

*Ice  
Theatre  
of  
New York*

CELEBRATING THE JOY  
OF DANCING ON ICE

# SPRING UNPLUGGED

PERFORMANCE AND VIP PARTY



**THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019**

SKY RINK AT CHELSEA PIERS

BLUE RIBBON GIVES ITS  
UTMOST SUPPORT TO ICE THEATRE'S  
2019 SPRING UNPLUGGED  
PERFORMANCE AND VIP PARTY.



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## ABOUT THE COMPANY

ITNY'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, Ice Theatre of New York 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 "Chuck" 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.

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



### FOUNDER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Moira North

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jirina Ribbens

### ENSEMBLE DIRECTOR

Elisa Angeli

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSOCIATE

Justice Lee McConaheea

### DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Mary Dugan

### CHAIR

William J Candee IV

### VICE CHAIR

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Moira North

### SECRETARY

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# Ice Theatre of New York

**CELEBRATING THE JOY  
OF DANCING ON ICE**

## **SAVE-THE-DATE**

**2019 BENEFIT GALA • Monday, October 21, 2019**

*Keeping this art form alive is dependent upon generous donors like you.  
To support Ice Theatre of New York visit:*

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# SPRING UNPLUGGED

## 2019 PERFORMANCE AND FUNDRAISER

### EVENT CHAIR

Betty Wasserman

### FOUNDER/ARTISTIC

#### DIRECTOR

Moira North

#### EXECUTIVE

#### DIRECTOR

Jirina Ribbens

#### ENSEMBLE

#### DIRECTOR

Elisa Angeli

### ADMINISTRATIVE

#### ASSOCIATE

Justice Lee McConnahea

### DEVELOPMENT

#### COORDINATOR

Mary Dugan

### 2019 WILL SEARS

#### AWARD WINNER

Gracie Gold

### GUEST ARTIST

Misha Ge

### ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK

Armen Agaian, Jake Bennett,  
Angela Chiang, Jennifer Gruver,  
Line Haddad, Jessica Huot, Ale Izquierdo,  
Theron James, Valerie Levine,  
Matej Silecky, and Conor Wagar

### ABSURD FIGURES

Kate Mangiardi

### ITNY JUNIOR ENSEMBLE

Ciara Flaherty, Rae Han, Aida Mende,  
Misora Ooka, Umika Ooka,  
Electra Scheiner and Milly Wasserman

### YOUTH PERFORMING

#### APPRENTICES

Sarah Baetge, Ella Bauer,  
and Oona & Gage Brown

# SPRING UNPLUGGED

## PERFORMANCE

(Program subject to change)

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### ABSURD FIGURES

Performed by **Katherine Mangiardi**

Poem from Serpentine Loop by **Elee Kraljii Gardiner**

Collaboration between **Moira North and Elee Kraljii Gardiner**

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### ARCTIC MEMORY

Performed by **Valerie Levine**

Choreography by **Jody Sperling**

Composed by **Brooks Williams and Beo Morales**

Costume by **Mary Jo Mecca**

This version of “Arctic Memory” is adapted from material Sperling developed during a 43-day polar science mission to the Arctic. While there, 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. The costume is hand-painted with designs suggestive of Arctic pack ice.

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### CONFESSIONS

Performed by **Jessica Huot and Conor Wagar**

Choreography by **Line Haddad**

Music by **Florence + The Machine**

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### PRESENCE

Performed by **Theron James**

Choreography by **Deneane Richburg** in collaboration with the performer  
Music by **Nicholas Britell** from the Academy Award winning film Moonlight

Presence brings a heightened sense of energetic pathways and corporeal shapes  
performed by a Black body moving on the ice — acknowledging the presence and  
absence of blackness within the predominantly White space of skating.

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### DOLL ON A MUSIC BOX

Performed by **Ella Bauer**

Choreography by **Marni Halasa**

Music by **Richard Sherman & Robert Sherman**

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### STILL GOT THE BLUES/ LULLABY OF THE LEAVES

Performed by **Oona and Gage Brown**

Choreography by **Andrew Lavrik**

Music by **Gary Moore / Beth Hart & Joe Bonamassa**

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### **IMITATION GAME**

Performed by **Ciara Flaherty, Rae Han, Aida Mende, Misora Ooka, Umika Ooka, Electra Scheiner, and Milly Wasserman**

Choreography by **Elisa Angeli**

Music by **Alexandre Desplat**

Costume concept by **Milly Wasserman**

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### **SIN PIEL**

Performed by **Line Haddad and Matej Silecky**

Choreography by **Line Haddad**

Music by **Electrocutango**

This piece explores the intensity and pain from being in an abusive or toxic relationship; a partnership often entangled in dependency and complex emotional patterns.

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### **BACH TO BACH**

Performed by **Armen Agaian**

Choreography by **Joel Dear**

Music: Selections from Unaccompanied Cello Suite No. 4

In E-Flat Major by **Bach performed by Yo-Yo Ma**

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### **WHEN ATOMS EMBRACE**

Performed by **Sarah Baetge**

Choreography and costume by **Lorna Brown**

Music by **Arvo Pärt – Spiegel im Spiegel**

Lay me in a field of wild flowers, let the scent perfume the hours.  
When The Atoms embrace and time changes pace, I find my magical powers.

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### **BREAK MY HEART AGAIN**

Performed by **Misha Ge**

Music by **Finneas**

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### **BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY**

Performed by **Jake Bennett, Angela Chiang, Jennifer Gruver,**

**Ale Izquierdo, Matej Silecky, and Conor Wagar**

Choreography by **Elisa Angeli**

Music by **Queen**

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### **AWARD PRESENTATION**

The Will Sears Award honors a skater who demonstrates exceptional daring and persistence in pursuit of her passion.

Presented to **Gracie Gold.**

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## ABOUT THE EXECUTIVE STAFF

**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 in both Canada and the United States. Moira and partner Patrick Dean skated ITNY'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 ITNY Director, Moira has continued to integrate contemporary dance into the repertoire of ice choreography. Moira's latest collaborations included productions with opera singer Alica Hall Moran, singer/composer Theo Bleckmann and the exhibition "New York on Ice" at the Museum of the City of New York.

**ELISA ANGELI** (Ensemble Director/Choreographer) 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 Ice Theatre of New York. In 2009, Elisa participated with ITNY 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.

**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 14 years, Jirina has overseen ITNY's growth, such as the expansion of its outreach programming for public school children, the addition of ongoing edge classes for ice artists and ITNY's entry into new media, including a collaboration with Improv Everywhere which received over 4 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 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.

**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 reoccurring role on Fox's hit comedy, "Glee." Throughout his career, he has had many 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** (Development Coordinator) joined ITNY in December 2016 after a career in grant writing both for the Arts and for advocacy organizations and public schools, 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 public schools and organizations advocating for immigrants, youth, and reproductive rights.

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## HONOREE

**GRACIE GOLD** was born in Newton, Massachusetts. After first learning to skate at the age of 2, Gold began training formally in second grade. By 2010 Gold was considered a rising star in the sport of figure skating. Two years later she took silver at the 2012 World Juniors and then silver at the 2013 U.S. Nationals. This earned her a spot on the 2013 World Team. She went on to win the 2014 Senior U.S. Championships in Boston. Gracie set three personal-best scores at the 2014 U.S. Championships, and secured her place on the 2014 Olympic Team by winning her first national title. At the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, Gracie, along with other members of Team USA, won the Olympic Bronze medal in the first-ever Team event. In the individual Ladies competition, Gracie placed fourth, an impressive Olympic debut. In 2016, Gracie Gold became America's golden girl once again, claiming her second U.S. Championship in commanding fashion. Gracie was nominated for the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Sports Award for "Best Female Athlete," and the Los Angeles Sports Council selected Gracie as its L.A. Sportswoman of the Year in January 2015. After sitting out the 2017-18 figure skating season to seek treatment for anxiety, depression and an eating disorder, Gracie announced her intention to return to competitive skating.

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## ABOUT THE COLLABORATORS

**LORNA BROWN** (Choreographer) A British and World Professional Champion and World and Olympic coach. Lorna was principal performer in numerous ice shows all over the world including "John Curry's Ice Dancing" on Broadway, and "Theatre of Skating" at the London Palladium. She has appeared in TV specials, touring Galas and commercials worldwide. She has studied contemporary dance and worked with some of the World's leading choreographers and has coached and choreographed for over 50 National Champions including 2 World Professional Champions. Choreographing most recently for Emanuel Sandhu, (3-time Canadian Champion), Kevin Van Der Perren (Belgium Champion, 2-time European medalist, and 2011 Silver medalist in Bratislava and Skate America) and Jenna McCorkell (10-time British Champion). Lorna has given workshops on all aspects of figure skating, at National and International seminars for both skaters and coaches. She has produced and directed her own International Skating School in the UK called "Skate of the Art" with the world-famous Rafael Arturian. She specializes in the latest physics and aero dynamics in skating techniques and focuses a great deal on expression and style in her choreography and has written several articles for skating magazines on these subjects. She moved to the USA several years ago and has been awarded the PSA Level 7 ranking and holds a BA in sports science.

**JOEL DEAR** (Choreographer) began skating in elementary school when a section of the school playground flooded and froze over. He quickly fell in love with skating. Joel is a two-time US National Medalist and a four-time US Figure Skating team member. In addition to skating, Joel works as a professional dancer and aerialist. He has performed in numerous professional ice skating and dance shows around the world. Most recently, He competed on America's Got Talent as a member of "Aerial Ice". Joel is happy to be part of Ice Theatre of New York fall season as a choreographer. He has been a company member since 2008.

**DENEANE RICHBURG** (Choreographer) is a 2017 McKnight Choreographer Fellow. She grew up competing in figure skating and received her MFA in dance and choreography from Temple University in 2007, an MA in Afro-American Studies from UW Madison, and a BA in English and African American Studies from Carleton College. She has created work for both the ice and stage, including Aunt Sara's Escape, a piece about Saatje Baartman (also known as the Venus Hottentot) which premiered on the ice in 2009 at Ridder Ice Arena on the University of MN campus.

Through her company, Brownbody, she has also created work for the stage including *These Blues Women*, and *Living Past (Re)Memory*—a duet based on Toni Morrison’s novel, *Beloved*. In 2013 Brownbody remounted this work for the ice. Working with Lela Aisha Jones, Richburg was also the Co-founder of *The Requisite Movers*, a Philadelphia based initiative that seeks to support the work of Black female choreographers. Deneane has danced for a number of choreographers including, Chris Walker, Jose Fransico Barroso, Andrea Catchings, Dr. Kariamuw Welsh, and Lela Aisha Jones and has performed with *Off Leash Area*, *Pangea World Theater Company*, *Flyground* and *Kariamuw and Company*. In 2015 Brownbody was a proud recipient of a 2015 Minnesota SAGE Award for Dance and a John S. and James L. Knight Arts Challenge award.

**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-plus 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.

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## ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

**ARMEN AGAIAN** (Performer) has been ice skating since 2002. Armen was a 5-time National Champion in Georgia and participated in the Junior World Championships three times. He has also participated in the 2013 Youth Olympic games, the Junior Grand Prix (2012–2015) and 2016 European Championships. Armen is now a skating coach in New York and is thrilled to have been a part of *Ice Theatre of New York* since 2018.

**JAKE BENNETT** (Performer) is a British Pairs skater, who has recently relocated from the UK to New York City. He is a three-time National pairs champion and competed at the Junior World Championships. After a shoulder injury and subsequent operation Jake turned his passion for skating towards coaching which he has been doing full time for over a decade, he has coached skaters from first steps to ISU international level and hopes to continue his success in the US. Jake was delighted to join ITNY in 2018.

**ANGELA CHIANG** (Performer) grew up in New Jersey but now calls New York City home. Her passion for figure skating started as soon as she stepped on the ice at the age of four. Angela credits her accomplishments in skating to her mother and grandmother’s encouragement. Both dreamt of becoming graceful figure skaters. 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 perform with the cast this season! Angela is a USFS double gold medalist, a graduate of NYU with a B.A. in Journalism and Metropolitan Studies, a former instructor for the Figure Skating in Harlem, a former member of the NHL’s New York Rangers City Skaters squad, House of Mauro performer, and continues to devote herself to her students and her love of coaching at Chelsea Piers for the past eighteen years.

**MISHA GE** (Guest Performer) Misha Ge is of Russian, Chinese and Korean descent, born in a family of art and sport parents. His Grandfather GeSha is famous Chinese Painter and Actor, who also was Figure Skater and Ballroom Dancer. His Father Jun Ge, was a Chinese National Team Skater

and later was a Nationals team coach for Singles Skaters. His Mother Larisa Ge, was Soviet Union National Team Skater and later was a Coach and Choreographer. Misha's first steps and basics as choreographer came from his parents, who were a big influence since his early skating days. Having first stepped onto the ice at age three and a half, Misha Ge began training seriously at ten after moving to China. From 2009, he trained in the United States. He started representing Uzbekistan in 2010 in international competitions and competed in the 2014 and the 2018 Olympics. His best result was a 6th place finish in the World Championships. Misha is much sought after as choreographer for competitive skating, including clients such as World Champion Evgenia Medvedeva.

**JENNIFER GRUVER** (Performer) 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 short time she has lived here, she finds herself coaching, choreographing and performing more than ever. Jennifer will be graduated with a Master's Degree in Tourism Management in 2018. She had her debut performance with ITNY at 2017 Spring Unplugged.

**LINE HADDAD** (Choreographer/Performer) is a World and Olympic pair skater and was the youngest athlete to compete at the Olympics. Former student of Olympic Champion Oleg Vassiliev, she is two-time French National Champion and 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 consultant for the French Ice Skating Federation. She choreographed for various international skaters; among them are 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 ITNY as a performer then as a choreographer. Through ITNY she has had the opportunity to work with choreographers such as David Parsons, Elisa Monte, and David Liu and was featured in NY Times, Fox News, and NBC. Her most recent choreographies includes Milongon performed at Rockefeller center with Brent Bonmentre to a composition by world renowned bandoneon player JP Jofre and 11h11 which was performed at the ITNY Home season.

**JESSICA HUOT** (Performer) 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 gives private piano lessons in the NYC area. She has performed with ITNY since 2010.

**ALE IZQUIERDO** (Performer) born in Leon Guanajuato Mexico, and have been a skater since the age of 8. Competed nationally and internationally as part of team Mexico. In 2009 moved to USA to train with Victor Petrenko, Nina Petrenko and Galina Zmievskaya. She became professional 6 years ago, and since then she has been performing and touring around the world as part of the best world class skating productions such as Ice Theatre of New York, Holiday On Ice, Sun Valley On Ice, Wolfsburg and the world known UK's famous TV show Dancing On Ice, where she partnered with a UK celebrity and made it all the way to the final of the series 2018. Apart of skating she does modeling and commercials, she was the face of 7Up Pepsi for a season and has been face of a few clothing brands like "Winterina NY". She is based in NYC and is delighted to be performing with ITNY.

**THERON JAMES** (Performer) is a Middletown, CT native who currently resides in New York City. Theron – nicknamed TJ - began figure skating at the age of 12 after his mom won a raffle at his brother's middle school auction for lessons at the local ice arena. TJ competed on the national level until he joined his first touring ice show in 2009 and has worked for multiple companies such as Holiday On Ice, Disney On Ice, and Royal Caribbean. His Unique style and technical abilities have been entertaining and performing for audiences around the world. He has 10+ years coaching experience both locally and overseas. He made his ITNY debut in the 2019 City Skate Concert Series.

**VALERIE LEVINE** (Performer) 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. Valerie has collaborated on Ice ITNY events for the past decade. More at [Valerinadance.com](http://Valerinadance.com)

**KATE MANGIARDI** (Performer) is a USFSA gold medalist in Moves in the Field. She has been coaching throughout the tristate area for the past 15 years and enjoys working with all levels. 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. Recently, Kate has begun to merge her experience as a skater into her art through exploring the connection between the etching a skater leaves behind on the ice and creation of a drawing. Kate is excited and grateful for the opportunity to explore this direction in her work with ITNY.

**MATEJ SILECKY** (Performer) Matej Silecky was a Skating Pro & the Runner-Up on ITV's 2018 series, Dancing on Ice. He is the 2012 USFS Collegiate Junior Men's Champion, USFS Nationals Competitor Championship Pairs, Ukrainian National Team member and a triple gold medalist, USFS and Skate Canada. Matej is a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, where he was Team Captain of the Cal Figure Skating team and also developed and taught a college course on the interdisciplinary aspects of figure skating. He even has a couple of award-winning published research papers on esoteric topics. If you can find them, ask Matej to buy you a coffee! Matej has performed in numerous shows with Woodstock Ice Productions & Ice Theatre of New York. Outside of coaching and skating, he is an accomplished filmmaker, digital artist and photographer, whose first film, the documentary feature Baba Babee Skazala has recently screened at US and European film festivals. Matej previously collaborated on special events for ITNY and this performance marks his debut as a company member.

**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 since 2015 he has performed with the talented, amazing cast of ice performers in ITNY.

# THE CAST



Armen Agaian



Jake Bennett



Angela Chiang



Jennifer Gruver



Line Haddad



Jessica Huot



Ale Izquierdo



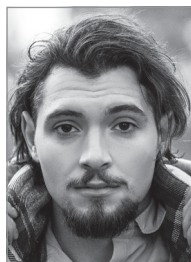
Theron James



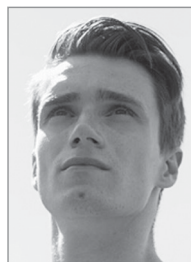
Valerie Levine



Kate Mangiardi



Matej Silecky



Conor Wagar



Misha Ge  
Guest Performer



Gracie Gold  
2019 Will Sears Award



## OUR FAMILY OF SUPPORT

### Gertrude Vanderbilt Endowment

Designated to support the development of choreography for dance on ice.

### The Will Sears Fund

In memory of Will Sears.

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Patricia Brockway  
William J Candee IV  
Chelsea Piers Management  
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Stephen Epstein  
Jennifer Hochglaube  
Ron Kraut

Anna Lee  
Nazem Family Foundation  
Angelo Silveri  
Lee Traub  
Betty Wasserman

### ICE ANGELS: \$1,000 - \$2,499

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Dr. Tenley Albright  
Anne & Scott Allen  
Anonymous  
Rose Auslander  
Erin & Jack Austin  
Diane Belliveau  
Sandra Bezic  
Kathie & Jeff Chavkin  
Tom Collins  
Lynn & Joe Cooper  
Sonya Dunfield  
Marianne & Robert Engle  
Joan Erdheim  
Emily Faulkner  
Amy Goodfriend  
Stephan Gouaze  
Arnold Gumowitz  
Ellen & Richard Halpern  
Tira Harpaz  
Tracy & Scott Hamilton  
Jill Howell  
Daphne Johnson  
Cathy & Christopher Lawrence  
Kate McBride  
Suna Murray  
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Theresa Pinson  
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## **serpentine loop**

poems by Elee Kraljii Gardiner

### **ABSURD FIGURES**

There is a club to join and I want in. It's a special group  
and initiation is a rigamarole but they keep out  
the miscellany—the one-footed beaks, the hooks and pig-ears,  
the loops. I am reasonably sure that's not me. I work  
the room, not bent at the hips but with my knees swinging fiercely.  
I ignore the judges and their wolf whistles, avoid assistance,  
however kindly offered. I let my arms hang down—  
hands must never fly above hips—only poets do that.  
I swing like I own the joint; I take up mental space.  
That's what good girls do. Judges know confidence  
is thinnest when the toe is turned inward as far as possible  
so I get into first position. I tend to pull up short and worry  
about feelings but tonight I will overreach. I don't want to be  
an amateur forever. Entering this echelon, I won't carry the  
unemployed leg in front. A lot of it is luck:  
an upright carriage may be silk-lined or it may be a red  
wheelbarrow. So much depends upon a look  
cast over the wrong shoulder. I've weathered a succession of  
destroyals, now it's time to find an edge. Don't blow it, I coach  
myself, this is your chance. All members must take a turn  
at the door. I tilt my head accordingly so I can  
keep an eye on the line as I progress. Am I in? Did I make it?  
It's like being in love—they say I'll just know..

*"Kraljii Gardiner's poetry bowled me over with it breadth of emotion and vision.  
Her writing has the movement of someone who understands skating"*

Dick Button,  
author, commentator and two-time Olympic Champion

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to these individuals and others whom we might have missed

The Entire Sky Rink Staff including: Jim Bugenhagen, General Manager  
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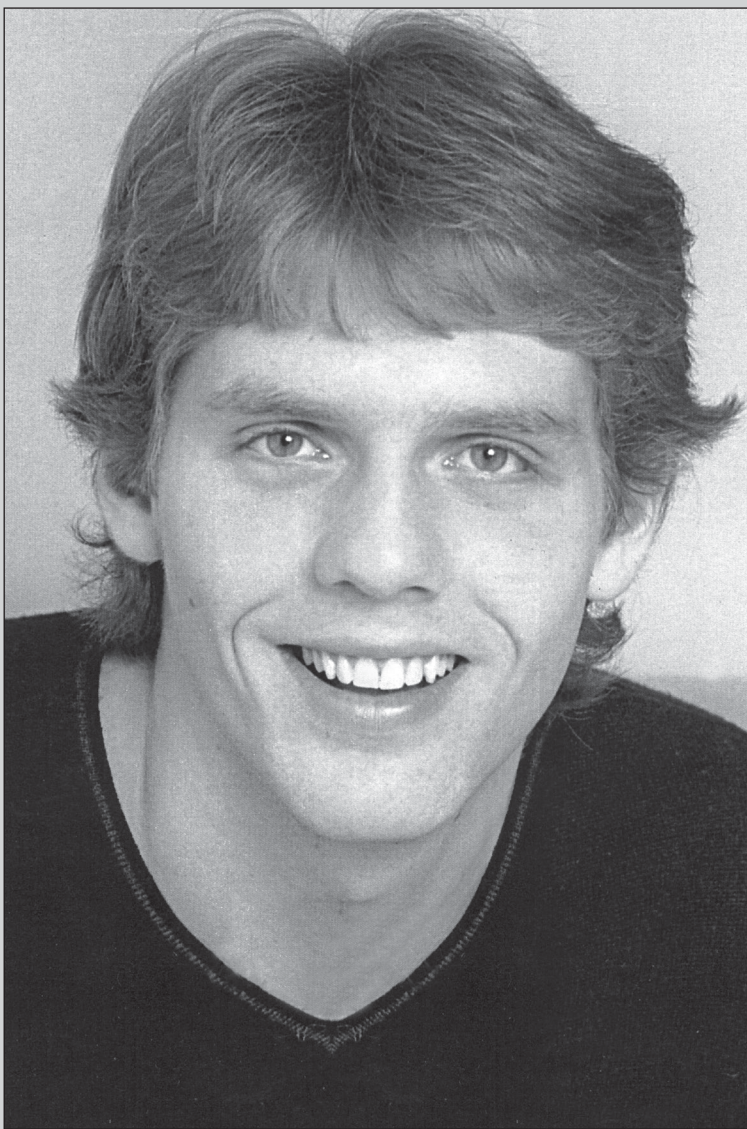
As of 4/24/2019



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**IN MEMORY OF WILL SEARS  
1982 - 2002**

Will Sears, 2002 US National Novice Pair Champion. Photo: Jeff Hornstein