

*Ice
Theatre
New York*®

CELEBRATING THE JOY
OF DANCING ON ICE

FORTY
4 YEARS

2025 HOME SEASON

MAY 2, 3 & 5

SKY RINK AT CHELSEA PIERS

BENEFIT GALA • MAY 5

HONORING

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
SCOTT HAMILTON

ICE ANGEL
ANNA KISSELGOFF

icetheatre.org    

We are
delighted to
celebrate with you...

The 40th Anniversary
of Ice Theatre of New York

105 Years of
GRAF

Supporting
athletes throughout history...

See you on the ice.



Graf



Social.Graffigure.com

Proud Sponsor of

US FIGURE
SKATING

GRAF

ABOUT THE COMPANY

Ice Theatre of New York® (ITNY) creates and advances 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, 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, Kolton Krouse, Elisa Monte, David Parsons, and Jody Sperling, performance artist Ann Carlson, McKnight Choreographer Fellow Deneane Richburg, and ballet great Edward Villella.
- Making performances accessible to diverse audiences and presenting dozens of free City Skate Concerts, 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, Chelsea, Harlem, and Central Park, annually serving 1,000 NYC school students.
- Training company skaters and guest skating artists in our weekly Master Edge Classes at Chelsea Piers Sky Rink, 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.

62 Chelsea Piers, Suite 308, New York, NY 10011

(212) 929-5811 • itny@icetheatre.org

icetheatre.org



Founder/ Director

Moira North

Executive Director

Jirina Ribbens

Outreach Director

Sarah France

Program Associate

Mazal Karlick

Board of Trustees

Frances Black

William J Candee IV, Chair

Craig Cichy

Jessica Betts Dreyfuss

Violet Eagan

Mary Gaillard, Treasurer

Victorio Gallo

Alicia Hall-Moran

Doug Haw

Emily Hughes

Cara Erdheim Kilgallen

David Mellins

Moira North,

ITNY President

Lisa Renda, Secretary

Betty Wasserman,

Vice Chair

Artistic

Advisory Council

Elise Bernhardt

Richard Caples

Ann Carlson

Richard Dwyer

Erika Harrsch

Josef Koudelka

Meredith Monk

Atoy Wilson

THE CAST



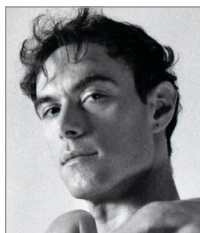
Sarah Baetge



Jacqueline Benson



Danil Berdnikov



Jeremy Cline



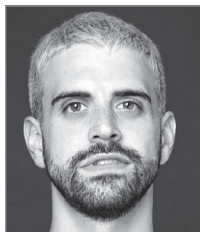
Sarah France



Angela Kim



Valerie Levine



Isaac Lindy



Karina Mania



Libby McGrosky



Liz Yoshiko Schmidt



Aaron Singletary

GUEST ARTIST



Ilia Malinin

PERFORMING APPRENTICES



Georgina Blackwell



Caroline Mura



Milly Wasserman



HOME SEASON PERFORMANCES

MAY 2, 3 & 5, 2025

BENEFIT GALA & PERFORMANCE

MAY 5, 2025

FOUNDER/ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Moira North

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Jirina Ribbens

OUTREACH DIRECTOR

Sarah France

PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

Mazal Karlick

LIGHTING & PRODUCTION DIRECTOR

Chris Lipari

ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK®

Sarah Baetge, Jacqueline Benson, Danil Berdnikov, Jeremy Cline,
Sarah France, Angela Kim, Valerie Levine, Isaac Lindy, Karina Manta,
Libby McGrosky, Liz Yoshiko Schmidt, Aaron Singletary

GUEST PERFORMER (MAY 5 ONLY)

Two-time World Champion, Ilia Malinin

PERFORMING APPRENTICES

Georgina Blackwell, Caroline Mura, and Milly Wasserman

2025 HOME SEASON

(Program subject to change)

LARK ASCENDING (1989)

Choreography by Rob McBrien | Re-Staged by Sarah France

Music: Vaughan Williams

Performed by Sarah Baetge, Jacqueline Benson, Danil Berdnikov, Sarah France, Isaac Lindy, Karina Manta, Libby McGrosky, Liz Schmidt, and Aaron Singletary

"The simplest movements in skating can be the most beautiful and most meaningful ones. I think that the actual act of skating, which we call stroking, is one of the most refined and well-defined movements the human being can make. To some skaters this is only a means of transportation across the ice and a way of gaining speed and the momentum necessary to perform a jump. To me it has more meaning than that; to me it is infinitely more beautiful than running; and much more beautiful than dancing can ever be." — John Curry

ARCTIC MEMORY (2017)

Choreography by Jody Sperling | Music: Brooks Williams and Beo Morales

Performed by Valerie Levine

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 Loie Fuller. The costume is hand-painted with designs suggestive of Arctic pack ice.

Made possible with funding by Gertrude Vanderbilt Endowment

HIP HIP HOORAY (World Premiere)

Choreography by Milly Wasserman | Music: Alexandre Desplat

Performed by Georgina Blackwell, Caroline Mura, and Milly Wasserman

Led by miscommunication, three pals find themselves overdressed and uninvited to a party of three. Through bouts of awkward charm, questionable etiquette, and perfectly timed chaos, the three partygoers are determined to have a good time.

ALBERTA BIOGRAPHY (1988)

Choreography by Frank Nowosad | Originally performed by Gary Beacom

Music: Bird calls as recorded by Roger Tory Peterson

Performed by Danil Berdnikov

Birds like people have local dialects and personalities...
this provides the inspiration for this choreography.

WHEN ATOMS EMBRACE (2018)

Choreography by Lorna Brown | Music: Arvo Pärt - "Spiegel im Spiegel"

Performed by Liz Yoshiko Schmidt

"Lay me in a field of wildflowers, let the scent perfume the hours.

When The Atoms embrace and time changes pace, I find my magical powers."

LA REVOLTE DES ENFANTS (1992)

Choreography by Alberto Del Saz | Music: René Aubry

Performed by Sarah Batege, Valerie Levine and Libby McGrosky

An experimental and playful study of the depth and tonalities of space, within the limitations of the force of expansion. This work is made possible, in part, with commissioning funds from the New York State Council on the Arts.

IN FRAGMENTS, WE MEET (2022)

Choreography by Angela Kim | Music: Brambles "In the Androgynous Dark"

Performed by Angela Kim and Jeremy Cline

We represent a desire for process to be total, to move to where progress is measured more by the passing of time than by accomplishment. We aspire to acknowledge one another wholly in our piece, "In Fragments, We Meet." We dare greatly, drawing from our shared backgrounds and honoring where performance and competition (long left behind) conform and split. This is our second iteration of this piece fusing figure skating, dance, and circus, commissioned by Ice Theatre of New York®.

ILIA MALININ (MAY 5TH ONLY)

Two-time World Champion

ENSEMBLE FOR PEACE (2022)

Choreography by Elisa Angeli

Music: "Concerto No. 2" by Sergei Rachmaninoff, performed by David Garrett

Performed by Danil Berdnikov, Jacqueline Benson, Isaac Lindy, Karina Manta,

Libby McGrosky, Liz Yoshiko Schmidt, and Aaron Singletary

This piece is dedicated to the victims of war in Ukraine and everywhere throughout time in our world. Choreography commissioned by Ice Theatre of New York®

**ON STAGE OR ON ICE
WE HAVE YOU COVERED**



WHO'S WHO

ELISA ANGELI (Choreographer) joined ITNY in 2008, and toured France with the company that year. She was ITNY's Ensemble Director 2015-2022. An Italian ice dancer, who has earned recognition from the Italian Federation for Ice Skating, she studied ballet with Ludmilla Vlassova (Bolshoi) and Giovanna Franzosi in Milan, and with Christine Wright at the Gibney Dance Center, as well as modern and contemporary dance at the Open Dance Center, New York, and at the Music, Art and Shows School, Milan. Elisa has trained in aerial silks at Streb Laband at the Trapeze School in New York and in 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 and creativity when skating as a principal performer and aerialist with ITNY. In 2009, Elisa participated with ITNY at the Premiere of Wintukby Cirque du Soleil at Madison Square Garden. In Italy, she toured with Italian Champions on Ice, and Ghiaccio Spettacolo as an aerialist, and performed in Munich with Spotlight Productions. Elisa has worked as an aerialist since 2014 with Cirque-tacular Entertainment, with which she performed in the show The Art of Circus in September 2016.

SARAH BAETGE (Performer) is an Asian American artist from Los Angeles, who has 19 years of experience in competitive figure skating. She has performed for ITNY several times, including performances in Billingham, UK for the tribute show "The Creative Spirit of John Curry." Sarah's skating showcases a blend of strength and fluidity, symbolizing the duality of life—wild and tame. Her movements on ice serve as a canvas for deeper human connections, fostering empathy, understanding, and the power of healing through the medium of skating.

JACQUELINE BENSON (Performer) (she/her) is a professional skater, dancer, choreographer, and coach based in New York City. This is her first year performing with ITNY and she is excited to perform in this year's Home Season. Her current professional engagements include touring with Montreal-based contemporary skating company, Le Patin Libre, and working with American Ice Theatre. Jacqueline is also a US Figure Skating triple gold medalist in Freestyle, Moves in the Field / Skating Skills, and Solo Free Dance. She is a Professional Skaters Association Master-Rated coach & choreographer, and has choreographed programs across all disciplines for skaters ranging from National Development Team athletes to showcase skaters to Excel competitors. She is trained in multiple styles of dance and has performed with several contemporary dance companies in her hometown of Phoenix, Arizona. Jacqueline graduated summa cum laude from Arizona State University and has experience in marketing, communications, and nonprofit advocacy work.

DANIL BERDNIKOV (Performer) is in his fourth season with ITNY. Originally from Samara, Russia, he competed as part of the junior national team and across his home country throughout high school. He later moved to Moscow to further his education and joined Stage Entertainment Russia, where he began performing professionally as a skater. Performing for live audiences gave Danil a renewed passion for skating, leading to an international career spanning eight years. He has performed with Willy Bietak Productions and Wheeler Productions in the US, Stageworks Worldwide Productions in the UK, and Holiday on Ice and Dynamic Shows Entertainment throughout the EU. In 2025, he was honored to be part of Art on Ice in Switzerland - the most famous ice show in the world, where he performed alongside world-class skaters and international music stars. Danil is deeply grateful to his parents, coaches, choreographers, and fellow skaters for their unwavering support.

BLUE RIBBON GIVES ITS
UTMOST SUPPORT TO ICE THEATRE'S
2025 HOME SEASON AND BENEFIT GALA.



BROMBERG BROS.

BLUE RIBBON

RESTAURANTS®

A collage featuring three main elements: on the left, a black and white photo of ice skater Ilia Malinin in a celebratory pose with arms raised; in the center, a close-up of a black leather skater boot with the word "Prime" on the side; and at the bottom, the "RISPORT SKATES" logo in a bold, stylized font. A QR code is overlaid on the bottom right of the boot image.

When you're in your Prime!

Ilia Malinin
Two time World Champion

RISPORT
SKATES

GEORGINA BLACKWELL (Performing Apprentice) has been skating for 20 years and competes at the Gold and International 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 art history.

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.

JEREMY CLINE (Performer) (he/him) is a USA-based choreographer, artist, and teacher. His mission is to use movement arts as a means of healing, creativity, and collective good. He has worked as a professional dancer for a decade in the US (Los Angeles Opera, Lincoln Center, Spectrum Dance Theater, Brian Sanders' JUNK, Khambatta Dance Company, The 5th Ave Musical Theater, International Ballet Theater, Vancouver Street Dance Festival), and holds a Master of Fine Arts degree in choreography from the University of Iowa. His choreography has been shown at the Seattle International Dance Festival, Full Tilt Dance Festival, Men in Dance Festival, Queensboro Dance Festival, Miracle Makers International Film Festival (where he won awards for Best Choreography in 2021 and Best Music Video in 2023), Seattle Fringe Festival, Circadium School of Contemporary Circus, Middlebury College, Disney on Ice, and the University of Iowa. His creative process often involves original movement vocabulary, interactive digital technologies, and composing original music scores for his pieces. In 2021, he co-founded Skoptur, a company pushing the boundaries of networked performance and the integration of movement with digital arts. Additionally, Jeremy has toured over 70 cities in eight countries with Disney on Ice as a skater, character performer, live host, and acrobat, performing in front of over two million people. Jeremy is currently finishing his training to become a certified practitioner in the Feldenkrais Method of Somatic Education. He is also a long-time practitioner of Capoeira Angola, bboying, and contact improvisation.

ALBERTO DEL SAZ (Choreographer) is the Director of The Nikolais/Louis Foundation for Dance. His focus is to preserve the Nikolais/Louis technique, repertory, and legacy through teaching and directing. Alberto's work has been funded by NYSCLA in collaboration with ITNY. He has choreographed for World bronze medalist figure skater Nicole Bobek and Olympic bronze medalist and World Professional Champion Philippe Candeloro. His skating work has appeared on Ice Wars, Grand Slam, and the Professional World Championships televised on CBS, FOX, and ABC networks, as well as the official opening of the Rockefeller Center Rink sponsored by Champions on Ice.

SARAH FRANCE (Performer/Choreographer) joined ITNY in 2018, bringing her passion for ice dancing and broad knowledge of skating skills, choreographic styles, and techniques to the company. A multi-disciplinary artist who has extended her lifelong fascinations with movement and creativity into many professional pursuits, she is a dancer and choreographer both on and off the ice, an aerialist, visual artist, author, researcher, musician, and grant writer. In addition to her work with ITNY, Sarah dances with The Equus Projects. Sarah began dancing at age three and figure skating when she was 11 - moving through space and the emotional expression possible in choreography are deep internal drives she has pursued throughout her life. Sarah is internationally regarded for her knowledge of skating skill development and on-ice choreography, having coached beginner through Olympic athletes and leading clinics and seminars worldwide. Sarah is proud to represent her intersectional communities as an LGBTQ+, neurodivergent, and disabled artist.

ANGELA KIM (Performer) is a professional figure skater, circus artist, and founder of Balanced Skaters. She began skating at six, competing until 18, and has performed professionally since 2000. Angela has held principal roles with ITNY, Holiday on Ice, Disney on Ice, Royal Caribbean, Art on Ice, and Cirque du Soleil. In 2006, she discovered circus arts and has since trained in traditional Mongolian contortion and aerial acrobatics. She became one of the few skaters to blend circus with figure skating, pioneering a unique performance style. After performing as an inline skater and aerialist in Cirque du Soleil's Volta, she was invited to teach for Acrobatic Arts. Seeing a gap in the skating world, Angela collaborated with Acrobatic Arts to create Balanced Skaters, bringing strength and mobility training to broader skating communities.

VALERIE LEVINE (Performer) has collaborated on ITNY events for the past two decades and has been roller-skating as well as dancing tap, jazz, and ballet since the age of four. She started training in figure skating at 11, going on to compete and test until graduating high school, when she turned down Disney on Ice to pursue her Bachelor's degree at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT). At 19, she earned her gold level in Senior Ladies Moves and pre-golds in ice dance before skating professionally. While earning her BS in Product Management Textiles from FIT, she minored in dance and trained at Broadway Dance Center in many dance styles, leading to an off-ice career as a professional belly dancer, ballroom dancer, and samba dancer. She currently teaches and performs these styles worldwide, while managing her own entertainment company Valerina Dance, which can be followed at ValerieLevine.com or on Instagram @Valerielevine.

ISAAC LINDY (Performer) is a NYC-based performing artist working across figure skating, dance, and musical theater. Professional skating highlights include Le Patin Libre's Murmuration (Théâtre de la Ville de Paris, Venice Biennale), Holiday on Ice European tours (Line Captain, Ensemble), International Ice Stars (Principal, Royal Opera House of Muscat), and site-specific performance with IceLab Leipzig. As a dancer, Isaac has worked with Lyric Opera of Chicago, Opera Philadelphia, the Putty Dance Project, Ruckus Dance, and has performed at the Philadelphia Fringe Festival. Isaac holds a BA with Honors in Urban Studies from Vassar College and is a proud member of the American Guild of Musical Artists. isaac-alan-lindy.com

CHRIS LIPARI (Lighting Designer/Production Manager) is pleased to once again illuminate the creative work of ITNY. He began his professional career as a dancer and figure skater, performing at Radio City Music Hall, and in Las Vegas, Australia, Italy, Portugal, Tokyo, and Saudi Arabia. After



ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK'S PREMIER EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAM

- ★ Is in its 30th year of programming
 - ★ Takes place in Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens and virtually for all 5 boroughs
 - ★ Annually serves 1,500 public school children grades K through 8
 - ★ Offers the students a free skating show
 - ★ Provides the students with free skating instruction
 - ★ Teaches the students life skills such as falling and getting back up... a life lesson
 - ★ Teaches the students a healthy, physical and potential life-long activity that can be done outdoors on seasonal ice rinks all around the City
 - ★ The students receive free tickets to Ice Theatre performances
- The program is supported in part by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine, Council Members Abreu, Bottcher, Marte and Powers.

*Ice
Theatre
of
New York*
CELEBRATING THE JOY
OF DANCING ON ICE

WE COULD NOT DO THIS WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT

\$50 pays for one student,
\$1,000 sponsors the
participation of a class.

THANK YOU

finishing a year-long international tour of the roller-skating spectacle Starlight Express, Chris merged his performing talents, business acumen, and innate creativity to launch a career as a special events producer/director. Currently, as a nonprofit event specialist, his focus is on creating and executing experiences for organizations in the health and wellness, social justice, animal welfare, and arts and culture sectors. www.chrislipari.com

ILIA MALININ (Guest Performer – May 5 only) Two-time World Champion, three-time National Champion and two-time Grand Prix of Figure Skating Champion, Ilia “Quadg0d” Malinin was the youngest person named to the 2022 TIME100 NEXT list, after being the first and only skater to ever land a quad axel, the most difficult and elusive jump in figure skating (4.5 revolutions in the air), making him the early favorite for Olympic Gold in Milano Cortina 2026. The innovative and unconventional Malinin became a true game changer in 2022, establishing a World Junior Record for the men’s short program, free skate, and combined score, and becoming the youngest ever men’s champion at Skate America - while landing a quad axel. He won his first US National Championships in 2023 and successfully defended that title in 2024 and 2025. He won the Grand Prix Final in 2023 and 2024 and he capped off his 2024 campaign by setting a World Record and winning World Championship Gold at the 2024 ISU World Championships in Montreal, Canada. In the current 24-25 Season, Ilia has not lost any competitions. In March of 2025, at the ISU Worlds in Boston, Ilia defended his title with a total score of 318.56, securing his second consecutive world title with a landslide victory. After the event, at the 2025 ISU Figure Skating Awards, he won Most Entertaining Program and Skater of the Year. The son of two Olympians, Malinin is a sophomore at George Mason University, and when he’s not training and competing, enjoys skateboarding, playing video games, and watching extreme sports. This season marks Ilia’s second appearance 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*, about growing up queer in figure skating.

ROB MCBRIEN (Choreographer) In the spring of 1986, ITNY secured the talents of Rob McBrien, former ensemble director for the John Curry Skaters. Under Rob’s direction, ITNY focused on strong ensemble style, innovative choreography and design concepts. In addition to helping create and curate artistic projects for performance, Rob was dedicated to the implementation of ITNY workshops (plié power edge class). Created by John Curry for his professional ice dancers, Rob helped ITNY develop this format for competitive, test, and recreational skaters as well as our company performers. The plié power technique has generated a great deal of enthusiasm in both the skating and dance communities. In *New Dance Quarterly*, Anita Finkel states that the ITNY workshops represent “The foundation upon which a real art of skating can be built.” Over the 10 years that Rob was with ITNY, he choreographed a number of pieces that remain in our repertory including “Lark Ascending” based on the plié power edge class and which will be performed in this 40th Anniversary program.

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.

CAROLINE MURA (Performing Apprentice) has been skating for 15 years and competes at the Junior freestyle and Senior Solo Dance level. She is a four-time US Figure Skating gold medalist and sectional qualifying competitor. Additionally, she has won multiple intercollegiate national titles and is a four-time National Solo Dance Final competitor. Outside of skating, Caroline is a Master's Student at New York University studying biology on a pre-med track.

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 repertoire 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 20 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 has always been driven by a passion for international sports with a lifelong interest in the Olympics and figure skating. A native of Antwerp, Belgium, she is a former competitive artistic roller skater. While pursuing her studies, Jirina worked a variety of events in media relations, including athlete affairs, client relations and managing press conferences. Her job at the 1979 World Championships working as an interpreter during a press conference eventually led Jirina to work with ABC Sports at the 1980 Lake Placid Winter Olympics. There she met Dick Button. About four years later – after first finishing her



*Ice
Theatre
of
New York*

CELEBRATING THE JOY
OF DANCING ON ICE

CONNECT
WITH US



SUPPORT US



Masters and getting a specialized dual degree in coaching figure skating and artistic roller skating at the Trainerakademie in Cologne, Germany - she relocated to the US to pursue a career in television production. Jirina has an MA in Translation Dutch-English-Russian from the Rijks Universiteit Antwerpen in Belgium and a post-graduate degree in coaching ice and roller skating from the Trainerakademie in Cologne, West Germany. She is fluent in five languages and has a working knowledge of two more. Jirina and her husband reside in Harlem. She is proud to celebrate 20 years as Executive Director with ITNY in 2025, when the company celebrates 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.

JODY SPERLING (Choreographer), a New York City-based dancer-choreographer, Jody serves as founder and Artistic Director of Time Lapse Dance where she has created more than 45 works and is the leading exponent of the style of early performance technologist Loie Fuller (1862-1928). Jody has expanded Fuller's genre into the 21st century, deploying it in the context of contemporary and environmental performance forms. Jody earned a World Choreography Award nomination for her work on the French feature film *The Dancer* and has been commissioned to create a major new work in a forthcoming Fuller documentary. In 2014, Jody participated in a polar science mission as the first choreographer-in-residence aboard a US Coast Guard icebreaker and danced on arctic sea ice. Since then, much of her work has focused on engaging with climate change. Jody is developing an inquiry called edecokinetics that cultivates the relationship between the human movers and ecological systems while providing strategies for climate-engaged artmaking.

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.



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.

OLYMPIANS \$20,000+

OLYMPIANS | \$20,000+

Lisa McGraw
Skating Foundation

NYC Department of
Cultural Affairs

NY State Council on the Arts

Margarita Sears

Will Sears/S.F. Foundation

COMMISSIONERS \$10,000 - \$19,999

Bloomberg Philanthropies

William J Candee IV

Violet and Chris Eagan

Joseph Kasputys

Maira North

Lisa Renda

Betty Wasserman

GUARDIANS \$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous

Josh Babb

Patricia Brockway

Missy Vanburen Brown

Chelsea Piers Foundation

Joan Erdheim

Cara Erdheim Kilgallen

David Mellins

Michel Mercure

Robert Shmalo

Jonathan Stine

Lynette & David Snow

BENEFACTORS \$2,500 - \$4,999

Anne & Scott Allen

Lili and Lionel Barasch
in Memory of
WJ Candee III and Family

Nicole & Victor Bomers

Chelsea Piers Management

Richard Dwyer

John Ehrlich

Mary Gaillard

Amy Krut

Arthur Levin in memory
of Rob McBrien

Susan Mendelson

Alicia Hall Moran

Irina Olevsky

Taffy Pergament Holliday
& Richard Katz

Spiegel Family Foundation

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

Rose Auslander & Rick Moore

BPA Quality

Craig Cichy

Classic Harbor Line

Richard Dalley

Sally & Joe Dorsten

Kristin Egan

Marianne & Robert Engle

Victorio & Philip Gallo

Getzel, Schiff & Pesce LLP

Susie Gharib

Jennifer Hochglaube

Amy Hughes & Hughes Family

Christy Rigby Hutton

Ice Rink Events, Mike Clayton
& Lena Gottschall

Francine Katzman

Sarah Kawahara

Ron Kraut, IRE NYC

Akop Manoukian

Marylyn Meyerson

Suna Murray

Nazem Family Foundation

Netter Family Foundation

Darlene & Dale Parent

Polyglide Ice, James Loughran

Robyn Roth-Moise

Georgina Sager

Coco Shean

Skating Club of Boston

Jean Smith

Frances Black Strauss

Diane Taylor

Linda & David Tewksbury

Joy Thomas

Kim Milette Verde

Vera Wang

Kristi Yamaguchi

PATRONS \$500 - \$999

Anonymous

Tenley Albright

Akst & Akst

Faraz Athar

Chris Boeke

Bohemian Benevolent and
Literary Association

Bone Levine Architects

Susan & Peter Brown

Raphael Camp &
Jonathan Raviv

Buckskill Winter Club

Edward Button

Emily Button

Craig Cichy in memory of
Dick Button

The D & M Cichy Memorial
Foundation

Lisa & Nicholas De Seve

Stephen Epstein

Erie Community Foundation

Joan Fallon

Rogelio Francois

Helen Gifford

Juliet Glennon

Michiko Simanjuntak Grasso

Marni Halasa

Doug Haw

IMG

Charles Kerner

Susan Kittenplan

Stacie Krinsky

Terri Levine

LaJuni McMillian

Joyce Mola

Laura Moore

Emily Moqtaderi

Stacey Nadell

Rachel Norton

Nancy Quaife

Sabine Rauchenschwandtner

Lynn Rutherford

Susan Ryckman-Rubio

Valerie Simmons

Jolo Starbuck

James & Alberta Stith,
in memory of Alyssa Stith

US Figure Skating

Atoy Wilson

Doug and Betsy Wilson

SPONSORS \$250 - \$499

Denise Beaumont

Bunny & Bill Beekman

Bietak Productions

Portia Bock

Helen Hyun Bowlin

Helen Chan

Catherine Chalmers

Randy Gardner

Alan Gerson

Jo Hannafin & John Brisson

Jaya Kanal

Lynn Kaplan

Irene Mamiye

Kate Mangiardi & Mark Koch

Lisa & Kim Navarro

Ice House, Craig Maurizi

Rhea Schwartz
Ellen Sowchek
Susan Perreira Wilsey
Sarah Xu

All our Associates &
Friend supporters.
Thank you!

In Kind Support

All our volunteer
photographers
Blue Ribbon Restaurants
Bryant Park Corporation
Cityvox
Classic Harbor Line
Denny Farrell Riverbank
State Park
Ice Rink Events NYC
Lefrak Center at Lakeside
Chris Lipari

MAC Cosmetics
Laura Moore
On Ice Perspectives
Polyglide Ice
Scott Schwartz
Sheer Print Solutions
Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers
Tishman Speyer
Westside Skate & Stick
Wollman Rink

**MATCHING
CORPORATE
SUPPORT**

Bank of America
Salesforce
Schroder
And all our generous patrons.

As of April 17, 2025

Copyright 2025 Ice Theatre
of New York, Inc.®

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Entire Sky Rink Staff, including:

Jim Bugenhagen, General Manager

Stephanie Hernandez, Skating Director

Chris Morales, Director of Operations and Maintenance

Hector Gonzalez, Senior Operations Manager

Sky Rink Maintenance Team

Charles Kerner, Accountant

Laura Moore, Costume Design

Adam Manjuck, Flowers & Flowers, Décor

Scott Schwartz, Graphic Design

MAC Cosmetics, Makeup

Imagine It Embroidery, Merchandise

Jordan Cowan, On Ice Perspectives, Video & Editing

Phil Lee, Music Editing

Chris Lipari, Lighting and Production Director

Sheer Print Solutions, Printing

and all our ITNY Volunteers!

With special thanks to Michele Mintzer



**Council on
the Arts**



**Harlem Community
Development
Corporation**



**New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation**

**NYC Cultural
Affairs**



This program is supported, in part, by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Kathy C. Hochul and the New York State Legislature. ITNY is also supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council, and NYC Council Members Abreu, Bottcher, Marte, and Powers. ITNY's Manhattan programming is funded, in part, by a grant from the New York City Tourism Foundation. Additionally, ITNY receives funding from Bloomberg Philanthropies, The Daniel & Corrine Cichy Memorial Foundation, The Lisa McGraw Figure Skating Foundation, the Will Sears Foundation, and its generous private patrons.

CHELSEA PIERS

MAC



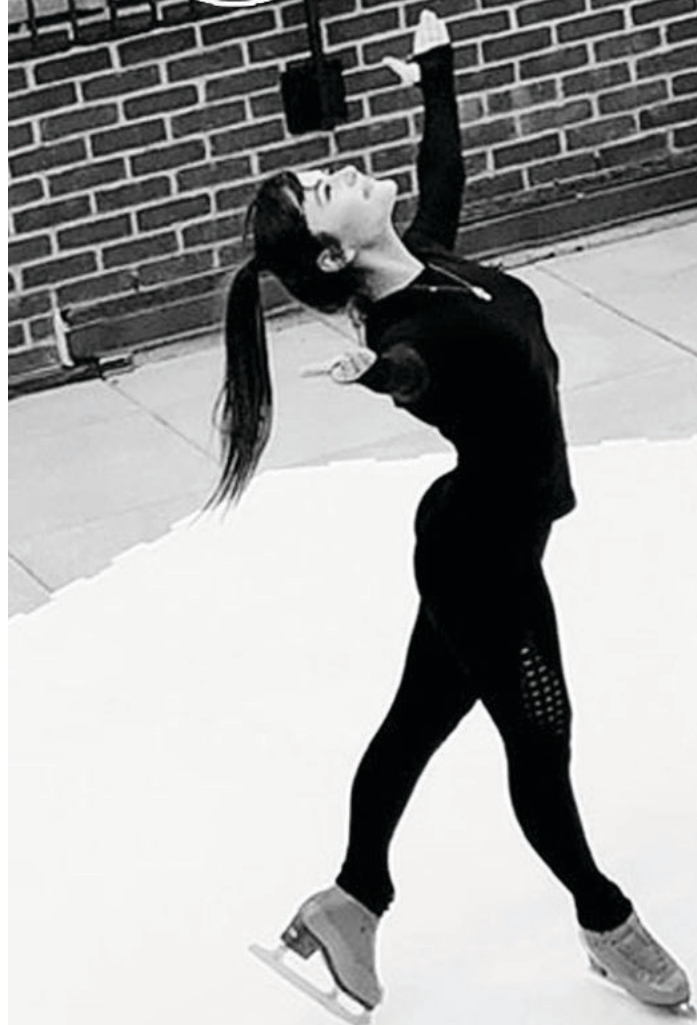
**BANK OF AMERICA
Winter Village
at Bryant Park**



**WOLLMAN
RINK NYC**



**Bloomberg
Philanthropies**



Ice Skate, Anywhere, Anyplace at Anytime!

www.polyglideice.com

Promo Code: ITNY25