# 35TH ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT GALA PERFORMANCE

HONORING OLYMPIC ICE DANCE CHAMPIONS JAYNE TORVILL AND CHRISTOPHER DEAN



CELEBRATING THE JOY OF DANCING ON ICE

ICE ANGEL AWARD RECIPIENT **BETTY WASSERMAN** ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS **DARLENE PARENT** AND **WADE CORBETT**  THANK YOU FOR MAINTAINING A PASSION FOR BEAUTY, ART, AND THE UNIQUE SPORT OF FIGURE SKATING.

WE ARE ALL SO FORTUNATE TO HAVE SKATING IN OUR LIVES AND THE INCREDIBLY DEDICATED SKATING FAMILY TO WHICH WE ALL BELONG.

CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU MOIRA AND THE ENTIRE BOARD.

X VERA

VERAWANG



FOUNDER/DIRECTOR Moira North EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Jirina Ribbens ENSEMBLE DIRECTOR Elisa Angeli

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#### **ABOUT THE COMPANY**

Ice Theatre of New York<sup>®</sup> (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 choreography of pieces created by recognized and emerging dance and ice skating choreographers. The company has created exclusive works by choreographers as varied as wellknown skating choreographers Elisa Angeli, Lorna Brown and Joel Dear, modern dance choreographers Jacqulyn Buglisi, Elisa Monte, David Parsons, and Jody Sperling, performance artist Ann Carlson, McKnight Choreographer Fellow Deneane Richburg, and ballet great Edward Villella. We have just begun preparations for our first commissioned work with new media artist and creative technologist LaJuné McMillian.
- 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, and Upper Manhattan, annually serving 800 – 1,000 NYC school students.
- Training company skaters and guest skating artists in its 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



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CELEBRATING THE JOY OF DANCING ON ICE

#### WELCOME TO OUR 35TH "IT STILL TAKES A VILLAGE" BENEFIT GALA

I so warmly welcome you here with us tonight to celebrate Torvill & Dean, Betty Wasserman and Darlene & Wade... Talk about a village of excellence within the worlds of figure skating, choreography, dance and design!

With your continued help, Ice Theatre of New York<sup>®</sup> has and will maintain the important work that we have been doing: commissioning choreographers and performance artists to create new works for the company, nurturing emerging artists and celebrating recognized artists and coaches even in the face of a pandemic lockdown. Your support encourages our exploration of what is possible within the realm of artistic dance ice movement. This year we feature seven world premiere works including two concerning climate change and our place in nature, another about pivoting through adversity and one more in celebration of the Ballroom and Voguing as a form of self-expression.

Looking ahead, I invite you to join us at our weekly Edge Classes at Sky Rink, our City Skate Concert Series at Rockefeller Center, Bryant Park and other outdoor seasonal rinks, as well as our educational outreach program, the "New Works and Young Artists Series," offered free to public school students across the city.

Continuing to push the boundaries of possibility remains my focus and we will soon embark on our first ever new media work for Ice Theatre. With the working title *The Unseen*, it envisions a real-time motion-capture performance on ice showcasing, celebrating and honoring Black figure skaters of the past and present. LaJuné McMillian, whom we've commissioned with the generous support of the New York State Council on the Arts, describes herself as a new media artist, creative technologist and educator. Equally exciting from ITNY's perspective will be the chance to collaborate with LaJuné, a young artist who arrives with a skating background through Figure Skating in Harlem.

"Skating...combines and surpasses the joys of flying and dancing: only in a certain type of a dream do we ever else attain a higher degree of the same ravishing experience of exultantly skimming the earth."

- Ernest Jones, Biographer of Freud

Thank you for helping create, realize and sustain our Ice Theatre of New York dream and for joining us as we glide gracefully and boldly into our future choreographic inventions, collaborations and outreach programming!

Warmest Wishes,

Minia North



STATE OF NEW YORK EXECUTIVE CHAMBER

ALBANY 12224

GOVERNOR

May 9, 2022

Ice Theatre of New York 62 Chelsea Piers, Suite 308 New York, NY 10011

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to send greetings to everyone gathered for Ice Theatre of New York's 2022 Benefit Gala and Performance.

Since 1984, Ice Theatre of New York has been dedicated to the development and promotion of figure skating as a performing art. Through community outreach, this organization enables New York City's public school children to get out on the ice and learn to skate. The *New Works and Young Artists Series* is widely recognized as an innovative educational program that utilizes figure skating as an effective and empowering confidence-builder and teaching tool.

Tonight, you pay tribute to distinguished individuals who advance ice skating as an artistic expression of athleticism and I am pleased to join in congratulating world-renowned Olympic Gold Medalists Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean. I am grateful to Betty Wasserman, recipient of the Ice Angel Award, and to Darlene Parent and Wade Corbett, recipients of the Alumni Award for their numerous contributions.

Best wishes for an enjoyable evening.

Sincerely.

THE CITY OF NEW YORK OFFICE OF THE MAYOR NEW YORK, NY 10007

May 9, 2022

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome everyone as the Ice Theatre of New York (ITNY) hosts its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary benefit gala and performance.

I am enormously proud to lead a city renowned as a global capital of the arts, boasting a diverse and dynamic creative community unlike any other. Established in 1984, ITNY is a leader in promoting figure skating as a performing art, commissioning new works by gifted choreographers, and developing the next generation of ice dancers and skating enthusiasts though its classes, public performances, and community outreach programs. Tonight's event will raise vital funding to support ITNY's mission and its New Works and Young Artists Series, which introduces figure skating to local public school students from underserved communities. This benefit gala also provides a wonderful occasion to applaud ITNY's staff and supporters for their efforts to enrich our artistic landscape and make the grace and athleticism of ice dancing more accessible to people of all backgrounds. I look forward to the many ways everyone gathered will further strengthen the five boroughs as we take bold steps to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, restore our city's cultural vibrancy, and build a brighter, more inclusive and prosperous future for all.

On behalf of the City of New York, I extend congratulations to all of tonight's honorees. Please accept my best wishes for a safe and festive evening and continued success.

Sincerely,

Epi Adum

Eric Adams Mayor



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT BOROUGH OF MANHATTAN THE CITY OF NEW YORK 1 Centre Street, 19th floor, New York, NY 10007 (212) 669-8300 p (212) 669-4306 f 431 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027 (212) 531-1609 p (212) 531-4615 f www.manhattanbp.nyc.gov

Mark D. Levine, Borough President



May 9, 2022

Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to join you in celebrating Ice Theatre of New York's 2022 Benefit Gala and Performance.

For almost four decades, ITNY has been cultivating and showcasing groundbreaking ice dancing. You have changed the face of figure skating, pushing the boundaries of movement and increasing diversity across the discipline. I'm especially grateful for ITNY's many free performances across the city and your outreach program for at-risk public school students.

Congratulations to tonight's honorees, 1984 Olympic Ice Dance champions Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean. I would also like to congratulate Betty Wasserman on receiving the Ice Angel Award and to Darlene Parent and Wade Corbett on receiving the Alumni Award.

On behalf of the Borough of Manhattan, I wish you another year of success.

Sincerely,

Mark Levine Manhattan Borough President



Your artistry and innovation have entertained audiences,

Inspired skaters

and

Forever transformed the sport of Ice Dancing

#### Joe Kasputys & Vicki Van Mater

# **TORVILL & DEAN: ONWARD!** By Edward Z. Epstein

/ Edward Z. Epstein



Their triumph didn't happen overnight, and reaching that goal had taken practically superhuman resolve; it had been a long, hard climb.

Both were born in Nottingham, England (a city famous for its links to the legend of "Robin Hood"). They'd had other partners before coach Janet Sawbridge brought them together; Jayne was a British Junior Pairs champion, Chris and his partner had won a British Junior Ice Dance competition.

However, "Jayne and I have actually known each other since we were ten years old," notes Christopher. "We both came from working class backgrounds [Jayne was an insurance book clerk, Christopher a police constable], neither of us led an insular life. We were working people – we had to work to finance our skating!

"When we got the opportunity to skate, it was a real treat, not something your parents forced you into!" For Jayne and Christopher, skating proved to be both an escape and a release from difficult childhoods.

Both saw sides of life that had nothing to do with an ice rink. "We were grounded," states Christopher. "This gave us real life experiences that we could draw on."

There were also fantasy life experiences that they could draw on: the movies. "Oh yes, definitely," confirms Christopher. "Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, Gene Kelly and Cyd Charisse – Jayne and I used to watch a lot of those movies. Those men – and women – were always creative and trying new things all the time."

Trying new things all the time, however, would not be a welcome approach as far as the staid hierarchy dominating the amateur skating world was concerned; complying with the rules would at times prove to be a tricky proposition for Torvill and Dean.

Their potential was obvious, and, as their competitive career blossomed, thanks to grants from the city of Nottingham, they were able to leave their jobs and concentrate full-time on their skating.

How did their unique style of skating evolve? Both recognized early-on, under the guidance of coaches Janet Sawbridge, then Betty Callaway, the vital importance of choosing just the right music and creating memorable, not run-of-themill, choreography: "The music must always dictate the flow of the choreography," states Chris, who has always been maestro-in-charge of the couple's choreography.

"We decide together on the music," notes Jayne, "and we go through lots of music."

Fellow ice dancers and pair skaters wondered how the couple managed so successfully to deal with the tensions that inevitably plague collaborators. As noted writing (and at times performing) team Betty Comden and Adolph Green once joked, "Sure, there are times when we want to kill each other, but that feeling passes!"





Photo: Christie Jenkins Photo

"Well," laughs Jayne, "we learned when to back off, and when to step up, so to speak..."

"We've spent all our lives together, a long time," explains Chris. "We've grown to know each other, and, today, we operate differently than when we were younger. When we were younger, it was all about conquering the world. We were always passionate about things – I'd get too passionate, perhaps, and Jayne would realize those moments, and become very calm – she'd just let me fly off!..."

It was bound to happen: after their competitive career took off, media interest in the private lives of Jayne and Chris escalated. After all, they were a super talented and attractive young couple, and while they were champion skaters, the tabloid press wanted to know if they were also enjoying a love affair, reminiscent, perhaps, of an earlier pair of gifted British idols whose relationship, long

Photo: Lord Snowdon

what we do," agrees Chris, "that connection that we have with each other, just with our eyes."

They also boldly incorporated techniques that professional actors had long employed. "We worked with the great actor Michael Crawford [of "Phantom Of the Opera" fame]. He gave us a lot of advice on theatrics," notes Chris, grateful that Crawford became a member of their team.

"Yes, Michael revealed to us another side of it, the acting side," notes Jayne, "how you feel when you're acting and performing." Later on, there was noted Australian choreographer Graeme Murphy. "He gave us additional insight into the art of performing."

Torvill and Dean would be entering the 1984 Olympics with unimpeachable credentials: they were already three-time World champions, European champions, and five-time British champions. But,

"That's always been a big part of

before they got married, fascinated the

press: Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh.

everything else," declares Chris. "We

realized that a personal relationship would

have gotten in the way of anything we

wanted to do. It was always skating first."

(In fact, Jayne and Chris eventually went

powerful, intimate feelings towards each

other during their programs. How did they

people who pass through your life," notes

Jayne. An early influence was noted skat-

ing judge Courtney Jones. "A valuable

piece of advice he passed on to us was to

make eye contact. Look at each other, and

believe in what you're doing."

They managed always to convey

"One gets lots of good advice from

before," laughs Jayne.

on to marry others.)

accomplish this?

"No one has made that comparison

"We always put skating ahead of





as everyone knew, in the sports world, especially when it came to the Olympic Games, there was no such thing as "a sure thing."

Even their staunchest competitors could not deny how consistently they displayed extraordinary composure on the ice; they always appeared completely relaxed, and, therefore, like a magnet, they drew in the audience.

Their secret to appearing so relaxed was hardly a secret; painstaking, exacting preparation had been their modus operandi during their practice sessions. "The harder you practice, and have to deal with all the circumstances you practice under, by the time you come to the competition, you know it's well within you," states Chris. "The harder you work, the more you eliminate the potential errors."

The never-to-be-forgotten day in Sarajevo finally arrived. The couple knew that the eyes of the world, along with the

steely gaze of the judges, and a stadium full of on-edge spectators, were focused, laser-like, on them and them alone.

What thoughts were racing through their minds? "We had that nervous energy inside, but, hopefully, a calm exterior," recalls Chris. "We were confident we could do it. Of course, you never know what's going to happen. But we knew what we had to do, and we knew how we were going to do it."

A six-year-old skater, oblivious to the fact that she was holding up the start of Torvill and Dean's program, was slowly, methodically clearing remaining flowers off the ice, tossed there by fans of the previous competitors. There was a flurry of nervous laughter, offering momentary relief from the pent-up tension.

The opening bars of "Bolero" finally began, and skating history was made. One report compared the couple's impact on the crowd to the response received

Photo: Steve Smith

by Judy Garland singing "Over The Rainbow" on her closing night at the London Palladium.

Flash Forward thirty years. "We went back to Sarajevo to recreate our 'Bolero' routine," recalls Chris, "and we met that little flower girl, who was now thirty-six years old! And she introduced us to her young daughter, who, as you might have guessed, is now a skater herself."

Torvill and Dean turned professional after the '84 Olympics, and highlights of their amazing career would include their famed "Face The Music" tour, their groundbreaking ice show, "Ice Adventures," which included a "flying ice ballet," a filmed fairy tale, "Fire on Ice," and a myriad of other accomplishments.

There were disappointments, of course. In 1994, a decade after their Olympic victory, and in the midst of their thriving professional career, they Jayne and Chris,

We admire all the beauty and elegance you have brought to ice dancing.



**Congratulations!** 

Susie Gharib and Fereydoun Nazem





Photo: Christie Jenkins Photo

announced that they would re-enter the amateur arena, and would compete in the Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway. It was the year of the Tonya Harding-Nancy Kerrigan scandal, but, to quote one report, "the real excitement in Lillehammer took place every time Torvill and Dean stepped on the ice."

Rumors, however, were circulating behind-the-scenes that unfriendly skating world politics were in play; to the dismay of many, Jayne and Chris went on to place third. But congratulatory telegrams on their performance poured in from fans, including one from a celebrated fan whose work Torvill and Dean were particularly familiar with: Gene Kelly.

The couple's "image" remained intact.

Over the years, they have had to deal with the burden that weighs down all renowned performing artists: the pressure always to be perfect, to meet audience expectations. After all, Torvill and Dean are famous for the staggering number of perfect scores they've received during the course of their competitive career.

"We always expected [perfection] of ourselves," Chris states today, "and we always performed – and continue to perform – to the best of our abilities. That's been the theme of our career, I would say – do the very best you can. It's always about wanting to do your best."

Chris continues to push the envelope when it comes to creative ideas. Not long ago, when a routine he choreographed for himself and Jayne was broadcast on television – photographed from a drone! – the effect on some viewers was, one might say, controversial. According to reports, it was, literally, "dizzying..."

They've written a joint autobiography, "Facing the Music." In 2018, a biographical film, "Torvill and Dean," was released. In addition to their partnership, over the years they have enjoyed, and continue to enjoy, highly successful individual careers as coaches and choreographers. Their unique saga continues to unfold – what further surprises are in store?

"Expect the unexpected from Torvill and Dean, and you'll never be disappointed," notes ITNY founder Moira North. "Who better typifies the ideals and goals of Ice Theatre than Jayne and Chris? We're thrilled to have them as this year's honorees!"

Edward Z. Epstein's forthcoming book is "FRANK & MARILYN: The Lives, the Loves, and the Fascinating Relationship of Frank Sinatra and Marilyn Monroe," to be published by Post Hill Press, distributed by Simon & Schuster.



Betty, you're the best!

Your friends at the Southampton Bath and Tennis Club Charitable Fund

## **BETTY WASSERMAN** A PASSION FOR SKATING

Betty Wasserman is fearless, and blessed with boundless energy.

One of the few people whose talents encompass both "left brain" and "right brain" activities, Betty is profoundly creative, with a vision that incorporates her eye for detail. Thinking outside the box, she regularly inspires those around her to challenge their assumptions. At the same time, she is extraordinarily-organized and structured. When Betty gets involved, things get done.

Betty helms a renowned interior design studio, where she has created the environments in locations as diverse as a 432 Park Avenue penthouse, homes in the Hamptons, and some of the coolest New York City restaurants. Her warm and distinctive approach synthesizes her decade as a private art dealer with her literacy in architecture and design.

Betty began skating as a child, but her love of ponies led to a 25-year run as a competitive horse show jumper. Betty owned and trained horses both here and in Florida, and competed on the national stage, to significant success. Betty learned early in her daughter Milly's life, however, that Milly was allergic to horses, but incredibly drawn to skating. In supporting her daughter's passion, Betty developed one of her own, learning the intricacies and nuances of competitive skating with the same attention to detail that she had with her own sport.

Since joining Ice Theatre's board, Betty has become deeply involved in all aspects of Ice Theatre:

She meticulously-designed the interior environment and service flow for several Ice Theatre Galas and Spring Fling (Unplugged) events. Betty motivated and helped fund the revival of our now-highly-successful Junior Ensemble, in which her daughter Milly has become a leader and choreographer.

Betty brought us new board member candidates, who added needed expertise and vibrancy to our Board. Betty makes Ice Theatre think smartly about the value of its product, and about new ways to raise funds. Betty organized and found items for our Silent Auction, and coordinated all aspects of our first Live Auction.



And, fearless as she is, Betty has been a leader in identifying and soliciting new donors in businesses that had not previously known about Ice Theatre, resulting in a substantial and continuing infusion of donations.

As Milly's skating journey has unfolded, Milly and Betty work to inject creativity into all aspects of Milly's presentations, within the boundaries of the rules. Betty regularly travels to competitions at all levels of skating, and has befriended promising coaches and skaters alike. Her friendship with Kaitlyn Weaver led to a wonderful piece and performance by Kaitlyn in Ice Theatre's Pivoting Through The Pandemic event last year.

Betty told us, "As much as Ice Theatre is letting me know with this award that they appreciate me, I want Ice Theatre to know how much I appreciate all of them. I feel thankful to be part of Ice Theatre's avante-garde approaches and creative spirit, bringing art to the ice in a way that is unlike any other. I appreciate how Ice Theatre allows skaters to express themselves outside of a competitive format, and I am especially grateful for the opportunities that Ice Theatre has offered to Milly and me."

Ice Theatre today is a stronger, moreproductive organization because of Betty Wasserman's passion, contributions, and wise counsel over the past six years. Ice Theatre is delighted to recognize Betty as an Ice Angel.

# de Le Cuona

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# BETTY WASSERMAN ICE ANGEL AWARD 2022

...someone thinks she's an angel?

Come closer and find out!

#### Dear Darlene,

Thank you for all you have done for ITNY and all of us.

Judith Anderson Helen Chan Judith Cohen Rosemary Coletti-Grant Randy Faria Linda Frances Mary Gailliard Robin Hagen Cheryl Horne Mark Lund Laura Moore (the Alien, Frankensonja, the Bat...) Elena Skavinskaya



## DARLENE PARENT A LIFE ON HER TOES By Lynn Rutherford

No matter how many test sessions she runs, or how many students she coaches, when people of a certain age think about Darlene Parent (née Gilbert), they picture her on her toes.

The native San Franciscan, who discovered ballet at age four, became enraptured by skating after a trip to the Ice Follies when she was five. A resourceful child, she covered her shoes with wax

paper and slid around her linoleum playroom floor, mimicking tricks she saw Follies stars perform. She didn't take to the ice, though, until she was 14, and by age 17 sought a way to combine her love of dance, with her love of skating.

The result? The toe skate, half point shoe and half ice skate, reinforced with steel to allow the wearer to skate on pointe.

"I went to a model maker for inventors, and after trial and error got a working pair of pointe shoes with short blades on the tips," Darlene says.

Wearing the hybrid skate, she performed sit-spins, layback and camel spins, spirals and spread eagles. To date, she is the only person in the world to perform on toe skates.

"It took time, and a lot of practice," she recalls. "Others tried, but their feet cramped up." By the time she was 21, Darlene's performing career began in earnest, launched by a 1959 appearance on ABC TV's "You Asked for It," a long-running human interest show.

"I never competed," she said. "Figures were number one back in the 1950s, and by the time I started skating, it was too late to learn them. I learned to skate on public sessions."



As far as performing goes, though, Darlene did it all – "the ridiculous and the sublime," as she puts it. Some of her gigs, like the six months spent performing with partner Bobby Metcalf on synthetic ice at Radio City Music Hall, played on renowned stages and were written up in the New York Times. Others made the front page of local gazettes like the Hurricane Breeze, a daily in Hurricane,

West Virginia still published today.

"Talk about diverse!" Darlene says with a chuckle. "We traveled all over in the 1970s. I skated in those crazy shoes in places where they never saw ice. My partner, Brian Grant, was a very good-looking guy; sadly, he died in 1987 of AIDS. We made the newspapers everywhere."

One memorable event brought Darlene and her synthetic ice to the pitchers' mound for a pre-game show at a Philadelphia Phillies' game.

"We couldn't do much, because the dirt kept coming up," she remembers.

On the more sublime side of the ledger were shows at upscale New York City hotels, from the Waldorf-Astoria to the Marriott Marquis, and even Studio 54.



Congratulations Darlene and Wade

Thanks for a lifetime of memories!

## Sonya

#### Continued from page 17.

"I had shows in every hotel in the city," Darlene says. "People would rent rooms for special events. That's the kind of commercial performing that pays the bills....The "ice" was three parts water, one part glyceride, with insect repellant sprayed all over the plastic. I think they've upgraded the materials (for synthetic ice) by now."

Her fondest performing memory is taking the ice with Dick Button's "Ice-Travaganza" at the 1964 New York World's Fair, shortly after she moved to New York City. The show, which starred Canada's 1963 World Champion Donald McPherson, had Darlene toe skating the role of Blue Fairy in Pinocchio at the New York City Pavilion.

"That was pure excitement," she says. "A lot of fun."

By the time Darlene's longtime friend Moira North founded Ice Theatre of New York (ITNY) in 1984, she had moved on from performing.

"I was a little too old," she says. "My knees started bothering me. I went more into teaching and producing ice shows."

Married to the late Don Parent in 1969 – a banker and ice dance enthusiast she met at the New Hyde Park Skating Rink, who later taught ice dance – Darlene had a son, Dale, in 1970. She balanced motherhood with her new career, and found she was quite good at doing both.

"Sometimes, my job was making sure the people who hired ITNY didn't work the skaters to death," she says. "They seemed to think (the company) could skate on a 30 x 30 patch for an hour without stopping or resting. I would say, 'Hey, wait a minute! They need food and bathroom breaks!"

These days, Darlene is as devoted as ever to her students, many of whom she guides through U.S. Figure Skating moves in the field tests.

"That's my specialty, the moves tests," she says. "My husband taught me ice dance, so I know the Choctaws, the rockers, and I had ballet .... I've had over a hundred kids pass their senior moves. It's scary to think about it. I've become a success as a moves coach; most of my students pass (their tests). Sometimes kids get nervous and don't pass, and sometimes the judges are crazy. Synchronized skaters are required to pass their moves tests, and a lot of other coaches ask me to look at their kids' moves."

For many years, Darlene was Director of the ISI Figure Skating Competition at Sky Rink. She continues to volunteer for Skating Club of New York, running test sessions. When I caught up with her to chat for this article, she had just completed a long session at Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers and was relaxing for the Easter holiday at her vacation home in Lake Placid, where she also teaches. But it was only a long weekend; full-time retirement still looks far away.

"I've got a kid who needs to pass senior moves," Darlene says. "She's going off to college, but she still hasn't passed... She's a bit of a nervous nelly. I'm going to get her through, though."



CONGRATULATIONS DARLENE WITH LOVE, MARY GAILLARD

## CONGRATS DARLENE AND WADE ON BEING HONORED

CHELSEA PIERS

Your love of the sport, your reach for excellence and your dedication to the Ice Theatre of New York is an inspiration to us all.

#### CONGRATULATIONS, WADE!

2022 Ice Theatre of New York Alumni Award

Armen Agaian Marilyn Andretta Rose Auslander/Rick Moore **Beverly Banks** Denise Beaumont **Catherine Chalmers** Helen Chan Ellen Colletto Dr. Antonio Conte Linda Frances Mary Gaillard Cara Erdheim Kilgallen **Beverly Hasiuk** Roland Jarquio May Lee **Emily Napoliton** Elizabeth Nunn Nancy Quaife Deserrie Ruptash Aida Slabotzky Rikki Samuels Barbara Schoetzau Coco Shean Elena Skavinskaya Jeanette Timmons Dr. Alan Weinstein Way Zen

## X0

Photo: Gala Performance by Gold Medalists 2018 Gay Games – Paris, France

1000



Wade Corbett found his life's calling relatively late: he was an experienced dancer, aged about 25, when he hit the ice – literally – at the old Sky Rink on West 33rd Street.

"I had command of my body and I knew how to distribute my weight," Wade says. "But what I did not know from dance was how to deal with the toe pick. So, when I tried doing an arabesque or a spiral, my chin and face and everything else met the ice! I thought to myself, 'Well, that's the end of my skating career."" But the chance to blend his dance training – he holds an ASS in Dance and Theatre from Borough of Manhattan Community College and performed with the International School of Ballet at Carnegie Hall for 12 years -- with gliding around the ice on an eighth-of-an-inch blade, was too strong a lure. He signed up for lessons, three a week, and practiced daily. Within nine months, he was competing; his best jump was a double flip. He continued to compete as a septuagenarian, right up through the 2018 Gay Games in Paris.



"Wade's choreography is beautiful, and how he moves is beautiful," Linda Frances, a fellow adult competitor and former longtime student of Corbett's, says. "People would see him skate and then ask him, 'Can you choreograph a number for me?""

Around 1982 or so, our other 2022 ITNY alumni award winner, Darlene Parent, asked Wade if he would like to teach learn-to-skate classes. His answer? "Sure, why not?" A few years later, ITNY founder Moira North saw Wade skate and asked if he would be interested in joining the company.

"I just said, 'Sure, why not?' So I joined ITNY in, I think it was, 1984," Wade says. "There were several before, however, one of my early favorite performances was in maybe 1986 and it was on synthetic ice at Studio 54. It was just outrageously fun and beautiful; it was when Studio 54 had Steve Rubbell and all of the stars there."

"We were doing variation on a schedule of 12 a.m. to 5 a.m. rehearsals, three times a week," he adds. "Rehearsals, ballet first and then on-ice. It was pretty grueling but it was for the cause. We knew that this was something different, something new, and we wanted to support it. And now it's blossomed into this big, wonderful thing, and those of us who are left, we really appreciate it and love it."

Of Wade's many performances, a

## Darlene & Wade,

## Thank you for so many years of smiles & support!



With love & congratulations,

Alicia & Lyra

#### Continued from page 21.

few stand out in his mind.

"When John Curry was working with ITNY, I took lessons with him," he says. "During that time, he choreographed a "Plié Power" class and being in the corps de ballet behind him was so special.... It was an honor to be on the ice with him.

"And then came 1994 when John died. We had the Gay Games here in New York and for the first time, skating was in the Games. And I said, 'I gotta do this,' and I worked real hard for that one. I happened to win gold there and I dedicated my exhibition piece, set to Mahler's Adagio, to John. If you know that piece of music, it's sad, but it's beautiful. That was a special, special moment in my life."

Wade developed a specialty in character roles and performed alongside ITNY founder Moira North and the late Kenny Moir as a bartender in "One for My Baby," choreographed by Rob McBrien, and as an (annoying) admirer of JoJo Starbuck in another piece choreographed by McBrien.

"That was at the original Sky Rink; I was JoJo's man in 'Crazy," he says with a chuckle. "I didn't do a lot of skating, I was more of a prop, but it was fun to perform with JoJo, who is a sweetheart .... And being in "Plié Power" was always fun. The audience loved it."

As a longtime skating teacher, including stints as director of both the skating school at Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers, and Riverbank State Park, Wade often had three words for his students: Posture, posture and posture.

"I say, 'You must have your jumps, your spins, but everything comes from your plié and your posture," he says. "I made out pretty well with that, I had quite a few students. And of course, I would take competitors to the ballet room upstairs at Chelsea Piers and we would work out at the barre, just on movement.

"I had a lot of minority children. I was very happy and proud of that .... I had a lot of Black students that I brought to Skating Club of NY, and I had some good young competitors. That was fun."

Frances competes to this day, building on the technique she learned in lessons from Wade. "He was very exacting; he made me do three-turns around the rink in the public session for so long, I was absolutely embarrassed," she says. "Because Wade started skating as an adult, he was very insistent on my learning proper technique to land and soften the moves I did – 'You have to soak in deep, you need to be on an edge' -- those are the things that have led to my longevity in the sport."

Now retired, Wade is a keen follower of the current scene, including the recent Olympic Games in Beijing.

"I find ice dance is the most entertaining," he says. "I appreciate Nathan (Chen) and all the rest of them doing quads, trying to do quad axels and that sort of thing, but that's really not my cup of tea. I want to see skating, I want to see posture, form, balance, edgework. That's what fills me and that is why I love Ice Theatre of New York<sup>®</sup>."

#### CONGRATULATIONS DARLENE AND WADE

The coaches at Sky Rink are sending love to you both on this special day!



Thank you for all your help, being a consistent cast member and our wonderful adventures.

Love you Dar!

With Affection, Melody

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away. Maya Angelou

You two have given us so many of those moments!

Love, Moira and Company

# ICE RINK EVENTS

WITH LENA GOTTSCHALL, EVAN CADWELL, RON KRAUT AND ENTIRE TEAM

## CONGRATULATES 2022 HONOREES, UNCOMPARABLE SKATING LEGENDS JAYNE TORVILL & CHRISTOPHER DEAN

GRANDE REVERENCE TO JAYNE & CHRIS FOR THEIR ALWAYS BREATHTAKING PERFORMANCES, INNOVATIVE CHOREOGRAPHY & ATHLETIC LONGEVITY ON THE "COLD ICE"!



WE ALSO CONGENIALLY RECOGNIZE BETTY WASSERMANN, DARLENE PARENT & WADE CORBETT FOR THEIR LOVE & DEDICATION TO FIGURE SKATING AND PERFORMING ARTS ON ICE.

> SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO THE ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK FOR THEIR 35-YEARS OF PASSION & EXELLENCE.

WE ARE PROUD TO HAVE ITNY REHEARSE & PERFORM AT OUR ASSOCIATED ICE RINKS: SKY RINK AT CHELSEA PIERS. WINTER VILLAGE AT BRYANT PARK. ROCKEFELLER CENTER. PIER-17 WONDERLAND. NEWPORT SKATES. THE ICE AT STUY TOWN. WORLD ICE ARENA. CITY ICE PAVILION



GRAPHIC DESIGN BY LENA GOTTSCHALL





INTOWING WIFE OWN ICE RINK EVENTS CO-FOUNDER & ATMALIANTI HIME-ANDALIARIA THE KING OF FROZEN WATER IMM CRIMINERY

## SILVER PAGE



We are so proud of the ITNY Company, and so grateful for the artistry that flows from their incredibly-hard work.

William J. Candee IV, Chair

William J Candee III, Chair Emeritus

and Family

Photo: Darial Sneed

## SILVER PAGE (CENTER SPREAD)

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE HONOREES AND ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK ON THEIR 35TH ANNIVERSARY

THE HUGHES FAMILY

Photo: Simon Russell

## SILVER PAGE (CENTER SPREAD)

A Loving Tribute And Congratulations To Our Wonderful, Talented, Very Special Life Long Friend Richard Dwyer. John & Pat Brockway **And Family** 

## SILVER<sup>2</sup>PAGE



DEAR JAYNE AND CHRIS, CONGRATULATIONS! YOU CHANGED ICE DANCING FOREVER. FROM YOUR BIGGEST FAN, **RICHARD "MR. DEBONAIR" DWYER** 

#### In honor of our dear Dowager, Wade, who after retiring from performing for ITNY went on to be a Gay Games lifetime star!

With appropriate adoration...

New York 1994 • Amsterdam 1998 • Sydney 2002 Chicago 2006 • Cologne 2010 • Cleveland 2014 • Paris 2018

International Gay Figure Skating Union



Laura Moore "VID" & MaryAnn Bellomo

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Georg Kling

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Sigrun Schnegg & Beate Schönwetter



## With deep gratitude to our Ice Angel

Betty Wasserman



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TO OUR FALLEN ANGELS

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MIKE CLAYTON

JOHN HUGHES

ELISABETH L'HEUREUX

KENNY MOIR



Congratulations, Jayne and Chris

Your Olympic performances have stood the test of time.

Thanks for the memories,

#### Kim Cathleen Millette Verde

2018 Bronze Medalist WFC Fancy Skate

Photo: Deborah Hickey Photography
Congratulations to Darlene Parent and Wade Corbett Celebrating a lifetime of Dedication to the Art of Ice Skating





Forever in our hearts.

— Dr. & Mrs. James Stith



Photo: Arthur Donowski



## CONGRATULATIONS

to our amazing Junior Ensemble



# CONGRATULATIONS ITNY AND ALL TONIGHT'S HONOREES!

Stephen G. Epstein | Edward Z. Epstein

Photo: Simon Russell



# The Skating Club of New York

Congratulates Ice Theatre of New York

on their 35th Anniversary

Honorees Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean

2022 Alumni Award and SCNY members Darlene Parent

> and Wade Corbett



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We are thrilled to support Ice Theatre of New York and Congratulate Tonight's Honorees!

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Photo: Jay Colton

# Congratulations JAYNE TORVILL ECHRISTOPHER DEAN

It's a joy to celebrate your success and impact on the skating community.Wishing you the very best from the Figure Skating in Harlem Family!





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Congratulations, Darlene!

From your pals.

### Coco & Nancy

# IMG

Congratulations to Olympic Legends

# **Jayne Torvill & Christopher Dean**

and

Co-Chairs Tracy Wilson and Brian Orser

From your friends at IMG

Jayne and Chris,

You changed the world of ice dancing and are so deserving of this honor.

Thank you for sharing your beautiful skating with all of us.

With love, Randy Gardner Jayne and Christopher,

You continue to inspire us!

Congratulations on taking your career so beyond Olympic Gold!

As you conquer new horizons may you continue to create skating sculptures that transcend time.

### Sarah Kawahara,

Artistic Director Willy Bietak Productions

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CONGRATULATES THE ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK FOR ANOTHER INCREDIBLE YEAR OF DANCING ON ICE



To Moira,

When ITNY counts its

blessings —

it counts you twice...

Charles A. Kerner CPA (212) 675-4030 Go Ice Theatre!

Bill and Bunny Beekman

Congratulations Dar Dar, we love you!

— Ruby, Lucy, and Emily





Chris & Jayne the greatest of all time. Your friend and fan, Christie Jenkins

Christie Jenkins Photography All Nationals, Worlds, Olympics In the 1980's 831-915-4519 CJenkinsStudio@aol.com Dear Darlene,

Congratulations on your ITNY honor!

Thank you for the years

you've kept us all 'sharp'.

With love,

Joyce Mola





# The Ice House congratulates Ice Theatre of New York



www.icehousenj.com

For all her Support Best Wishes to Darlene

A longtime member of The Skating Club of New York

Lucy Curley Joyce Brennan







Congratulations to Betty Wasserman for her passionate support and commitment to ITNY.

## Fred & Lois





To all who share their love of dancing on ice

because that love is true and fun is good:

Have a wonderful season 2022!

- Anonymous



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Congratulations to the Alumni Award Recipients Wade Corbett and Darlene Parent

> Chelsea Piers is proud to support Ice Theatre of New York.

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Mauro Bruni, Sarah France and Kate Mangiardi

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Thanks to our Ice Theatre volunteers!



ON THE ICE AT THE OLD SKY RINK



...thank you for creating, sharing and being part of so many memoires with us over the years.

# **CONGRATULATIONS DARLENE AND WADE**

Two of the most dedicated, passionate and genuine individuals one could ever hope to meet.

David, Linda, Anne, Jane & Kate Tewksbury



# In Memory of Will Sears 1982-2002