



Ice Dance International to Enchant Audiences with Free Pop-Up Performances at Strawberry Banke in December

Portsmouth, NH [Date] - Strawberry Banke Museum announced its December collaboration with Ice Dance International (IDI) for the upcoming 2023-2024 ice skating season at Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond. In addition to IDI's Vintage Christmas Skaters at Candlelight Stroll, the professional ice dance company presents two pop-up performances with world-class talent on Thursday, December 14, and Friday, December 29. The pop-up performances are free and open to the public and can be viewed either rinkside at Strawberry Banke, 14 Hancock Street, or via livestream webcam at StrawberyBanke.org.

The first pop-up performance, "**Holiday Dance Party on Ice**," occurring on **Thursday, December 14, from 6:00 to 6:25 PM**, features Ryan Bradley, US Champion; Alissa Czisny, two-time US Champion; Kseniya Ponomaryova, US Open Champion; Collin Brubaker, US Open Champion; and Lexis Verhuist. The joyful performance features holiday favorites, festive costumes, and amazing skating talent.

The second performance, "**NYE House Rave Party on Ice**," occurring on **Friday, December 29, 2023, from 7:00 PM to 7:25 PM**, features Alissa Czisny, two-time US Champion; Themis Leftheris, Fire Skater, as well as Karina Manta and Joe Johnson, Ice Dance International Team Members, and Alex Martin. Light up the night with this dance party on ice and be awed by the magic of fire on ice and the athleticism and artistry of figure skating.

Pop-up performances are weather-dependent.

"Strawbery Banke Museum is delighted to partner once more with Douglas Webster and Ice Dance International," said Linnea Grim, President and CEO, Thomas W. Haas Endowed Chair. "Both the Currier & Ives Vintage Christmas Skaters at Candlelight Stroll and the pop-up performances by world-class talent provide opportunities for the community to gather on the campus. The historic charm of the Museum provides a picturesque backdrop and invites visitors to witness the magic of ice dance, fostering a connection between the past and present."

“Since its inception, one of the main goals of Labrie Family Skate at Puddle Dock Pond has been to create a place to gather and draw people together in the winter months,” said Douglas Webster, Ice Dance International’s Founder. These free ice shows featuring world-class skating talent are a great example of what we can do to give back and make that happen—and inspire young and old to get out and skate here at one of the most beautiful rinks in the world this season.”

For more information, updates on the pop-up performances, and Currier and Ives Vintage Christmas Skater performances at Candlelight Stroll, visit StrawberyBanke.org.

About Strawbery Banke Museum:

Strawbery Banke Museum, in the heart of downtown Portsmouth, NH, is a 10-acre history museum interpreting history, from Indigenous history to the present day, through historical houses on their original foundations, heirloom gardens, traditional crafts, and costumed roleplayers who share the stories of the families who lived in the authentic waterfront neighborhood of Puddle Dock. The Museum welcomes visitors, members, and schoolchildren for daily programs, exhibits, skating, and signature special events throughout the year. Strawbery Banke Museum is funded in part by grants from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation; the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts & National Endowment for the Arts; the Institute of Museum and Library Services; the National Endowment for the Humanities: Democracy Demands Wisdom; The New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. For more information and a complete calendar of events, please visit StrawberyBanke.org.

About Ice Dance International:

Established in 2014 as a non-profit organization based in Kittery, Maine, Ice Dance International (IDI) has built its local, US, and global image through live and virtual performances and educational 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 choreographers including World, Olympic, and National champions, IDI brings ice dance performances of the highest caliber to communities across the United States. To learn more about Ice Dance International, the company’s winter residency at Strawbery Banke, and the programs the company is doing across New England visit, IceDanceInternational.org.