



For Immediate Release

DANCING ON ICE
WORK BY TWYLA THARP, WORLD PREMIERES BY DAVID LIU, DOUGLAS WEBSTER, PETER DI FALCO HIGHLIGHT ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK'S SEASON AT SKY RINK AT CHELSEA PIERS, NOVEMBER 1, 2 & 3

Ice Theatre of New York, which has challenged conventional assumptions about ice skating for 23 years, now takes on the choreography of Twyla Tharp during its 2007 fall season at Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers, November 1, 2, and 3. There will also be world premieres by Douglas Webster, Peter di Falco and the company's Co-Artistic Director David Liu. A company benefit takes place October 29. Moira North is Ice Theatre's founder and Co-Artistic Director.

Twyla Tharp's "After All," originally choreographed in 1976 by Tharp for Olympic skater and ice dance pioneer John Curry, will be performed by David Liu, himself a former Olympic skater. Liu's performance marks the first time that any skater but Curry has performed the work. Filled with daring twists, turns, Tharp's sly wit and signature footwork, the seven-minute, nonstop solo marked Tharp's first work for ice. The music is by Tomaso Albinoni.

In his "pull," set in part to a Thomas Newman film score, David Liu uses dancers' improvised responses to the physical and mental challenges posed by the ice to form the core of the lyrical work. The costumes are by downtown fashion designer Jussara Lee.

Tango and flamenco choreographer Peter di Falco turns the ice to fire in "Mi Andalucia," a three-part work that joins elements of Andalusian dance, flamenco and bull fighting. The first section, "Jaleo," radiates with the joy of dancing; "Gitano," the second section, a solo for David Liu, embodies the sorrow

MORE

**ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK
ADD ONE**

and exuberance of flamenco; the work concludes with “Ole Manolete,” which expresses a bull fighter’s intense fears.

Natural images inviting a sense of peace and calm are evoked in Douglas Webster’s premiere, “Meditation No. 1.” Imagery of the shifts of wind and quiet whirl of water eddies are suggested in the work’s uninterrupted flow of movement. The dance is set to Philip Glass’s *Opening*.

Ice Theatre of New York was founded in 1984 by its artistic director Moira North whose vision was to merge contemporary dance and ice-skating. Her pioneering company transformed skating into performing art in no small part by inviting major choreographers to create works for ice. Ice Theatre’s first work, a collaboration with choreographer Marc Bogaerts, was skated by North and Patrick Dean and won them first place in the 1984 Professional Championships in Jaca, Spain. Since then, Ice Theatre has amassed a repertory of over 65 dances, including works by major modern dance choreographers such as Lar Lubovitch, David Parsons, David Dorfman and Laura Dean. Jacquelyn Buglisi, Ann Carlson, Elisa Monte, Alberto Del Saz, Donlin Foreman, JoAnna Mendl Shaw, Heather Harrington, Peter Martins and Jean-Pierre Bonnefoux have also choreographed works for the company.

Ice Theatre has performed throughout New York, with annual seasons at The Rink at Rockefeller Center, Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers and Riverbank State Park, as well as at national and international venues. It has also developed numerous educational outreach programs to perform for and provide skating clinics for local public school students. The company is the first ice dancing ensemble to be awarded grants as a dance company by the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

Designated one of the 25 Most Influential Names in Figure Skating by International Figure Skating Magazine in 1998 and 2003, North has choreographed for film and skating productions in addition to her work for Ice

MORE

**ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK
ADD TWO**

Theatre. Her credits include teaching actress Ileana Douglas to skate for her role in the film "To Die For," teaching and choreographing a skating scene in the film "The Preacher's Wife" with Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington, choreographing five productions of "Montreal Fashions on Ice" for the Québec Delegation at Rockefeller Plaza and choreographing the opening ceremonies for both the National Hockey League All-Star Game and World Cup Hockey. She also served as creative consultant for Arts & Entertainment's "Winter Solstice on Ice," a 1999 holiday season television special.

DAVID LIU was born in Taiwan, immigrated to the United States at the age of six and began studying dance and figure skating at the age of eight. He studied on full scholarship at the School of American Ballet (SAB). George Balanchine promoted him to the first "Special Class" at SAB under the intensive training of the late Stanley Williams. After completing his dance training there, Liu pursued his skating career and represented Taiwan at three Olympic Games. He teaches, choreographs and performs in both skating and dance. He has performed and given workshops and intensive classes in the United States, Taiwan, Japan, Hong Kong and Finland. Liu has choreographed programs for skating luminaries such as Brian Boitano, Lu Chen, Midori Ito, Nicole Bobek, Rosalynn Summers, and for major television specials including Kurt Browning's "Gotta Skate," "Divas on Ice" with Katarina Witt, PBS' "An Evening with Champions," and NBC's "Rockefeller Center Christmas" specials. In 2002, Liu received a commissioning grant from New York State Council on the Arts through Ice Theatre for a collaborative work with choreographer JoAnna Mendl Shaw. In April 2004, Liu was invited to China where he created an ice extravaganza and in June 2004, had the world premiere of his latest dance choreography. His "Visual Reference," presented as part of H.T. Chen's "Ear to the Ground" project, was presented by the Mulberry Street Theatre in New York City. Francis Mason of WQXR Radio called Liu, "Nijinsky on ice." He has choreographed at least five

MORE

**ICE THEATRE OF NEW YORK
ADD THREE**

works for and/or with Ice Theatre in the years he has been with the Company, some of which were showcased in “Dance Visions on Ice” last season. He was appointed co-artistic director this year.

Ice Theatre will also be seen this season at the Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale, NY on October 14; the re-opening of the Long Beach Ice Arena in Long Beach, NY on October 20; as well as at Ice Concerts at The Pond at Bryant Park and The Rink at Rockefeller Center (dates TBD). Other performances include the New Works & Young Artists Series at the Rink at Riverbank State Park on November 15 & 29, and at tree lighting ceremonies at Reckson Plaza on December 1 and at Riverbank State Park on December 15.

The Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers is on Pier 61 at 23rd Street and the Hudson River. Performances are at 7pm each night. Tickets are \$25 and can be bought by calling 212-929-5811 or by visiting www.icetheatre.org. The October 29 benefit is also at 7pm. Tickets begin at \$350 and can be purchased by calling 212-929-5811.

###

The Peter di Falco world premiere is made possible by the generosity of the Gertrude Vanderbilt Endowment.

This performance season is made possible with public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



100207