

**For immediate release**

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**Ice Dance International (IDI) Announces**

**GRACE: A Spellbinding Theatrical Ice Show Experience**

***Olympic Champion Dorothy Hamill and Skating Icon JoJo Starbuck host***

***Ice Dance International’s GRACE in Palm Desert March 18th.***

***Grace features a cast of LGBTQ Professional Skaters Including Karina Manta and Joe Johnson, the first LGBTQ Couple to Compete for United States Figure Skating International Events.***

 **TICKETS ON SALE NOW**

*Kittery, Maine – Olympic Champion Dorothy Hamill and* Two*-time US Olympic Team Member JoJo Starbuck* are excited to bring IDI’s theatrical ice show ***Grace***, to Palm Desert at the Berger Foundation Iceplex at 7 pm on March 18th .

***Grace*** features an ensemble company of ten world-class figure skaters, 5 of whom are from the **LGBTQ** community including ***Karina Manta*** and ***Joe Johnson***. Karina and Joe are the first **LGBTQ** couple to compete for the United States at Grand Prix Events and have medaled internationally. Karina is the author of ***On Top of Glass***, published by Knopf, an autobiography about growing up Queer in figure skating. IDI is directed by ***Douglas Webster***, a gay man, who states that IDI is an ensemble that celebrates the legacy of ***John Curry***. John Curry is the 1976 Olympic Champion who worked to change the perception of figure skating from sport to art. Both Dorothy Hamill and JoJo Starbuck were part of **The** **John Curry Company**. Curry passed away from AIDS in 1994.

***Grace*** features choreography by 2022 OLYMPIC Choreographers’ **Benoît Richaud, Rohene** **Ward,** and leading choreographer for Disney on Ice, **Cindy Stuart**.

**Ice Dance International’s** work has been seen prime time on Los Angeles’s public television station KCET which aired IDI’s “The World of Ice Dance International” and “In Flight: The Art of Ice Dance International” from 2018-2020. Performances from the two public television specials will be seen in ***Grace.***

**The Ice Dance International Company**

A**lissa Czisny** (Toronto): 2 x United States Champion and Grand Prix Final Champion

**Collin Brubaker** (Chicago, IL): United States International team and 2022 US Open Champion

**Carly Donowick** (Buffalo, NY): United States International team

**Joseph Johnson** (New York, NY): US International team and first openly LGBTQ competitive ice dance team with partner Karina Manta

**Adam Kaplan** (Barrington, RI): Ice Dance International company member since 2017, LGBTQ community

**Jean-Simon Légaré** (Miami, FL): Star of ice shows across the world, LGBTQ community

**Karina Manta** (New York, NY): United States International and first openly LGBTQ competitive ice dance team with partner Joe Johnson. Karina is the author of On Top of Glass, an autobiography about growing up Queer in figure skating

**Kseniya Ponomaryova** (Geneva, IL): Originally from Ukraine, Kseniya is the 2022 US Open Champion

**Lara Shelton** (Weymouth, MA): Featured in the 2022 Radio City Christmas Spectacular

**Neill Shelton** (Weymouth, MA): Featured in the 2022 Radio City Christmas Spectacular, LGBTQ community

***“Grace***is a theatrical journey on ice with dynamic, athletic movement that showcases artistic ensemble skating. We have created new repertoire with a talented group of skaters and choreographers. The choreography and music, combined with the ability of our powerful skaters, promises to transport the audience to a state of grace,” said ***Douglas Webster***, IDI Founder and Artistic Director.

 **For tour information and tickets** visit the IDI website’s events page: [www.icedanceinternational.org](http://www.icedanceinternational.org)

Tickets for March 18 are $15 for youth (16 and under) and $30 for general admission. **VIP tickets** are $50/adults and include prime seating and a post-show meet and greet with the cast. **Fan tickets** are $40 and include meet and greet with the cast. Tickets include free parking.

***Grace*** is supported by Spruce Peak Performing Arts Center in Stowe, VT, the New England Foundation for the Arts, Strawbery Banke Museum in Portsmouth, NH, Monson Arts, the Libra Foundation and the Piscataquis County Ice Arena in Dover-Foxcroft, Maine with ongoing support from the Lisa McGraw Figure Skating Foundation.

***Grace*** tour dates include:

* Saturday March 4: **Dover-Foxcroft, Maine:** 6:30pm, Piscataquis County Ice Arena
* Thursday March 9: **St. Paul, Minnesota**: 6:30 pm, TRIA Rink
* Friday March 10th: **Milwaukee, Wisconsin:** 6:30pm, The Kern Center at MSOE
* Saturday March 11th: **Geneva, Illinois** (Chicago): 8:00pm, Fox Valley ice Arena
* Friday March 17th: **Tempe, Arizona**,7:00pm, Mountain America Community Iceplex
* Saturday March 18th: **Palm Springs, California**, 7:00pm, Berger Foundation Iceplex
* Sunday March 19th: **Los Angeles, California**, 2:30pm, The Rinks-Lakewood ICE

**About Ice Dance International**

Established in 2014 as a non-profit organization and based in Kittery, Maine, IDI has built its local, US and global image through live and virtual performances and engaging educational and outreach programs. IDI exists to showcase and promote ice dancing as an internationally recognized performing art form. With a professional company and board of directors of figure skaters and dancers that includes World, Olympic and National champions Dorothy Hamill, JoJo Starbuck, Dick Button and Kennedy Center Honoree, Edward Villella; IDI brings ice dance performances of the highest caliber to communities across the United States. IDI’s touring show, Grace, premiered in the fall of 2022 and was seen across New England and the MId-Atlantic Region. Upcoming IDI performances include a return to Jacob’s Pillow Dance Festival in July 2023. IDI’s partnerships include Strawbery Banke Museum in Portsmouth, NH and Spruce Peak in Stowe, Vermont.

**About Douglas Webster, IDI’s Executive and Artistic Director and Director/Choreographer of *Grace***

Douglas Webster is the Executive and Artistic Director of Ice Dance International (IDI), a professional performing arts figure skating company based in Kittery, Maine. Webster has directed all the company’s programs since its inception. Prior to founding IDI, he served as the Artistic Director for Ice Theatre of New York; Creative Director for Disson Skating’s 3-year series, Shall We Dance on Ice; and spent years as a choreographer for Disney on Ice, Holiday on Ice, and Stars on Ice. He is a leading figure skating educator heading IDI’s skate school, SKATE 360. These classes have been featured at United States Figure Skating’s elite training camps. Webster is also the Founding Artistic Director of Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond in Portsmouth, NH; IDI’s winter home.

