

Jennifer Hopkins



Some fact's at first...

- When and where were you born?

Dublin, Ireland on 11th December 1977.

- Your height?

5 foot 5 inches

- What is your favourite food?

My Mums Irish Stew, but I'm also partial to Thai, Chinese and Indian dishes.

- Your favourite music?

I enjoy all kinds of music from traditional Irish Country, blues, jazz, pop, classical and I especially love all the songs from musical.



Your favourite movie?

There are too many great movies to choose from but one of my favourites is "streetcar named desire" with Marlon Brando.

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

I've been to so many wonderful places that it's difficult to choose. I love San Francisco, San Diego, San Antonio, Casa Mesa, Vale, Alaska, Sardinia, Cyprus and Greece.

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

If I discover any I'll let you know!

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

The treasured moments of my life are the times I spend with family and friends and all those I love.



About your family...

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's difficult to be apart from loved ones especially when there are family occasions or celebrations that you're missing, but it makes the time spent together even more precious.

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

My family are proud of my job in the Show. My Mum and sister came to see the Show in Orlando, Florida in February 2004.



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

Yes, I do but he's not in the troupe. We've been together for 3 and a half years.

About your beginnings...

Do you also do Irish Dancing? If so – when and why did you start?

I did do irish dancing years ago. My Mum and Dad sent me to lessons in my school when I was five and I continued lessons until I was thirteen.

- Why did you start singing and when? Did you have a teacher or did you learn it by yourself? Have you visited a special school for singing?

I always enjoyed singing but it wasn't until I was nineteen that I began singing lessons. I trained with Mrs. Toni Walsh at D.I.T.s Conservatory for Music and Drama in Dublin.



- Have you ever thought of singing is such a successful show? Was it a dream of you to get into a professional singing career?

I did drama and singing in college, so it was my desire always to perform on stage.

- It's said, that the voice is the instrument, which is the hardest to learn and to handle – what do you think about that?

I think achieving a high standard of skill with any instrument takes great time, dedication and discipline. I do think that vocal training in particular takes a long time and may be the most difficult instrument to look after especially on tour with all the travelling.

Becoming a Singer with LotD...

Have you been a singer with another Show, before you joined LotD?

Yes, I also sang with Gaelforce Dance and toured Germany and USA with them.

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

I had seen the video of the Show in the Point Theatre Dublin.

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

The auditions process is quite a nerve wracking experience regardless of what you're auditioning for!

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 in September 2002 and began a tour of the USA in January 2003.



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

I joined in January 2003 when I was 25 years of age.

Have you been called directly to T2 or did you have a kind of “training” before?

I began in Troupe 2 touring the USA and Canada.

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

No.



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

I don't think I was worried about that - I was just excited to be going to the Show and a little nervous too about the performances.

Please describe the first day with your new troupe?

To be honest I can't really remember my every first day. It was probably overwhelming with so many new people to meet and names to remember.



How much time did you get to learn your routines, until you first stepped on stage with LotD? When was your first performance as the Goddess?

I was sent the music and lyrics two months before I went on tour so I had lots of time to learn the songs and practise them. My first performance as the Goddess was in January 2003 in Green Bay, Wisconsin, USA.

Through the years with LotD...

- Please describe your course of day while touring!

Up for breakfast if I don't hit "snooze" in my alarm! Then getting all my bags down to the bus and travelling to our next destination. Usually we have a little time for ourselves before we have to go into the venue for the Show.



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

It's a fantastic opportunity to get paid to do a job that you love and to travel also. It's great to see different places and sights and to experience other cultures although sometimes when the schedule is very hectic it can be very tiring to constantly travel.

Do you still practising / work on your Songs while touring?

Of course, you have to keep the songs fresh, because every night of the show is somebody's first time to see it! It must always be the best performance you can give.



- What is your memorable moment with LotD?

I think one of the most exciting moments in my time with Lord of the Dance was performing for the former President of the United States, George Bush Senior and his wife Barbara Bush in Texas.

And then most memorable was when my Mum and sister came to see the Show in Orlando, Florida. It was really exciting for me to have my family watch me perform.

- What is your favourite song in the Show and why?

I love "Carrickfergus" because it's a song I've grown up with. It's a very beautiful song with a lovely melody and the lyrics are full of emotion.

- How do you prepare for a show? Do you do some vocal-training before going on stage?

I do a vocal warm-up before every show which includes humming and singing through scales and also through the show's songs.

- Are you nervous before going on stage?

I am always a little nervous which helps to keep me on my toes.



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

I began with Troupe 2 and worked there for two a half years. I have just come to Troupe 1 and I am really enjoying the different experiences of touring. Europe the USA is very different.

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

In order to keep well it's important to eat healthy whilst on tour. It helps to keep your energy levels charged!

nowadays & in the future...

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

I love to spend time with my family and catch up with friends. I also take a trip to Australia to spend some quality time with my boyfriend.