

Giada Costenaro



Some facts at first...

- When and where were you born?

I was born the 11th of October 1986 in Aosta (Italy)

- Your height?

1.65 m

- What is your favourite food?

Italian food obviously!

- Your favourite music?

I love music. I like listening to all kinds of music. I enjoy dancing so much and I obviously love to play. Classical music is beautiful but my "big love" is Irish!

- Your favourite movie?

Titanic.

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

The Maldivé Islands are amazing. I loved New York a lot and Ireland too.

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

...Definitely joining the show. It changed my life.



About your family...

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

Mum and Dad never danced or played but they always loved music. That's why they brought me to a music school when I was 6 years old.

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

I've got a brother and a sister. They're 19 and 12 years old.

Simone used to play violin and Serena is a great cello player. They're still in school.

- 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?

Of course is hard. I call them a lot though. Mainly with skype so I'm able to talk for a longer time and I can even see them with the video. They come to see the show every time is not that far from home. They love it!



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

They are really proud of me. They see me happy doing it, which is the most important thing. They come see the show every time is close to home.

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

Yes, Thomas Cunningham.



About your beginnings...

- Why did you start playing the fiddle and when? Who taught you during all the time?

I started when I was 6 years old. Just because mum and dad thought it was a nice thing for me to learn. I was playing classical music at the time. I started with the Suzuki Method.

- Did you start your fiddling career with playing Irish music?

No, I've got a classical background. I started with Irish music straight after I seen Lord of the Dance in Milan in 1999. It was love first sight!

- If not – how did you get to start playing Irish music and when?

After seeing Lord of the Dance in Milan 1999, me and Nicoletta, came back home amazed by Irish music. Everything started like that... we tried to play tunes from the show, we went in Ireland for a summer school and we made our own little show, "LusMor duet". Our first concert was in 2001 with Liam O'Connor. Since then we never stopped playing together. We met and played with great musicians with all different styles like Mairin Fahy (first soloist from Riverdance) her brother Gerard, Cora and Breda Smyth and many others... we performed

all over Italy and even in Europe. We recorded a Cd "primo sogno" and then the audition for LotD came true in December 2006.



- Do you also play other instruments than the fiddle?

I used to play piano years ago.

Becoming a "Show Fiddler"...

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

No

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

Yes, I was 12 years old. I was in Milan.

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

I remember it so well. It was in the arena in Geneva. What I was thinking?! Just that I was really lucky being there and seeing my dream coming true.



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

Me and Nicoletta auditioned in December 2006 and we joined in February 2007.



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

It was February 2007. I was 20 years old.

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

We trained for a week.

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

Well... no... I didn't know them!

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

*Really nervous and afraid. For the different language mainly and then because it was the first experience away from home (what an experience!). Thank God Nicoletta was there also!...
...our life changed so much from a day to an other. I still can't believe it!*



What was the hardest part to learn?

I'd say "String of Fire". Its difficult playing live and moving fast at the same time.



- How much time did you get to learn your routines, until you first got on stage with LotD?

To be honest? We knew the show by heart for years. We trained for a week but we knew the routine really well anyway.

Through the years with LotD...

- Please describe your course of day while touring!

Breakfast, travelling with the bus, check in the next hotel, shower, venue, sound check, studying or exercising, catering, make-up and hair, warm up and show.

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

Its hard after few weeks you're changing places every day but I love it! If we stop for more than a day I like to go out and do some sight seeing.



- How much do you have to practice while touring?

Well, we have sound check every day so we can go through the routine while we're doing it.

- What is your memorable moment with LotD?

My first show in Lord of the Dance and performing with Feet of Flames in Taiwan (2008).

- What is your favourite part in LotD?

I can't choose!!! Obviously the fiddlers first number. Probably Cry of the Celts, Warriors, Warlords, Stolen kiss, Finale, Encore.... See??? There's too many. I can't choose. It's a brilliant show.

- Are you nervous before going on stage?

Just a little bit, we're live every night, you'll never know what could happen!



- Have you ever been with another Troupe? If so – when was it and why did you change?

I've been in Troupe 2 just for a few days when they were in Cyprus.

- Have you ever thought of dancing in addition to the fiddling?

I wish I could dance. One day I'll do it

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

You just need to watch what you eat and do some exercises to keep yourself in shape.

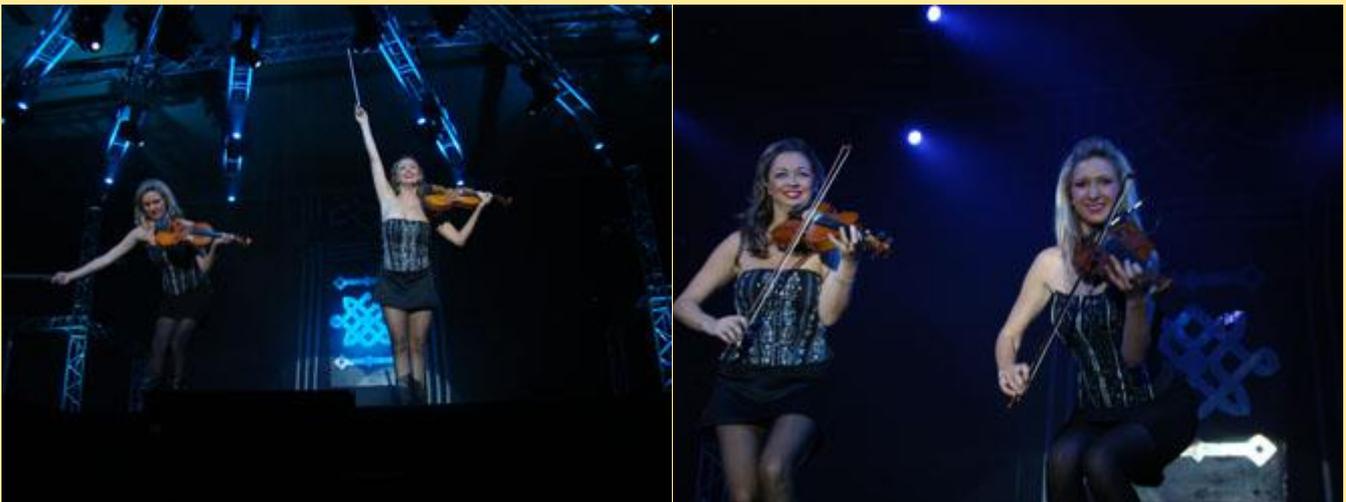
- How do you get so much energy for a show?

I'm 22. If I don't have energy now I'll never have them!

Costumes & other equipment...

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

No, I don't find it hard. We just need to practise once and we'll be ok. It doesn't make so much difference for me. Probably for dancers more than us.



- Do you use wigs / hair pieces for your performance? If so, How many different wigs / hair pieces do you have?

I do have wigs. It helps keep your hair healthy.

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

45 minutes hair and make up and 15/20 minutes warm up.

- What is your favourite costume? Do you have the chance to wear different outfits, as there are “only two of you”?

We wear 3 different costumes but my favourite is the first one. (Strings of fire)

What is your favourite brand for your fiddle and what kind of fiddle is the one, you are playing in the show?

I use an acoustic fiddle made in Italy for the first act of the show and then an electric blue and purple violin from Yamaha for the second act.

- How many fiddles do you have with you on tour?

2 on tour (acoustic and electric) and one more acoustic at home.

nowadays & in the future...

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

I love Cora Smyth and Mairead Nesbitt. Because is thanks to them that I'm here now. When I seen them 10 years ago I definitely knew what I wanted to do in my future.



- What do you do, when you get a long tour-break?

Relaxing, spend time with my family and friends. And I study for my university... I always try to do some exams when I'm at home.

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

I never plan things in my life. I live day by day. I know I'll stay as much as I can, if I'm still enjoying why leave??!?

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

Just a big thanks for all the lovely support..... And always follow your dreams!!!!