



QUEEN OF SOUL ARETHA FRANKLIN HEADLINES NIGHT OF FASHION AND OLYMPIC GOLD AT SEARS CENTRE ARENA ON SEPTEMBER 24

FRANKLIN TO PERFORM LIVE IN A SPECTACULAR SHOW WITH OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST SARAH HUGHES AND AMERICA'S FIRST WORLD CHAMPION ICE DANCING DUO MERYL DAVIS AND CHARLIE WHITE

TICKETS GO ON-SALE MONDAY, AUGUST 1 AT 10AM

Aretha Franklin, the Queen of Soul will perform numbers from her new hit album "A Woman Falling Out of Love" live in a one-night only spectacular complete with Olympic and world-class figure skaters and top-of-the-line fashion designers to kick off the 2011-2012 Pandora NBC Skating Series with Fashion on Ice. Franklin will close the show with her all-time greatest hit "Respect." Joining Franklin in this extravaganza are Olympic gold medalist Sarah Hughes and newly crowned world ice dancing champions Meryl Davis and Charlie White – America's first world champions in the history of the sport.

Fashion on Ice promises to be one of the most exciting and unique fashion shows, creating a catwalk on ice. Skaters will perform specially choreographed numbers to one of Franklin's biggest hits along with some songs from her new album, sung live, in costumes designed specifically for the show by top designers Betsey Johnson and Gilles Mendel of J. Mendel. All of these spectacular stars will come together on September 24 at the Sears Centre Arena in Hoffman Estates, Ill., which will be taped for an NBC broadcast in November.

Aretha Franklin, known for her powerful vocals and top-selling records, is one of the most recognizable names in the entertainment world. Throughout her more than 40-year-long career, Franklin has won 18 Grammy Awards—including eight consecutive Best Female R&B Vocal Performance wins—and has 20 No. 1 hits to her name. In 1987, she became the first woman to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Songs such as "Respect" (1967) and "Bridge Over Troubled Water" (1970) launched Franklin into superstardom and earned her the title "The Queen of Soul." In May 2011, Franklin released her 38th studio album titled "A Woman Falling Out of Love" under her own record label, Aretha's Records. The current single off her album is titled "How Long I've Been Waiting."

The skaters are bringing impressive star power as well. In addition to Sarah Hughes, Meryl Davis and Charlie White, other confirmed skaters for the evening are 2010 Olympic bronze medalist Joannie Rochette, 2006 Olympic silver medalist Sasha Cohen, 2010 U.S. Olympians Johnny Weir and Jeremy Abbott, reigning U.S. champions Ryan Bradley and Alissa Czisny, and the current national pewter medalists Mary Beth Marley and Rockne Brubaker.

Each of the elite athletes will perform new routines while dressed by some of the top fashion designers of today. Betsey Johnson and Gilles Mendel will create new and original pieces for each skater to show off during each number, creating a fashion on ice. Johnson, known for her whimsical styles and for performing cartwheels at her fashion shows, was elected into the Fashion Hall of Fame in 2002. Known for his couture sensibilities and commitment to luxury, designer Gilles Mendel maintains the highest level of craftsmanship when creating timeless designs with a modern twist for J. Mendel.

Joining the already star-studded guest list will be Olympic gold medalist Tara Lipinski and supermodel Karolina Kurkova, ready to bring their enthusiasm about figure skating and fashion to the evening. Lipinski, the 1998 Olympic champion, and Kurkova, a former Victoria's Secret Angel, will lead the night as the show's hosts.

Tickets at \$45, \$65, and \$152 will be available starting Monday, August 1 at 10am via www.SearsCentre.com, by phone at 1-888-SEARSTIX (732-7784), and at the Sears Centre Arena Box Office. Group tickets are available by calling 847-649-2368. Luxury Suites are available by calling 847-649-2219.

Global Spectrum (global-spectrum.com) is the fastest growing firm in the public assembly facility management field with more than 85 facilities throughout the United States and Canada. The Philadelphia-based company is part of one of the world's largest sports and entertainment companies, Comcast-Spectacor, which also owns the Philadelphia Flyers of the National Hockey League, the Philadelphia 76ers of the National Basketball Association, Flyers Skate Zone, a series of community ice skating rinks, Ovations Food Services, a food and beverage services provider, New Era Tickets, a full-service ticketing and marketing product for public assembly facilities, and Front Row Marketing Services, a commercial rights sales company and Paciolan, the leading provider of venue establishment ticketing, fundraising and marketing technology solutions. In a partnership with Disson Skating, Comcast-Spectacor annually produces 8 nationally televised figure skating spectacles as a part of the Pandora NBC Skating series.

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