

James Keegan



Some fact's at first...

- When and where were you born?

14. September 1986, Manchester, England.

- Your height?

5 ft 7

- What is your favourite food?

I like Chinese food and Italian food.

- Your favourite music?

I like all kinds of music: R'n'B and dance mainly. Oasis is my favourite band.

- Your favourite movie?

Gangster films... goodfellas, casino and the godfather

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

I loved Singapore but my favourite was Dubai. I love the weather and architecture.

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

I used to play a lot of football but that's about it!

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

Winning the World Championships in 1999 for the first time.



About your family...

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

I have 4 older sisters. The youngest is 26, who now has a dance school. My other sisters did not dance. My dad has a construction company

- 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 get home every few months, but I have 3 nieces and a nephew. I miss not seeing them growing up. I also miss my parents a lot.

- 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?

I am about to do my third English tour and so my family visit quite often. All my family are very proud of me and they love to come and watch.

About your beginnings...

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

My dancing teacher Eileen "Lally" in Manchester. I started when I was four because my sister danced and my mother made me go!

- How old have you been at your first competition?

5 years old. My first major when I was 7.

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

I attended many and yes, I had good fortune. I won every title there is, so as a dancer I am very proud of that.



- What was it like to do competitions?

It was very competitive and nerve-wracking, but I loved it. I made many friends at competitions, some are in the show now.

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

Show Dancing. The crowds are amazing and I love travelling. I still enjoyed show dancing though.

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

No, I have been very lucky.

- Did you learn other kinds of dance?

No, I was too busy with irish dancing and football.

Becoming a Show Dancer...

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

No.

- Why did you choose LotD?

I've seen most shows and think this is the best!

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

Yes, twice.



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

16 years old, I was very young and scared.

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

Directly.

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

I knew some from competitions.



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

I didn't know what the lifestyle was like, so I was a little scared, especially because I was so young. I was nervous for the first month or so, then I got settled.

- Please describe your first day with your new troupe?

I just tried to fit in and remember everyone's name. I concentrated on learning the show!

- What was the hardest part to learn?

The encore is quite tough!

- 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?

Two days after I joined I danced Warlords, it was a great buzz! It was in Nantes, France in 2003.

Getting the Leading Part...

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

I got asked to learn it and then it just happened.

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

Marie Duffy suggested it.



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

About two months. Des Bailey taught me the part in South Africa, 2004.

- What was the hardest part to learn as a lead dancer?

Everything!!

- When and where did you first stepped on stage as Lord?

Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

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

The most nervous I have ever been in my life! I was terrified.

- Who were your partners for this special show?

Katrina Heskett and Kelly Hendry. Christopher Hannon was bad guy.



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

I don't think I look mean enough!

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

My roomy Ciaran Devlin.. he's crazy

Through the years with LotD / FoF...

- Please describe your course of day while touring!

Breakfast, see the town, rehearse, do the show and then maybe go out to a bar or else, watch a film and have a bath for aching legs!!

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

It is hard work but amazing fun and a great experience.

- How much do you have to practice while touring?

Two hours a day on average.

- What is your memorable moment with LotD / FoF?

Doing lead for my family in 2004.



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

They are both great shows. I wasn't in Feet of Flames, but loved it.

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

As a lead dancer I love the opening solo, but Warlords has to be my favourite.

- How do you prepare for a show?

Perhaps get a massage and stretch for 30 minutes.

- Are you nervous before going on stage?

If the crowd is very big yes, but I think I always have nerves – they keep you on your toes!

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

Troupe 4, 2004 - 2005

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

Not really – just not too much fatty food.

Costumes & other equipment...



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

Sometimes it is difficult, but we have to be professional.

- How long does it take to get ready for the show?

About 1 hour.

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

I always liked the Lord of the Dance costumes.



- Your shoe size?

8,5

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

Every tour I get new shoes.

nowadays & in the future...

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

Nick Fallon and Des Bailey... awesome.

- What do the dancers do, when they 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?

I teach a lot or perhaps join another troupe. I'm always busy!

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

I love the show and will stay for as long as I enjoy it.

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

To teach Irish Dancing and who knows what else the future holds!

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

Nothing is impossible – If you have a dream go for it.

You have to make pain your friend! Irish Dancing should always be fun though.

