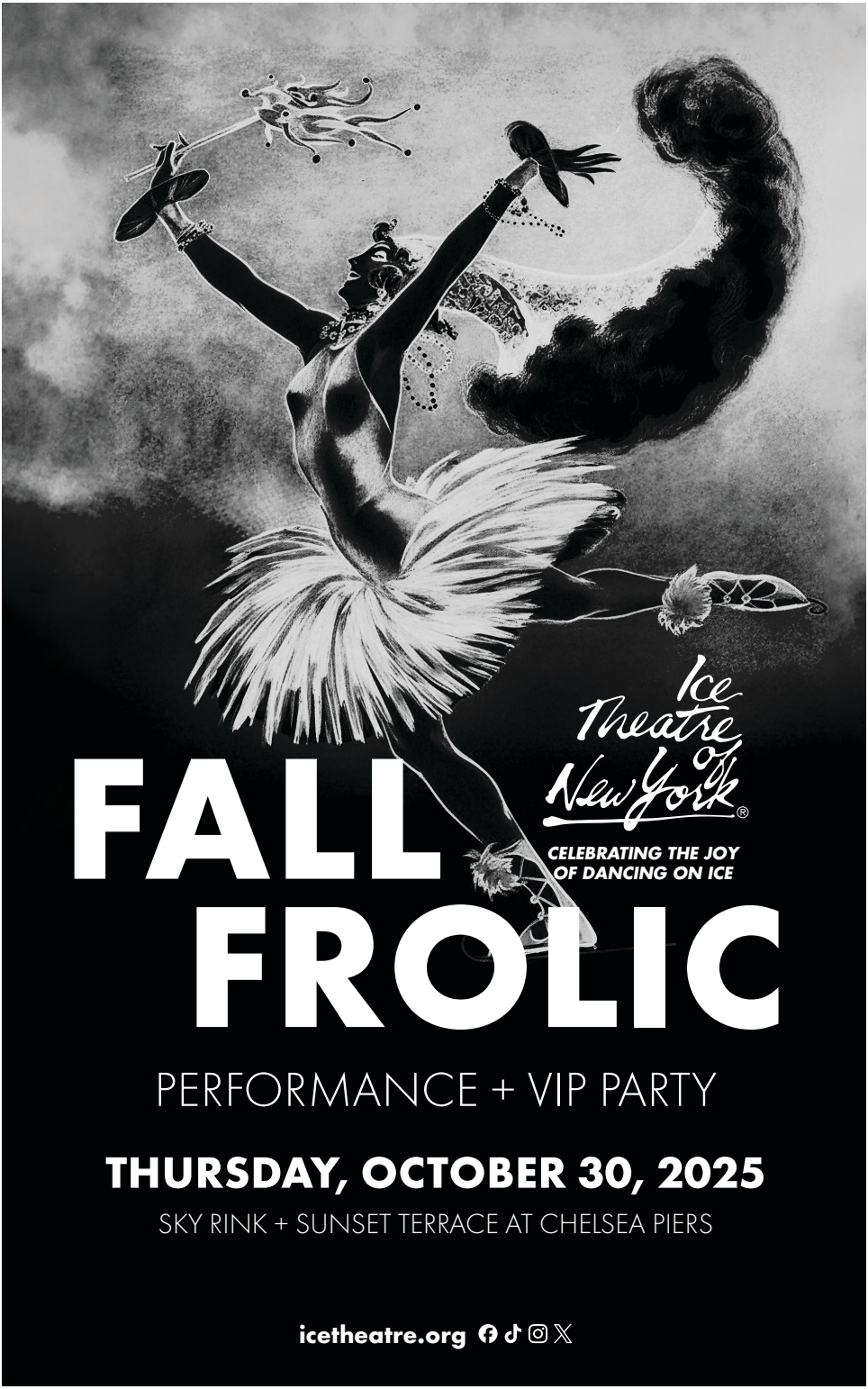
Ice Theatre of New York®
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FALL FROLIC
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ABOUT THE COMPANY

Ice Theatre of New York® (ITNY) creates and advances dance on ice as an ensemble performing art and 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 Jacqulyn Buglisi, Kolton Krouse, Elisa Monte, David Parsons, and Jody Sperling, performance artist Ann Carlson, McKnight Choreographer Fellow Deneane Richburg, and ballet great Edward Villella. ITNY recently celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a Gala honoring Scott Hamilton with the Lifetime Achievement Award and is looking forward to the next 40 years!
- 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. ITNY is offering learn-to-skate scholarships to emerging skaters from new communities.
- Training company skaters and guest skating artists in our Master Edge Classes at Chelsea Piers Sky Rink and Bryant Park, as well as offering performance opportunities to young apprentices.
- 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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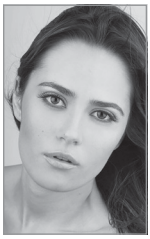
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Joe Johnson

Valerie Levine

Karina Manta

Libby McGrosky

Liz Yoshiko Schmidt

Aaron Singletary

GUEST ARTISTS

Shae-Lynn Bourne

Emmanuel Savary

PERFORMING APPRENTICES

Georgina Blackwell

Elisabeth Ehrhardt

Caroline Mura

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PROGRAM ASSOCIATE

Mazal Karlick

GUEST ARTISTS

Shae-Lynn Bourne, Emmanuel Savary

ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK ENSEMBLE

Sarah Baetge, Danil Berdnikov, Ale Izquierdo, Joe Johnson, Sarah France, Valerie Levine, Karina Manta, Libby McGrosky, Liz Yoshiko Schmidt, Aaron Singletary

PERFORMING APPRENTICES

Georgina Blackwell, Elisabeth Ehrhardt, Caroline Mura

Ice Theatre of New York®

CELEBRATING THE JOY OF DANCING ON ICE

FALL FROLIC PERFORMANCE

OCTOBER 30, 2025

LARK ASCENDING

Choreographed by Rob McBrien | Re-Staged by Sarah France
Performed by Sarah Baetge, Georgina Blackwell, Elisabeth Ehrhardt, Sarah France, Ale Izquierdo, Joe Johnson, Karina Manta, Libby McGrosky, Liz Yoshiko Schmidt, and Aaron Singletary
Music: Vaughan Williams

"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

Choreographed by Jody Sperling
Performed by Valerie Levine
Music: Brooks Williams and Beo Morales

HIP HIP HOORAY

Choreographed by Milly Wasserman
Performed by Georgina Blackwell, Elisabeth Ehrhardt and Caroline Mura
Music: Alexandre Desplat

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

Choreographed by Frank Nowosad
Originally performed by Gary Beacom | Performed by Danil Berdnikov
Music: Bird calls as recorded by Roger Tory Peterson

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

ONCE AGAIN

Choreographed by Heather Harrington
Performed by Sarah France and Aaron Singletary
Music: Cam Millar

LA REVOLTE DES ENFANTS

Choreographed by Alberto Del Saz
Performed by Sarah Baetge, Ale Izquierdo, and Valerie Levine
Music: Renee Aubry

TIMELESSNESS

Choreographed by Lorna Brown
Performed by Liz Yoshiko Schmidt and Danil Berdnikov
Music: Nocturne in D-flat Major "Un Rêve" by Eric Christian

This piece beautifully represents the illusion of time and the everlasting energy and spirit of life.
Choreography commissioned by ITNY and is made possible by the generosity of Amy Krut.

MODIGLIANI

Choreographed by Lorna Brown
Performed by Sarah Baetge
Music: Soundtrack from Modigliani

LION KING

Choreographed and Performed by Emmanuel Savary
Music: Soundtrack from the Lion King

SHAE-LYNN BOURNE
2025 WILL SEARS HONOREE

FINALE

WHO'S WHO

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, as a performing apprentice, 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. Sarah joinied the ITNY Ensemble in 2024.

DANIL BERDNIKOV (Performer) joined ITNY in 2021. 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.

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. She has been performing with ITNY since 2019.

SHAE-LYNN BOURNE (Will Sears Award/Guest Artist) is quite simply magic on ice and our 2025 Will Sears honoree. Together with her former ice dance partner Victor Kraatz, this Canadian Figure Skating Hall of Famer quickly rose to the top of the podium. The 10-time Canadian National Dance Champions became the first North American dance team to win the World Championships in 2003. In addition to being three-time Olympians, they accumulated a total of six medals at the World Championships. The two innovators were the first ice dancers to incorporate "hydroblading" – gliding on skates with one's body outstretched so it's nearly horizontal to the ice. Shae-Lynn received the Governor General's Meritorious Service Cross for speaking out against unfair judging practices in figure skating, and most recently the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for her achievements and significant contributions to Canada. Currently she is balancing coaching, choreography, and performing and is in worldwide demand in each of these capacities.

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 US several years ago. She been awarded the PSA Level 7 ranking, and holds a bachelor's in sports science.

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 NYSCA 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.

ELISABETH EHRHARDT (Performing Apprentice) is a former synchronized skater from Chemnitz, Germany. She competed nationally and internationally with the German team Skating Graces and the Polish team IceFire. While skating for the Polish national team, she competed in two World Synchronized Skating Championships (Lake Placid in 2023 and Helsinki in 2025) and the Shanghai Trophy in 2024. She has always loved the artistry of ice skating and left competitive skating to focus more on ice skating as a performing art and to develop as a skater. She is currently staying in NYC for five months to skate with ITNY and learn from professional skaters. Besides ice skating, she studies sensors and cognitive psychology.

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.

HEATHER HARRINGTON (Choreographer) is a dancer, choreographer, educator, and former ice skater. She danced with the Martha Graham Ensemble, Pearl Lang Dance Theater, and Bella Lewitzky Dance Company. She created her own contemporary dance company in New York City, performing nationally and internationally. Her interest in dance in the MENA region, has led to teaching and choreographing in Tunisia and Lebanon. Her artistic and scholarly collaboration with Lebanese dance artist Nadra Assaf has led to performances, articles, and conferences across the globe. She has been on faculty at Kean University, Seton Hall University, and Drew University. She received her MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and her BA in psychology from Boston University. Her scholarship has been published by Choreographic Practices, Dancer Citizen, Research in Dance Education, Nordic Journal of Dance, Journal of Dance Education, and Dance Education in Practice. Her work with ITNY melds together her dance and ice skating backgrounds.

ALE IZQUIERDO (Performer) has been a member of ITNY since 2011, and performed as part of the Christmas Spectacular at Radio City Music Hall in the 2021-2022 season. A native of Léon, Guanajuato, Mexico, Ale started figure skating at age eight, becoming a three-time Mexican national champion, and she won first place at the International Santis Cup Switzerland in 2007. She moved to the US in 2009, to train under the tutelage of the Ukrainian team of Victor Petrenko, Galina Zmievskaya, and Nina Petrenko at the Ice House in Hackensack, NJ. She performed in Dancing on Ice with Torvill & Dean in the UK and in the Netherlands. Ale has been the advertising face of Polyglide Ice, a surface ITNY uses in its studio.

JOE JOHNSON (Performer) is a former Team USA ice dancer. With their partner and fellow company member Karina Manta, they competed internationally for four years before retiring to join Cirque du Soleil. During the pandemic, they worked in England on the reality show Dancing on Ice, and after two years abroad, started touring nationally with Ice Dance International. They have since settled in New York City and perform with ITNY in addition to coaching and choreographing full-time. Joe's first season performing with ITNY was 2023.

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.

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, Ice Theatre of New York secured the talents of Rob McBrien, former ensemble director for the John Curry Skaters. Under Mr. McBrien'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 (plie 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 plie 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 plie power edge class and which will be performed in this 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 graduated with her Masters in Biology from New York University and is ultimately looking to pursue medicine alongside her skating career. She has been performing with ITNY since 2022.

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 US. 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. Under Moira's supervision, major dance presenters, including Boston's Dance Umbrella, Vermont's Flynn Theatre, Dancing in the Streets, and Creative Time have produced ITNY®. Moira took ITNY to Europe and also produced performances on the proscenium stage at Staller Center for the Arts, West Point's Eisenhower Hall, Zoellner Arts Center, National Sawdust, and the Museum of the City of New York.

JIRINA RIBBENS (Executive Director) joined the ITNY staff in December 2004, after serving on the board since the company's founding. Over the past 21 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. 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. After first finishing her 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 proud to have celebrated 20 years as Executive Director with ITNY in 2025, at the company's 40th anniversary.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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 Loïe 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.

MILLY WASSERMAN (Choreographer) 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.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

TO THESE INDIVIDUALS AND OTHERS WHOM WE MIGHT HAVE MISSED

The Entire Sky Rink Staff, including:

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With special thanks to Classic Harbor Line, Blue Ribbon Restaurants, Michele Mintzer, Laura Moore, and Lynn Rutherford.

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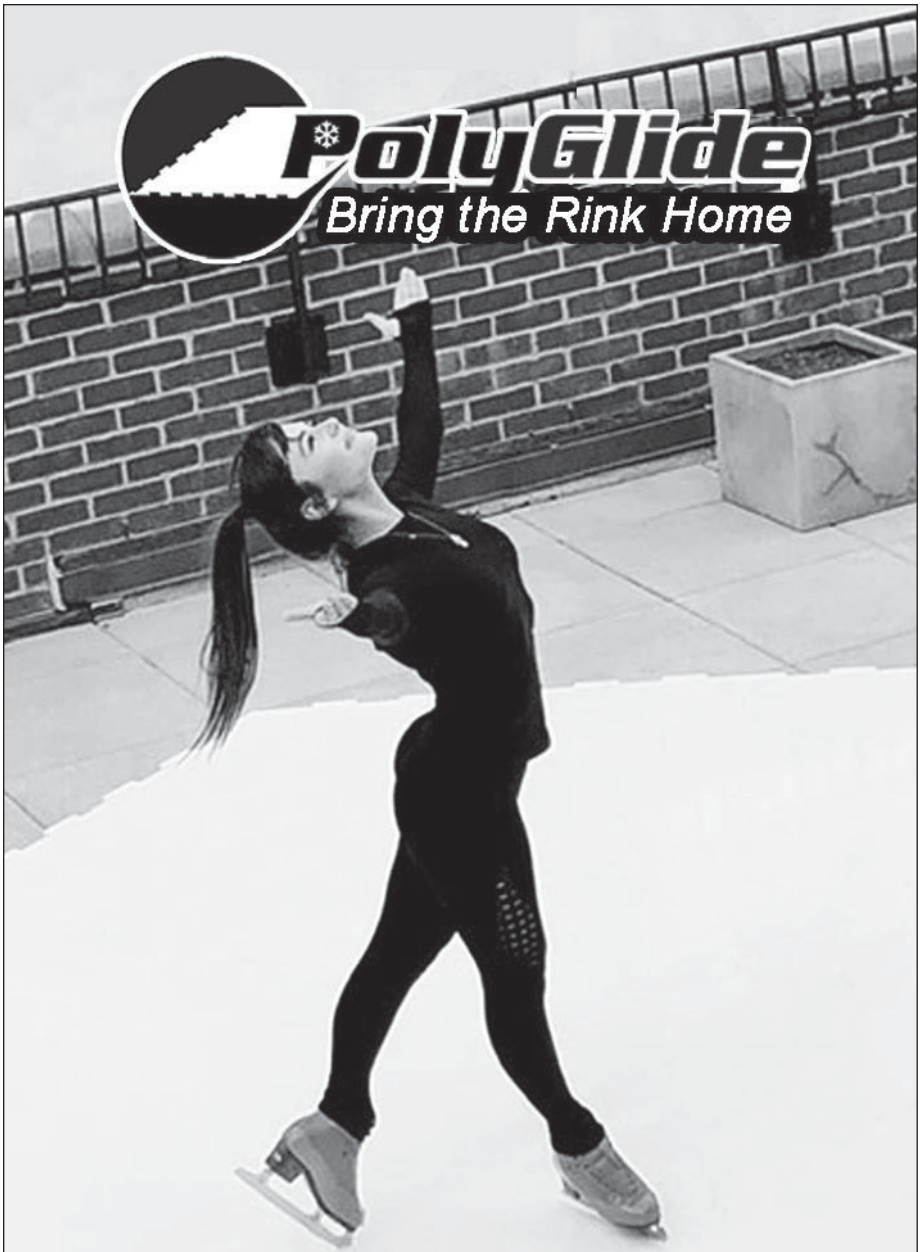

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