

Bernadette Flynn-O' Kane



Some fact's at first...

- When and where were you born?

born 01.08.1979 in Dublin, Ireland.

- Your height?

5" 6'

- Your favourite music?

Most chart music, anything with a beat.

- Your favourite movie?

"Moulin Rouge"

- Your favourite city / place in the world, you have visited so far?

So many - couldn't pick one.

Shanghai - China

Cape Town - South Africa

Japan

- What's the most treasured moment in your life, so far?

I think it will definitely be in a couple of months - 28th December. My wedding Day to Damien.



My career has been treasured memories to date: Oscar's, Point Dublin 1996, Rehearsals, Hyde Park, so so many.

About your family...

- Please tell us something about your parents - what do they do for their living? Do they dance as well?

Dad's name is Andy Flynn.

Mum's name is Mary Flynn.

My parents own a Pub and B+B in Tipperary.

Neither dance but mum always loved it.

- Do you have any brothers or sisters? How old are they? Do they dance, too? What are their jobs?

1 Brother Andrew = Arts Director in Galway.

(3 Sisters) Elaine eldest = Accountant's partner in her Company.

Twins Maria and Catriona aged 19 - Collage.

They don't dance, all my sisters have done a little down the years.

- Is it hard for you, to be apart from your family for such a long time while touring? How often are you able to travel back home again?

It's probably the hardest thing about touring. I have a very close Family relationship and miss it terribly when away.

- What do your family think of your job as a Show Dancer? Are they proud of you? How often do they visit you on tour and watch you dancing the Show?

Each one of them is very proud of everything I have achieved in my dancing career. They have supported and followed me from the start and also love what I do. They've all been there esp. for the biggest shows.

About your beginnings...

- Why did you start Irish Dancing and when? Who taught you during all the time?

My Mum sent me to Irish Dance lessons when I was four as she always had a great interest.

My teachers name was Dorian Browne.

- How old have you been at your first competition?

My first open competition was at 5.

My first big competition was at 7.

- Did you attend many championships as a competition dancer? Have you won?

Yes, I couldn't begin to count the number of competition I have attended and yes I've won a fair share of competitions.

- What was it like to do competitions?

a lot of pressure.

- What do you like more – Show Dancing or doing competitions? Why?

I prefer show dancing. I love the freedom you have while performing.

- Did you have any major injuries because of Irish Dancing?

Nothing seriously bad. I broke a bone in my foot, a couple of ligament sprains.

- Did you learn other kinds of dance?

No, but I would have loved to.

Becoming a Show Dancer...

- Why did you want to join LotD?

It was every Irish Dancers dream to be part of a mayor professional dance show.

- How did you get know of the auditions and how did you apply?

My Irish Dance teacher was approached by Marie Duffy for me to attend an audition for a new show by Michael Flatley.

- Do you remember what you have thought or felt during your auditions?

It was magic to be part of auditions. Very nerve wrecking, hard work.

- When did you do your auditions and do you have to wait a long time until they called you to join the Show?

I did my auditions in February.

- How old have you been when you joined LotD?

16 years old.



- Please describe your first day, you trained with LotD – do you remember what you have felt or thought? Have you been nervous or afraid not to meet the requirements?

Yes, I was very nervous, very afraid. It was something very new and different and I was very young, training was very hard work but very special.



- Did you know some of the other troupe members before you joined?

Not really. I knew them from competitions. They were all amazing competition Dancers.

- What was the hardest part to learn?

Everything was hard, it was completely different to what we were used to. Using our arms while dancing, was probably the strangest thing. But the steps were difficulty to pick up back then. A lot of sore legs.

Getting the Leading Part...



- Did you have to do auditions for your leading part, or did it just happen?

Well, I was kind of picked out but yes, I was still under audition everyday. It wasn't just given to me, I had to work for lead and to prove myself.

- When did you start practising the leading part and who taught you to dance the good girl? How long did it take, to learn the leading part?

It was pretty much back at the start. I did not learn from anyone. I came up with ideas, Marie came up with ideas and we worked on it together to develop the character of Saoirse.

- What was the hardest part to learn as a leading lady?

To grow into the character.



- Did you have the chance to do your own choreography for your solo parts?

Yes, Lord of the Dance are good to let you develop and put some of your own ideas into your solo parts. Everything is monitored and checked.

- Do you remember your feelings while doing the lead the very first time? Have you been nervous?

It's a moment I'll never really forget, one I always have forever. Amazing is all I can say and yes, I was terrified.

- Have you ever thought of doing the Bad Girl in the Show?

Not really. I've played my part of good girl for too long. It would be strange.

- Who are your favourite dance partners when you are doing the lead?

It has been an honour to dance with Michael Flatley. I love performing with Damien.



Through the years with LotD / FoF...

- Please describe your course of day while touring!

At the moment our touring life contains a lot of travelling so we spend most of our day on the bus. Rehearse for about 2 hours, have dinner and get ready for our performance.



- Do you like travelling to all those places around the world or is it hard work?

I love experiencing new cultures and seeing so many different and exciting countries. Yes, it can be hard.

- How much do you have to practice while touring?

2 – 3 hours a day.

- What is your memorable moment with LotD / FoF?

Opening in the Point

Oscars

Feet of Flames Hyde Park.



- Which Show do you personally like more – LotD or FoF? Why?

I love being part of them both.

- What is your favourite dance in LotD and in FoF (in Hard-/Softshoes) as a Lead Dancer and as a chorus dancer?

Stolen Kiss - Lord of the Dance

Dance of Love - Feet of Flames - Hyde Park

Girls Warriors - Feet of Flames

- Are you nervous before going on stage?

Not so much anymore, we have so many shows, but always nerves before a big event.

- Have you ever been with another Troupe?

No

- Is there a special diet, you have to follow?

No, just eat well.

Costumes & other equipment...

- Is it hard to handle the different sizes of stage in different cities?

Yes, sometimes it can be a lot of work to cut down, but now it comes easily and every one and the troupe can adapt well to any size, but normally we prefer a big stage.

- How many different wigs / hair pieces do you have? How often do you get new ones?

I couldn't begin to count!

- Have you ever danced a show without a wig / hair piece?

Yes, at the Lord of the Dance video it was my own hair.



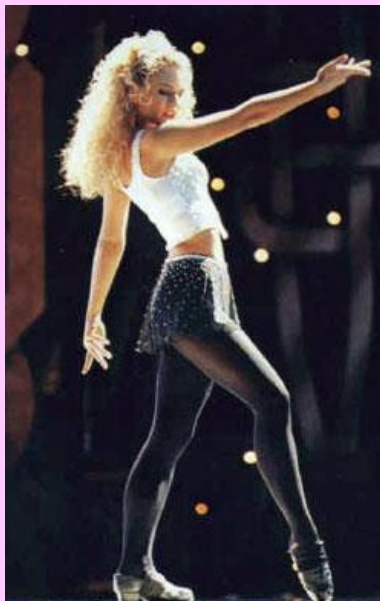
- How long does it take to get ready before the show (doing the make-up, hair, getting dressed and to warm up)?

about an hour and half.

- What is your favourite costume (in LotD / FoF - past and present)?

Stolen Kiss dress

Dance of Love costume



- What are your favourite shoes to dance with?

Fay's heavy shoes.

- Your Shoe size?

5 ½

- How often do you need new shoes (heavies and lights)? Do you have a special trick to break in new Heavies?

I still have my heavies after a few years, the older the better.

I get a new pair light every couple of months.

nowadays & in the future...

- Who do you most admire in the world of Irish Dancing and why?

I have a lot of respect for Michael F. for creating something that has been my life for the last 10 years. And given us all a chance to experience what we love so much.

- What do the dancers do, when they get a long tour-breaks? Staying at home or doing another job - maybe dancing in one of the other shows or joining another LotD-Troupe in the meanwhile?

Everyone likes to experience some normal living. Catch up with family life and friends.

- How long do you plan to stay with LotD? Hopefully a long time!

Hopefully!!!



- What are your (dancing and non-dancing) plans for your future?

Hopefully to keep on dancing



- Is there something you want to tell your fans, who are visiting www.lordofthedance.at and <http://biography.lordofthedance.at> ?

I would just like to thank everyone for their support and unbelievable interest over the last 10 years. It has kept each and everyone of us going and it's great to know how much you love what we've been doing. Thank you so much again!

