



FALL FROLIC

*Ice
Theatre
of
New York*[®]

CELEBRATING THE JOY
OF DANCING ON ICE

PERFORMANCE + VIP PARTY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2024

SKY RINK AT CHELSEA PIERS

icetheatre.org    

Photo: Fong Wu

BLUE RIBBON GIVES ITS
UTMOST SUPPORT TO ICE THEATRE'S
2024 FALL FROLIC
PERFORMANCE AND VIP PARTY.



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ABOUT THE COMPANY

Ice Theatre of New York® (ITNY) creates and advances dance on ice as an ensemble performing art and provides education and public performances to people of all ages. Founded by Moira North in 1984, ITNY created the first not-for-profit professional ice dance company in the United States 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 achieves its public arts and education mission by:

- Commissioning and performing new pieces created by recognized and emerging dance and ice skating choreographers. The company has created exclusive works by choreographers as varied as well-known skating choreographers Elisa Angeli, Lorna Brown, and Joel Dear, modern dance choreographers Jacquelyn Buglisi, Elisa Monte, David Parsons, and Jody Sperling, performance artist Ann Carlson, McKnight Choreographer Fellow Deneane Richburg, and ballet great Edward Villella. We just completed our first commissioned work for the Tree Lighting at Bank of America Winter Village in Bryant Park choreographed by Broadway Dancer Kolton Krouse.
- Making performances accessible to diverse audiences and presenting dozens of free performances, featuring our current repertory throughout New York City.
- Offering arts education programs on ice dancing and figure skating for school-aged children in Brooklyn, Queens, Harlem, and Central Park, annually serving 1,000 NYC school students.
- Training company skaters and guest skating artists in our seasonal Master Edge Classes at Chelsea Piers Sky Rink and Bryant Park, as well as offering training programs for aspiring ice dance artists, including our Junior Ensemble.
- Collaborating with choreographers, producers, presenters, administrators, and advocates from the dance and skating worlds and beyond while exploring creatively exciting relationships with artists from theatre, music, and new media disciplines.

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Karina Manta



Libby McGrosky



Liz Yoshiko Schmidt



Aaron Singletary

GUEST ARTISTS



Gracie Gold



Emmanuel Savary



Kate Mangiardi (Figures)

PERFORMING APPRENTICES



Georgina Blackwell



Sophia Dmonoske



Milly Wasserman



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GUEST ARTISTS

Gracie Gold, Emmanuel Savary

ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK

Danil Berdnikov, Sarah France, Tim Koleto, Karina Manta,
Libby McGrosky, Liz Schmidt, Aaron Singletary

FIGURES PERFORMER

Kate Mangiardi

PERFORMING APPRENTICES

Georgina Blackwell, Sophia Domonoske, Milly Wasserman



FALL FROLIC

OCTOBER 25, 2024

PRE-SHOW

Aerial Performed by Libby McGrosky
Figures Performed by Kate Mangiardi

SCHOOL FIGURES

A Moira North and Elee Kraljii Gardiner Collaboration
Performed and Choreographed by Kate Mangiardi
Poem from Serpentine Loop read by Elee Kraljii Gardiner

DUAL NATURE

Choreographed by Sarah France
Performed by Sarah France and Aaron Singletary
Music: Suspirium Finale, Thom Yorke

An exploration of being grounded and in flight, coming together and moving apart. Corporeal and spiritual, ground and air, push and release, labor and lightness, up and down, near and distant, vulnerable and impenetrable. We share pieces of ourselves, constantly examining the ways in which we are similar and different from each other.

SKATER'S WALTZ

Choreographed by Moira North and Sarah France
Performed by Georgina Blackwell
Music: The Pete King Orchestra & Chorus

LANGUAGE OF THE SOUL

Choreographed by Lorna Brown
Performed by Danil Berdnikov
Music: Benedictus, Karl Jenkins

BUTTERFLY PHASE

Choreographed by Benoit Richaud

Performed by Liz Yoshiko Schmidt

Music: Kelly Moran

DARE GREATLY

Choreographed by Doug Webster

Performed by Sophia Domonoske, Libby McGrosky, and Milly Wasserman

Music: Fix You by Coldplay arranged and played by The Vitamin String Quartet

Costumes by Katherine Patterson McDowell

Commissioned in memory of Will Sears

Dare Greatly examines the courage to be trusting in the face of sorrow and despair.

PURPLE RAIN

Choreographed and Performed by Emmanuel Savary

Music: Prince

UPHILL BATTLE

Performed by Gracie Gold

Music: Rozzi

APPALACHIA WALTZ

Choreographed by JoAnna Mendl Shaw and Doug Webster

Performed by Danil Berdnikov, Tim Koleto, Sarah France, Karina Manta,

Liz Schmidt, and Aaron Singletary

Music: Yo Yo Ma, Edgar Meyers and Mark O'Conner

Costumes by Laura Moore

This piece is made possible in part by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

This emotionally charged piece is centered by a memorable love duet with the underlying theme of a community celebrating the harvest.

FINALE

WHO'S WHO

DANIL BERDNIKOV (Performer) has been with ITNY for four seasons. He hails from the city of Samara, Russia, from which he competed as part of the junior national team, as well as across his vast native land through high school. He then moved to Moscow both to continue his education and to join Stage Entertainment Russia to begin performing as a skater. Performing for an audience allowed Danil to fall in love with skating in a new way and his career blossomed over eight years with Willy Bietak Productions and Wheeler Productions in the United States, Stageworks Worldwide Production in the UK, and Holiday on Ice Productions and Dynamic Shows Entertainment in the EU. Danil is grateful to his parents, coaches, choreographers, and the fellow skaters who have supported him along the way.

GEORGINA BLACKWELL (Performing Apprentice) has been skating for 20 years and competes at the Junior Solo Dance level. She is a USFS Gold Medalist and National Solo Dance Final competitor. Outside of skating, Georgina is a student at Columbia University in Medieval and Renaissance studies, with a focus on classical languages.

LORNA BROWN (Choreographer), a British and World Professional Champion, and World and Olympic coach, has been a principal performer in numerous ice shows across the globe, 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, and has studied contemporary dance, working with some of the world's leading choreographers. She has coached and choreographed for over 50 national champions, including two world professional champions. Lorna most recently choreographed for Emanuel Sandhu (three-time Canadian Champion), Kevin Van Der Perren (Belgium Champion, two-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 international skating school in the UK called Skate of the Art with the world-famous Rafael Arutunian. She specializes in the latest physics and aerodynamics in skating techniques, focuses a great deal on expression and style in her choreography, and has written several articles for skating magazines on these subjects. Lorna moved to the USA several years ago. She been awarded the PSA Level 7 ranking, and holds a bachelor's in sports science.

SOPHIA DOMONOSKE (Performing Apprentice) has been skating for 16 years and competes at the Senior Solo Dance level and has previously competed at the Senior Freestyle level. She is a five-time US Figure Skating gold medalist, a four-time National Solo Dance Final competitor, a three-time National Solo Dance Final medalist, and a two-time silver medalist. She qualified for Senior Pacific Sectionals before fully transitioning to Ice Dance. Sophia trained in Colorado Springs for a few years, where she had a partner and competed in the National Qualifying Series as a Senior ice dancer. Sophia is the President of the NYU Figure Skating Team. While she is not on the ice, Sophia attends New York University majoring in Computer Science and Global Liberal Studies. This marks Sophia's debut as an ITNY Performing Apprentice.

SARAH FRANCE (Performer/Choreographer) joined ITNY in 2018, bringing her passion for ice dancing and broad knowledge of skating skills, choreographic styles, and skating disciplines to the company. Sarah has translated her skills to many different areas within the ITNY Professional Ensemble, in addition to being a choreographer, edge class instructor, aerialist, inline skater, dancer, and off-ice instructor. Her dedication to skating and desire to share her love of the ice with others has made her a sought-after instructor and performer, who firmly believes in the life-transforming nature of skating. She is a six-time US Open Professional Figure Skating Championships competitor, national ice dance competitor, and US Figure Skating triple gold medalist, and is honored to realize her childhood dream of performing as a member of ITNY. In addition to her work with ITNY, Sarah's skills have been highly valued in training developmental through internationally competitive skaters, and working as a coach, choreographer, and program director. She is a faculty member for Shattuck-St. Mary's International Figure Skating Center of Excellence training camps, and a welcomed guest coach in skating programs around the world. Her well-rounded education on and off the ice has allowed her to flexibly work in all disciplines of skating, and she loves to share her passion for movement, glide, and artistic expression with others through performing, teaching, and introducing others to the joy of skating.

GRACIE GOLD (Guest Artist) is a two-time National Champion, Olympic medalist, mental health advocate and New York Times best-selling author. In 2014, she won her first U.S. National Championship, which led to her Olympic berth in the 2014 Sochi Olympics where the US team won a Bronze medal. Despite her success, Gracie faced significant personal struggles, including mental health challenges, which led to a temporary break from competitive skating after the 2016 season. She has been open about her experiences with anxiety and depression, using her platform to raise awareness about mental health in sports and helping to break down stigmas around the issue. In 2018, Gracie made a courageous return to competition, embarking on a comeback that captured the attention and admiration of fans and fellow athletes alike. Gracie's journey as an athlete is one of extraordinary talent, resilience, and advocacy. Through her victories and challenges, she remains a beloved figure in American figure skating, respected for her contributions to the sport and her courage in facing adversity. Her internationally recognized memoir tells the story of her competitive career and battle with mental health. Gracie is the recipient of ITNY's 2019 Will Sears Award, presented each year to a skater/organization who has shown exceptional daring and persistence in pursuit of their passion.

TIM KOLETO (Performer) is a Silver Medalist at the 2022 Winter Olympics, NHK Trophy Champion, and five-time Japanese Champion ice dancer. He has competed internationally at the senior level for 10 consecutive years. Currently residing in Montreal, he is coaching and choreographing, and is an aspiring author. He is excited to be joining ITNY for the first time.

KATE MANGIARDI (Figures Performer) is a USFSA double gold medalist, WFS member, and has been coaching throughout the tri-state area for over 15 years. After receiving her BA from Vassar and MFA in painting from Rhode Island School of Design, she began exhibiting her work in museums and galleries. Awarded the W.K. Rose Fellowship

in the Creative Arts in 2009, Kate merges her experience as a skater into her art: exploring the connection between the etching a skater leaves behind on the ice and the creation of a drawing, and has been excited and grateful for the opportunity to explore this direction in her work with ITNY.

KARINA MANTA (Performer) is an ice dancer and former international medalist and Grand Prix competitor for Team USA with her partner, Joe Johnson. Since retiring from competitive skating, she has toured with the Cirque du Soleil show AXEL and performed as a professional for the UK television series, *Dancing on Ice*, which she and her celebrity partner won in the 2021-22 season. She has been a company member of Ice Dance International since 2021. Karina's first season performing with ITNY was 2023. In addition to performing, Karina is the author of the young adult memoir *On Top of Glass* (Knopf 2021) about growing up queer in figure skating.

LIBBY MCGROSKY (Performer) has been skating with ITNY since 2023. They began skating at the age of four and continued skating through high school with a focus on freestyle and an interest in synchronized skating. In college, they skated for the Hayden Synchronized Skating Teams at the junior and senior levels and represented the USA for three international seasons. After completing their competitive career, Libby joined ITNY and began the process of switching to professional figure skating. Libby obtained a bachelor of science in environmental science with a minor in climate change and sustainability from the University of Massachusetts Lowell.

MOIRA NORTH (Founder/Artistic Director) has been named one of the 25 Most Influential Names in Figure Skating by International Figure Skating Magazine, as a driving force in the development of figure skating as a performing art. Since founding ITNY 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 repertory of ice choreography. Some of Moira's collaborations include productions with opera singer Alicia Hall Moran, singer/composer Theo Bleckmann, the piece "Of Water and Ice" with Jody Sperling and DJ Spooky, and the project *The Unseen*, a real-time motion capture performance on ice showcasing, celebrating, and honoring Black figure skaters of the past and present, with multidisciplinary artist LaJuné McMillian.

JIRINA RIBBENS (Executive Director) joined the ITNY staff in December 2004, after serving on the board since the company's founding. Over the past 19 years, Jirina has overseen ITNY's growth, including expanding its outreach programming for public school children, adding ongoing edge classes for ice artists, and entering into new media. Her ITNY collaboration with *Improv Everywhere* received over four million views on YouTube and her collaboration with multi-disciplinary artist LaJuné McMillian included live motion capture

and video manipulation. Before her work with ITNY, Jirina worked in a variety of positions in the entertainment and sports industries, where, at Candid Productions/SFX/Clear Channel, she produced and managed events with two-time Olympic Champion Dick Button. She also worked as an Olympic sports consultant and producer for television networks at nine Olympic Games, winning a 2002 Sports Emmy for Outstanding Live Sports Special as Associate Producer for the Salt Lake City Olympic Winter Games with NBC. Jirina and her husband reside in Harlem. She is looking forward to celebrating 20 years as Executive Director with ITNY in 2025, when the company will celebrate its 40th anniversary.

LIZ YOSHIKO SCHMIDT (Performer) has been skating with ITNY since 2017. Luscious edges, artistic movement, and ice dancing inform her skating and professional career, which began in 2013, at the age of 18, performing internationally in Europe, Egypt, and across the US. She is a Japanese/German American skater who hails from Chicago, IL, and recently moved from San Francisco, CA, to New York City. She is a US Figure Skating double gold medalist in Freestyle and Moves in the Field, and a silver medalist in Ice Dancing. Liz received her bachelor of fine arts in painting from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2018, has an art studio in Brooklyn, and is the creator of the ice fashion line Dansu Wear.

JOANNA MENDEL SHAW (Choreographer), a veteran choreographer and dance educator, has been expanding the parameters and strategies for dance-making since 1998. Her company, The Equus Projects, tours throughout the US and Europe, creating site-specific works in immersive collaboration with local communities. An internationally recognized dance educator, JoAnna has taught on faculty at NYU, The Juilliard School, Alvin Ailey, Princeton, Mount Holyoke, and Montclair State. JoAnna is the recipient of NEA Choreographic Fellowships and multiple NEA grants for Interdisciplinary Performance. She has brought her somatic practice of Physical Listening into elementary schools and academic think tanks, the Naval War College, NYU Medical School, and in 2024, as a Visiting Adjunct Professor at the Stanford School of Medicine. JoAnna is a certified Laban Movement Analyst and is the author of Physical Listening, A Dancer's Interspecies Journey.

BENOIT RICHAUD (Choreographer) stands as a preeminent figure skating choreographer whose artistry and innovation have left an indelible mark on the world of figure skating. Hailing from the culturally rich enclave of Avignon, France, he embarked on a remarkable journey from ice dancer to choreographic luminary, captivating the hearts and minds of audiences worldwide. With an unwavering commitment to his craft, Benoit has forged a path that continues to reshape the landscape of figure skating. Consistently recognized for his groundbreaking work, Benoit garners annual nominations for Best Choreographer at the ISU Skating Awards. Over the past decade, he has consistently earned acclaim as the most original choreographer in the figure skating world, a testament to his unwavering commitment to pushing the boundaries of his craft.

EMMANUEL SAVARY (Guest Artist) won the US Junior Championships in 2009 and was the National Silver medalist at the novice level. In 2020, Emmanuel and Starr Andrews were the only two African Americans to take part in the US Championships. Emmanuel is also a student at the University of Delaware, studying aerospace engineering. He is part of

an acapella singing group and enjoys dancing. Emmanuel is the brother of Joel Savary, the founder of Diversify Ice (2023 Will Sears Honoree), and enjoys being a mentor to other minority skaters through Diversify Ice.

AARON SINGLETARY (Performer) grew up in Pennsylvania skating for the Penguin Figure Skating Club and started his national competitive career training with Craig Maurizi at the Ice House in Hackensack, NJ. Aaron earned gold in Moves in the Field as well as singles Freestyle. Aaron now coaches primarily at City Ice Pavilion in New York City. Over the years, Aaron has had many internationally revered coaches. Each left a prominent mark on his approach to skating and singling out one or two would be a disservice to the others. He aims to further his knowledge so that, one day, he too may be an internationally recognized performer and coach. The 2019 Home Season marked his debut with ITNY.

MILLY WASSERMAN (Performing Apprentice) has been performing with ITNY since 2015. She became a member of ITNY's Junior Ensemble in 2017. Later, Milly made her choreographic debut at the 2022 ITNY Home Season Performances with her piece "In An Instant." She is the 2024 intercollegiate national champion, a four-time national competitor in ice dance, and is the 2023 Intercollegiate Solo Pattern Dance national champion. Milly is a member of the NYU Figure Skating Team, which placed 4th at the 2024 intercollegiate national championships. When Milly is not choreographing or skating, she is at New York University studying psychology.

DOUGLAS WEBSTER (Choreographer) is the Executive and Founding Artistic Director of Ice Dance International. Under his direction, the company has produced two PBS specials, two performances at Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival, multiple national tours, and has created distinctive partnerships in Stowe, VT, and Portsmouth, NH. His extensive career in performance skating has spanned 36 years. Douglas's previous credits include Artistic Director for ITNY, where he choreographed over 30 pieces since co-creating Appalachia Waltz in 1997; Creative Director of Shall We Dance on Ice, a three-year Disson television series that featured Meryl Davis, Charlie White, Tanith Belbin White, and Ben Agosto; and choreographer for Holiday on Ice and Disney on Ice for a decade in a variety of roles. Douglas skated in Carmen on Ice in 1989, choreographed by Sandra Bezic, and is humbled to have been one of Judy Blumberg's skating partners.



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