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Thursday, February 25, 2021

Ice Theatre of New York presents 2021 City Skate Pop Up Concert at The Rink at Bank of America Winter Village at Bryant Park

Company: Ice Theatre of New York
Venue: Bryant Park
Location: New York, NY

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Ice Theatre of New York (ITNY) presents a City Skate Pop Up Concert at Bank of America Winter Village at Bryant Park on Thursday, February 25 at 4pm at The Rink at Bryant Park. ITNY performers include Aaron Singletary and Val Levine, with choreography by Douglas Webster and Jody Sperling. The event is free and open to the public.

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Aaron Singletary will perform "Fragile," in honor of long-time ITNY performer Alyssa Stiith and Black History Month. Fragile is choreographed by Douglas Webster with music by Sting.

Professional soloist Val Levine will perform Arctic Memory, a visually beautiful piece and environmentally conscious creation about Global Warming by dance choreographer Jody Sperling. This version of Arctic Memory is adapted from material Sperling developed during a 43-day polar science mission to the Arctic. The costume is a long cape, hand-painted with designs suggestive of Arctic pack ice melting and the sound scape is taken from the actual sounds of the Arctic ice pack moving as it melts. The work also draws inspiration from modern-dance pioneer Loie Fuller (1862-1928).

Bank of America Winter Village at Bryant Park is popularly known as NYC's only free-admission skating rink. Bank of America Winter Village at Bryant Park is open daily through March 28, 2021, and in addition to The Rink, the annual winter event features fun, outdoor activities including The Shops, delicious food offerings at the heated Lodge Deck, the Curling Café and Cozy Igloos.

About Ice Theatre of New York

ITNY's mission is to celebrate and advance dance on ice as a performance art. Through its performances in both traditional and site-specific venues, ITNY presents ice dance that helps to open one's eyes to seeing skating in new and unexpected ways. ITNY was the very first ice dance company to receive dance program 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. www.icetheatre.org

About the Artists

VALERIE LEVINE has been dancing tap, jazz and ballet since she was 4 years of age and started roller-skating at that time. After begging her parents for figure skating lessons, she started training at 11. She auditioned for Disney On Ice during high school and was accepted but decided to get her bachelor's degree in college first. She went on to get her Senior Ladies Moves and Pre-golds in ice dance by 19 and skated as an ice girl for the NHL teams the New York Rangers and the New York Islanders during those years. She furthered her dance knowledge

while in college getting her Bachelor's Degree in Product Management Textiles from the Fashion Institute of Technology. She minored in dance and trained at the Broadway Dance Center in many dance styles, which led her to her current career as a professional belly dancer, ballroom dancer, Brazilian samba dancer, fire performer and the like. Valerie has collaborated on ITNY events for the past decade. More at Valerinadance.com.

AARON SINGLETARY grew up in Pennsylvania skating for the Penguin Figure Skating Club and started his national competitive career training with Craig Maurizi. Over the years Singletary has had many internationally revered coaches and singling one or two would be a disservice to the others. Each left a prominent mark on his approach to skating. Aaron earned gold in moves-in-the-eld as well as freestyle singles. Aaron now coaches primarily in Newburgh, NY at Ice Time Sports Complex. His students include National medalists Jacob Sanchez and Olivia Alexander. He dreams to further his knowledge so that one day he too may be an internationally recognized performer and coach. The 2019 Home Season marks his debut with Ice Theatre of New York.

A dancer-choreographer from New York City, JODY SPERLING is the Founder and Artistic Director of Time Lapse Dance. She has created 40-plus works, including many furthering the legacy of modern dance pioneer Loie Fuller (1862-1928). Considered the preeminent Fuller stylist, Sperling has expanded the genre into the 21st century, deploying it in the context of contemporary performance forms. She has been nominated for a 2017 World Choreography Award for her work on the French feature film "The Dancer" (which premiered at the 2016 Cannes Film Festival), inspired by Fuller's life. Years of working in Fuller's idiom, which involves kinesphere-expanding costumes, has influenced Sperling's awareness of the body's relationship with the larger environment. In 2014, she participated in a polar science mission to the Arctic as the first, and to date only, choreographer-in-residence aboard a U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker. During the expedition, she danced on Arctic sea ice and made the short dance film "Ice Floe," winner of a Creative Climate Award. Sperling's current projects focus on using visual-kinetic narratives to connect choreography and climate science.

DOUGLAS WEBSTER has been involved in figure skating since he grew up in North Conway, New Hampshire. He is a graduate of The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA. From 2011-2014 Douglas served as the Artistic Director of Ice Theatre of New York (ITNY). Since 1991, he worked with ITNY as Associate Artistic Director, Resident Choreographer and Ensemble Director. In addition to his current work with Ice Dance International as Founding Artistic Director and Choreographer, Douglas served as the Creative Director for Shall We Dance on Ice, a Disson special that airs on ABC and features ice dancing and ballroom. Douglas has choreographed for many skating companies in the world including Disney on Ice, Stars on Ice and Holiday on Ice; he serves on the board of the Young Artists Showcase and is on the staff of "Grassroots to Champions." He is also the Artistic Director of Labrie Family Skate at the Strawberry Banke Museum in Portsmouth, NH, where he implemented IDI's outreach program, "Get Out and Skate" with the public schools.

Ice Theatre of New York
42nd Street and, 6th Ave, New York, NY 10018
New York, NY, 10024
6467654773
<http://www.icetheatre.org/>

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