

# Helen Egan



## Some fact's at first...

- When and where were you born?

25/08/79 in Dublin, Ireland.

- Your height?

4 foot 9 inches.

- What is your favourite food?

Cabbage and spuds. I love vegetables.

- Your favourite music?

Disney Classics.

- Your favourite movie?

„How to loose a guy in 10 Days“ / „Sweet home Alabama“

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

New York.

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

Not a bad hip-hop dancer.

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

Performing in Madison Square Garden in New York,  
Also performing in Stormont Castle in Northern Ireland.

### About your family...

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

My Mam was a very popular Irish Dancer. She danced for many famous people when she was young.

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

I have 1 sister, 2 brothers. My sister Irish danced and Modern danced when she was young. My older brother loves football.

- 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?

Yes, I miss them very much. I get home about every 2 months, depends how long a tour lasts.

- 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?

They think it's a fantastic job and are very proud of me. They don't get to visit that often. But when they do, they love the Show.

## About your beginnings...

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

I started Irish Dancing when I was four, I danced for about a year. Then I started disco dancing and stuck with that.

- How old have you been at your first competition?

About 11.

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

I won dance Supreme.

I won Wild Cats Competitions.

I won Dublin Competition.

- What was it like to do competitions?

It was quite nerve-wracking.

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

Show dancing - I love performing on stage.



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

Show dancing is not just about dancing it's about acting and confidence on stage.

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

No, thank God and fingers crossed I won't.

- Did you learn other kinds of dance?

I did a bit of Ballet, Jazz, Disco, Hip-Hop and Tap Dancing.

### Becoming a Show Dancer...

- Why did you want to join LotD?

It seemed to be a fantastic show with many fantastic people in it.



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

I was Modern dancing in Diggs Lane Dance Studio where Michael was rehearsing. Our Dance Group was asked to auditions.

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

I felt sick with nerves, but also very excited.

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

February or March of '96. I got a call about a week later.

- How old have you been when you joined LotD?

I was 16 when I joined the Show.



- 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?

Quite nervous, because I knew no one.

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

No.

- What was the hardest part to learn?

Having to cry real tears every night.



Getting the Leading Part...

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

I auditioned for the roll of the Little Spirit.

- Was it your idea of doing the lead or have you been suggested by somebody?

Michael, Marie Duffy came up with the idea.

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

Marie Duffy and Michael taught me.

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

Being confident on stage in front of an audience.



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

*I was very nervous. Everyone was but it was fantastic.*

- Please tell us something about the very first performance?

*It was the Point Depot June of 1996. My family where there. It was so exciting, because it was the first ever Lord Show.*

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

*I did Bad Girl in rehearsals for Feet of Flames, just for the laugh with the other girls.*

*Through the years with LotD / FoF...*

- Please describe your course of day while touring!

*I get up, grab quick breakfast, get on bus and travel to next city. Get to hotel, have a shower. Get out for a walk and some fresh air and a coffee. Go to venue, go on stage for rehearse, have dinner get ready for show.*





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

I love travelling to different places.

- How much do you have to practice while touring?

We practise every day.

- What is your memorable moment with LotD / FoF?

Lord of the Dance - Opening Night, Point Depot Dublin 1996.

Feet of Flames - Madison Square Garden



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

I love both Shows.

- What is your favourite dance in LotD and in FoF?

I love my chair in Feet of Flames coming out on it at the start of the Show. Been so high up, able to see the whole arena. And it was made especially for me which was cool.

- How do you prepare for a show?

I have a routine I do every day before Show.



- Are you nervous before going on stage?

Always nervous... yes.

- Is it hard for you to do the same part every Show?

No..



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

Only Feet of Flames. And Troupe 4 for a month when they went to Taiwan.

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

I love vegetables and potatoes. I don't really have sweet tooth.

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

From vegetables and one or two cups of coffee before the show.

## Costumes & other equipment...

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

### Sometimes.

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

About ½ hour for make-up and ½ hour warm up before Show.

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

My costume at the moment that Vicky, our "Wardrobe Lady", made. Its fabulous and fits perfect.



nowadays & in the future...

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

Michael Flatley because of everything he has done for Irish Dancing. And he's a fantastic dancer and Showman.

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

No one knows what the future holds. As long as I love what I am doing I will stay with the Show.

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

I would like to work in Production.

I will definitely go back to Modern Dancing.

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

I would like to thank everyone who has come to the Show, who has travelled to so far to see it. We have had so many fabulous memories in Germany.

