

Darina White



Some fact's at first...

- When and where were you born?

October 31st 1977, Wimbledon, England.

- Your height?

5 ft 4".

- What is your favourite food?

Italian, Seafood and Japanese.

- Your favourite music?

Indie Rock

- Your favourite movie?

Shawshank Redemption

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

Cape Town, South Africa.

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

Winning the World Championships.

About your family...

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

Neither of my parents danced.

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

I have one older sister and 2 brothers (one older and one younger).

- 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 can be hard sometimes, especially when I danced in Las Vegas, but it's easier in Troupe 1 as I get home more often.



- 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?

All my family are very proud of me and come and see me when they can, depending on where I am.

- There are a few relationships within the troupe – do you have a boyfriend?

I am engaged to Brian Corrigan who is also in Troupe 1. We have been going out for 4 ½ years and are getting married in June 2007.



About your beginnings...

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

My mother is Irish and wanted me to learn to dance. I began when I was 5. I have been with 3 separate schools. I have danced for the Aaron Crosbie School since I was 15.

- How old have you been at your first competition?

Probably about 8.

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

I have danced in hundreds of competitions and won nearly all of the major championships including the World Championships and the All Ireland Championships.

- What was it like to do competitions?

It was hard work and stressful but doing well made it all worthwhile. It was good to make friends with the other competitors.

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

Both are totally different and good in different ways. But it is great to get paid for something you love doing.



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

I tore the ligaments around my right ankle and was off work for 2 months.

- Did you learn other kinds of dance?

No.

Becoming a Show Dancer...

- Have you been with another Irish Dance Show, before you joined LotD?

Yes, Riverdance and Rhythms of the Celts.

- Why did you change?

I really wanted to be in Lord of the Dance because I had lots of friends in the show, and because I really liked the Show.



- Have you seen the Show before you applied for auditions for LotD?

Yes.

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

I didn't audition.

- When did you join LotD? How old have you been?

I did Feet of Flames initially and was then sent to Troupe 3 in Las Vegas. I joined Feet of Flames in May 2000.

- Have you been called directly to T1 or did you have some training before?

I did Feet of Flames for 7 months, was in Troupe 3 in Las Vegas for 3 ½ years and was then sent to Troupe 1.

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

Yes, I knew quite a few of Feet of Flames before I joined and had met many of Troupe 3 and Troupe 1 before I joined them.



- Please describe the feeling, to join an already existing troupe. Were you nervous or afraid not to meet the requirements?

I was a little nervous but everyone made me really welcome.

- What was the hardest part to learn?

Encore (Planet Ireland).



Through the years with LotD / FoF...

- Please describe your course of day while touring!

Get up 8:00, Have Breakfast. On bus for about 5 hours. Have an hour or 2 to relax and get ready in the hotel. Go to work about 4:30. Rehearse for 2 hours and line up the Show. Have dinner at 6:00. Get ready for show. Dance Show until about 9:30, Go back to hotel, eat and watch DVD's.

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

I love travelling but it can be hard work and very tiring.

- How much do you have to practice while touring?

We rehearse most days.

- What is your memorable moment with LotD / FoF?

Budapest 2000 with Feet of Flames.

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

I like both the same.

- What is your favourite dance in LotD and in FoF (in Hard-/Softshoes)?

Feet of Flames: Fire Dance, Girls Warriors

Lord of the Dance: The Opening, Encore



- How do you prepare for a show?

I make sure I stretch and warm up properly.

- Are you nervous before going on stage?

Not any more. I used to be.

- Have you ever been with another Troupe? If so – when was it?

Feet of Flames and Troupe 3 – Las Vegas. The Show in Las Vegas closed down and I was then sent to Troupe 1.

- Have you ever thought of doing one of the leading parts?

I played the Spirit on a few occasions in Troupe 3, when Ashling Dunney was sick.

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

No.

- How do you get so much energy for a show?

Eat well and get lots of sleep.

Costumes & other equipment...

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

No, we are used to it mostly. But very small stages sometimes present problems.

- How many different wigs / hair pieces do you have?

I have 3.

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

Yes, but I don't often because I have fine hair.

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

About on hour.

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

Feet of Flames – Girls Warriors.

Lord of the Dance – Finale Costume.



- What are your favourite shoes to dance with?

Antonio Pacelli and Halmor

- Your shoe size?

5

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

New heavies once a year.

New soft shoes about 4 times a year.

nowadays & in the future...

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

Michael Flatley.

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

I hope to teach Irish Dancing in the future, as it is something really enjoy doing.

