

Fiona Gallagher



Some fact's at first...

- When and where were you born?

I was born on the 24.06.1981 in Leeds, England.

- Your height?

5ft 2"

- What is your favourite food?

Beans on toast.

- Your favourite music?

R'n'B and Hip Hop

- Your favourite movie?

„Dirty Dancing“

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

Berlin - Germany,

Shaighai - China,

Porto - Portugal.

- Do you have any hidden talents, we don't know about?

I play the Tin Whistle.

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

My Graduation - October 02.

I graduated from Truty College, Dublin with an Batchelor of Education Degree.



About your family...

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

Both my parents are keen Step Dancers.

My mum competed as a child and encouraged me to dance. She is currently working as a nurse in our local hospital.

My dad is a fisherman.

- 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 younger brother, Ciaran. He is 21.

He danced when he was younger but gave it up to further his football.

He is a plumber.

- 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?

I become very homesick on tour. I miss my friends and family a lot. We chat every day via text or phone calls.

Usually we are apart 8 weeks at a time sometimes longer.

- 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?

My family are very proud of me. They think I'm very lucky to dance in the Show.

They come to see me quite often, as they just love to see me dance on stage.



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

I have a boyfriend, but he lives at home in Donegal, Ireland.

About your beginnings...

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

I began dancing at the age of 3. I was taught by Danny McCafferty, who died very young, and continued to be taught by his sister Annemarie McCafferty, until I was 21.

- How old have you been at your first competition?

3 ½

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

I travelled all over the world to attend Championships. I hold a few titles, which include Ulster Champion (3 times) British National and Great Britian Champion, American Champion and I hold 10 World Championships medals, including 2nd place.

- What was it like to do competitions?

It was difficult and often stressful, but I enjoyed them and met loads of lovely people.

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

Show dancing.

It's more rewarding, as you are praised for dancing.



- What is – in your opinion – the most important difference between Show dancing and competitions?

Less pressure with show dancing as it is so much more enjoyable and you also get paid.

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

I tore my ligaments in my left leg, which took months to heal, but thankfully I made a full recovery.

- Did you learn other kinds of dance?

No.

Becoming a Show Dancer...

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

I was with Riverdance and several smaller Irish Dance productions.

- Why did you chance?

It's the best Show you could dance in.

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

Yes – I saw it in Dublin, Ireland. It was amazing.

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

Very nervous. It was stressful as I wanted to dance my best.

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

I auditioned last year in June and 3 days later started rehearsals.



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

June 04. I am here just over a year!

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

I rehearsed with the "Celtic Tiger" troupe before I joined Troupe 1.

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

Yes, the Irish Dance world is very small, so everyone knows of everyone.



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

You are nervous that you'll fit in and make friends, but Troupe 1 is very welcoming and make it very easy.

- Please describe the first day with your new troupe?

It was a very short day. We rehearsed on stage, I met everyone. Got fitted for my costumes, and got shown around the set, it was very surreal.

- What was the hardest part to learn?

Encore. The rhythms are tricky to begin with, but practise makes perfect.

- How much time did you get to learn your routines, until you first danced on stage with LotD? What was the first part you were allowed to dance? When was it?

I danced my first number - Cry of the Celts - on my 1st night of joining.

Through the years with LotD / FoF...

- Please describe your course of day while touring!

We have very long days. We travel long distances and sleep lots!

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

I love it!

- How much do you have to practice while touring?

Every day we spend up to 2 ½ hours rehearsing.

- What is your memorable moment with LotD / FoF?

Every show is memorable. But my favourite is when Michael Flatley joined us on stage in China.



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

Lord of the Dance. We are more of a family.

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

Couples - Soft Shoes!

- How do you prepare for a show?

Eat well, sleep well, warm up, exercise, swim and stretch out.

- Are you nervous before going on stage?

Yes.

- Have you ever been with another Troupe?

No.

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

Yes, I would love to dance as lead.

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

Eat little often.

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

It comes from adrenaline and the encouragement of the audience.

Costumes & other equipment...

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

Sometime, but generally it's okay.

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

I have four – two curly and two straight. On average we got a new one each tour.



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

No.

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

One hour - two.

I always try to allow 15 – 20 minutes for my warm up as it's so important.

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

Strip Jig and finale.



- What are your favourite shoes to dance with?

Soft shoes.

- Your shoe size?

2

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

Lights - every year.

Heavies - every 2 years.

I rub baby oil into the heels of the hard shoes.

nowadays & in the future...

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

Mr. Flatley – without him I wouldn't be touring the world.

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

We all go home - take holidays - work - hang out with friends and family.

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

Forever hopefully!



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

I will return to school teaching as I love it.

I probably will start up my own dance school.

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

Keep enjoying the Show and "Follow your Dreams"!

