Brown and Gage Brown**

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## **AFTERNOON OF A FAUN**

Prelude A L'Après-midi D'un Faune by Claude Debussy  
Frederico Callante & Royal Shield Symphony Orchestra

Choreography: Mauro Bruni

**Mauro Bruni**

**BEE GEES MEDLEY**

Music: Bee Gees

Choreography: Stacy Arnold

**Hiram Cowhey**

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**FIGURES**

Elisabeth L'Heureux

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**O MIO BABBINO CARO**

Music: Giacomo Puccini

Choreography: Douglas Webster

**Sally Jeanne Watkins**

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**HOMMAGE**

Music: "Comptine d'un autre été"

by Yann Tiersen

From the movie *Amélie*

Choreography: Florentine Houdinière

**Elisa Angeli, Mauro Bruni, Christian Erwin, Jessica Huot,  
Justine Kelleher, Stephanie Spencer, Tara Nicole Stamm, and Conor Wagar**

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A heartfelt piece created to honor those who lost their lives in the terrorist attacks in Paris on November 13th, as well as the many others who have fallen due to acts of violence throughout the world.

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**I FEEL GOOD — FINALE**

Music: James Brown

Elladj Baldé w/ Ice Theatre Ensemble and Apprentices

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**SKATING PARTY KICK-OFF**

**SHAKE**

Music: "Shake it Off" by Taylor Swift

Choreography: Bonni Retzkin

**Charlotte Hughes Parker**

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## ABOUT THE COMPANY

**Elisa Angeli (Ensemble Director)** is an Italian ice dancer who competed on the International circuit. Her expertise as a circus arts specialist allows Elisa to bring a unique element of excitement when performing as a principal skater and aerialist with Ice Theatre of New York. Thanks to her aerial silk act, Elisa is one of the few performers in the world that even dares to combine ice-skating and aerial arts in front of a live audience. In 2009, Elisa participated at the premiere of “Wintuk” by Cirque du Soleil at Madison Square Garden. She has also performed in Europe with Dynamic Shows, and Spotlight Productions. In Italy she was an aerialist with the tour “Italian Champions on Ice” with Ghiaccio Spettacolo. Elisa has been with ITNY since 2008 and became the Ensemble Director in the fall of 2015.

**Elladj Baldé (Performer)** is a Competitive skater and performer from Quebec, Canada and a frequent guest performer with ITNY. He was born November 9, 1990 in Moscow to a Russian mother and a Guinean father, Ibrahim, from the village of Tombon, near Labé. His elder sister, Djulde, died from leukemia. After a year in Bonn, Germany during his sister’s treatment, the family moved to Canada in 1992. Elladj was introduced to skating at the age of seven by his mother. Though at first he would hide his skates in an attempt to avoid practice, he began to love skating when he was ten. He is a 7-time Canadian National Senior Competitor and is the winner of the 2015 International Nebelhorn Trophy. He speaks English, French, and Russian.

**Oona and Gage Brown (Apprentices)** are a brother and sister team aged 11 and 13 from Long Island. As Ice Theatre of New York apprentices they have participated this past year in the “New Works and Young Artists Series,” ITNY’s outreach program for NYC public school children, and the “Winter Holiday Skating Spectacular” at Riverbank in Harlem. They started skating together in 2011. Both are also avid musicians. Gage plays Jazz Bass and Bagpipes. Oona plays drums. They are athletic and love the outdoors. Their coach is former ITNY performer Andrew Lavrik.

**Mauro Bruni (Performer)** grew up in Westchester and is an accomplished professional skater. In addition to being a principal performer for ITNY, Mauro also held that position in numerous companies: Holiday on Ice, Willy Bietak Productions, Dynamic Shows GmbH, and others. He is a previous national and international competitive skater for the US, a coach and choreographer for students from all over the country, and is also a stage performer without his skates. Mauro is a soloist and certified choreographer for American Ice Theatre, was the 2014 Young Artists Showcase & Quest for Creativity Winner, and recently won the Ground Breaker award at the 2016 US Open Professional Championships. Mauro first performed with ITNY in 2013.

**Hiram Cowhey (Apprentice)** is an Ice Theatre of New York apprentice and this past year he participated in the “New Works and Young Artists Series,” ITNY’s outreach program for NYC public school children. He is 11 years old, from Farmingdale, NY and is coached by Stacy Arnold. Through ITNY, Hiram was able to meet one of his favorite competitors, the inimitable Elladj Baldé.

**Christian Erwin (Performer)**, 23, is a skater originally from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was a three-time 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, and he looks forward to many more seasons with the company.

**Florentine Houdiniere (Choreographer)** was French Junior champion, member of the French National team, and an international competitor. After turning professional, she was the lead in several Disney On Ice productions, as well Holiday on Ice. In 2001 Houdiniere joined Ice Theatre of New York. She was the principal dancer in ITNY's tribute to 9/11, "Departures," choreographed by Douglas Webster. In addition to performing, she also choreographs for international competitors. Florentine is currently the cofounder and choreographer of the SKATE UP brand activities. She writes and stages numerous artistic projects and choreographs for skating clubs and competitors in France and abroad. As a Parisian, the November 13th Paris events rocked her to the core and she knew she wanted to contribute something in her own way, on the ice. "Hommage" is the result. She is thrilled to have been invited by ITNY to re-stage the piece in New York with ensemble members from the Company.

**Jessica Renée Huot (Performer)** 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 as a principal dancer for the Ice Theatre of New York since 2010.

**Justine Marie Kelleher (Performer)** is born and raised in New York City. She studied at Joffrey School of Ballet and she is a USFSA Gold Medalist skater. She attended Hunter College for Modern/Contemporary Dance. She is also a choreographer and visual artist. She competed in the Young Artist Showcase, a choreography challenge for young up-and-coming skating choreographers. She currently coaches skating at Sky Rink, Chelsea Piers. Justine Marie's first skated with ITNY as a little girl in special events and she joined the professional company in 2015.

**Raye Levine (Performer)** is a native New Yorker and longtime member of Ice Theatre of New York. She has performed with ITNY in many shows at Rockefeller Center and Chelsea Piers. Raye holds a Bachelor of Architecture from the Cooper Union School of Architecture and is an actress and producer; a graduate of the William Esper Studio, and artistic producer and ensemble member of the Barefoot Theatre Company. Raye is currently a skating coach at the Lefrak Center at Lakeside in Prospect Park, Brooklyn.

**Elisabeth L'Heureux (Performer)** is a USFS and ISU gold medalist in figures and freestyle. She was Senior Ladies North Atlantic Regional Champion and has performed professionally in ice shows in Atami, Japan; Knott's Berry farm, California; Lake George, NY and Bally's Grand, Atlantic City. Elisabeth has been teaching at Wollman Rink in Central Park for 16 years. Prior to becoming a figure skating coach, Elisabeth earned a law degree and is licensed to practice in New York and New Jersey. She is married to Jose Reis and they have a 13-year old son, Gabriel. Elisabeth continues to be passionate about skating since her training days with Sonya and Peter Dunfield. She first performed with ITNY in 2010. Elisabeth would like to add: "this performance is in memory and honor of my beloved mother, whose unending love and dedication, along with my dad's, made my wonderful life as a skater possible."

**Justice Lee McConahea (Administrative Associate)** joined ITNY in February of 2014 after having led a career that spans film, television, and stage. He is best known as a football player at McKinley High from his recurring role on Fox's hit comedy, "Glee." Throughout his career he has had many roles in such notable television series as "Greys Anatomy," "True Blood," "How I Met Your Mother," "Revenge," "Modern Family" and "90120." 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 include Paul Stanley, Diamond Dallas Page, Pia Zadora, and the late Donna Summer.

**Bridie Myles (Performer)** grew up in Bowling Green Ohio. She moved to New York to pursue her Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree at Pratt Art Institute in Brooklyn. While completing her degree she began coaching figure skating at Chelsea Piers. She is a USFS double gold medalist and in competition she earned a National gold and bronze medal. Bridie first skated with Ice Theatre of New York in 2003. When she is not at the rink Bridie manages the careers of two Instagram celebrity dogs named Tansy and Cora who go by the tag name @thelilgremlins. They make appearances at New York events and are brand representatives.

**Moira North (Founder/Artistic 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 both in 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 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 into the repertoire of ice choreography.



**Stephanie Spencer (Performer)** grew up in the mountains of Vermont and fell in love with skating at the age of 10 after many years of acting and studying 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 this fall. She has been coaching skating for over a decade and loves bringing the joy of the ice to skaters of all ages.

**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 12 years Jirina has overseen ITNY's growth, such as 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 3.5 million views on YouTube. 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, Inc. 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 was part of the production crew that received a Sports Emmy for Outstanding Live Sports Special while working as Associate Producer for NBC at the Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games. She has an MA in Foreign Language Translation from the Universiteit Antwerpen, Belgium.

**Tara Nicole Stamm (Performer)** is from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and this is her first season with Ice Theatre of New York. Her first performance was at Rockefeller Center this past December. She has a Bachelors degree in Dance from The University of Wisconsin -Go Badgers!- and a Masters degree in Dance/Movement Therapy (D/MT) from Columbia College-Chicago. She is a US Figure Skating Gold Medalist in Ice Dance and in Moves in the Field. For the past 11 years she has been integrating D/MT with the sport of figure skating to enhance the full bodily potential of all of her athletes. Though Tara Nicole loves working with the elite athletes, her most rewarding work is teaching special needs individuals to skate. A few of her favorite things are dancing, watching people dance, and a man in a Fedora.

**Matt Thomas (Performer)** grew up skating in Syracuse, NY, where he was introduced to skating through the Learn to Skate Program. He continued to train as a figure skating competitor and in 1998 he became the Eastern Sectional Champion, before moving on to his current career as a Skating Coach. He has always loved being on the ice and considers himself blessed to still be skating, 29 years later. He remembers seeing ITNY perform at Rockefeller Center as a young boy, and now feels privileged to have been a member of the educational outreach and performance groups of ITNY for the last three years. Matt is also a professional saxophonist, holding a Bachelor's degree in music from SUNY Buffalo, performing regularly both in NYC and internationally.

**Conor Wagar (Performer)** 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 US 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 now performs with the talented, amazing cast of ice performers in Ice Theatre of New York.

**Sally Jeanne Watkins (Performer)** 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 Masters in Environmental Engineering from NYU. Originally from Seattle, Washington, she currently lives in New York City. She is the new Skating School Director at the World Ice Arena in Queens. Sally Jeanne has been performing with the Ice Theatre of New York since 2013.

**Douglas Webster (Choreographer)** has created a large body of repertory works for Ice Theatre of New York that includes Roots, Unforgettable, Departures, Dare Greatly, Transitions, and Appalachia Waltz (in collaboration with modern dance choreographer Joanna Mendl Shaw). Douglas has also set many works for the ice by notable dance choreographers; most recently, "Reveries" with Edward Villella, as well as Charles (Chucky) Klapow, Donlin Forman, Elisa Monte, David Dorfman, David Parsons, Lar Lubovitch, and Ann Carlson. In addition Douglas has worked with all the major skating companies in the world, including Disney on Ice, Holiday on Ice, Stars On Ice and The Sun Valley Ice Show. He has also choreographed many television shows, including ITNY in Winter Solstice on Ice; "Skating with the Stars" and "Shall We Dance on Ice" for ABC TV; and "Sterren Dansen op Het Ijs" in The Netherlands. Douglas is the Artistic Director of Ice Dance International.



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to these individuals and others whom we might have missed

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Patricia Pierre, Special Events Manager

Neal Walsh, Exec. Dir of Maint & Operations

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