

## Lord of the Dance

14-06-2008

World Forum Theatre

The Hague

Leads:

Lord of the Dance: Damien o'Kane  
Saoirse: Bernadette Flynn – o'Kane  
Dark Lord: Tom Cunningham  
Morrighan: Lisa Anderson  
Little Spirit: Helen Egan  
Erin: Sally Minnear  
Fiddlers: Giada Costenaro & Nicoletta Albi

After 2 years waiting they finally came back to the Netherlands. There are new programmes. Special 10 years celebration books I think. The guy who sold the programmes told me that Damien and Bernadette would be the leads, but he wasn't completely sure... Okay, wait and see!

(we could only take photo's during the first numbers, because the security said to people they had to stop making pictures, but a big Thanks! to Yvonne for making the pictures ☺ )

### Cry of the Celts:

A few little moments we could see and of course hear the girls coming up the stage. And then, the torches, there are the guys. Brendan and Thomas M. came up first, When all the boys were on stage, Conor and David were at the front. The music started, and there was Helen.

The other girls on stage were: Laura, Aisling, Sarah F, Saoirse Bernadette, Claire R, Ciara Sexton and Lisa. The 4 girls who joined the others were Cara, Sarah R, Colette and Nicole.

Bernadette is wearing another costume than all the other girls wear. You can see more clearly that she is the leaddancer ☺. The 3 girls before the Lord came up were Laura, Bernadette and Lisa... Hmm, maybe Lisa as Morrighan then?

Damien came up for an amazing solo. It was perfect. Didn't see any mistakes. Just full of energy. When the troupe came up, I saw a few new people.



Cherie Butler from T2 is also with T1 for the shows in the Netherlands, and Mirella Juhasz from Budapest. On the left side from Damien you can see Sarah Frances Smith. On the other side, that's Cherie. I haven't seen Fiona McCafferty, maybe she left the show, I don't know. Chris, Paul and Brendan are dancing, Tom as Dark Lord?



It looked to me like they changed a few little pieces of the troupedance. I think the little break was good for the dancers, enough energy, no mistakes at all.



**Erin the Goddess:**

Sally Minnear came up in the darkness. A little problem with the light. Sometimes we couldn't see her, and we could see other parts of the stage. You could hear that she was singing live. Suil a Ruin is always beautiful.



**Celtic Dream:**

Lights on, Louise as wind up doll and of course Helen. They changed the whole part. All the movements are different. When the other girls came up, I didn't see Lisa, so more chance she will be the Morrighan. Mirella Juhasz is a good dancer. Bernadette waited at the left side of the stage, and she wore a beautiful new dress. I haven't seen it before, and it looked very nice. The colour is something between white and yellow, but with a little bit gold.

She danced an amazing solo. Long movements, quite slowly, but that slowly dancing looked very beautiful.



She disappeared after that between her dancers. The Freestyle part was nice, except that you could see they just changed places. One girl changed place with another girl and danced back to their first place, instead of dancing like from one side of the stage to the other.

### **Warriors:**

Lights on and off all around the stage, one light in the middle, and there was Tom Cunningham waiting for doing his openingsolo. He looked so angry and scary, but he did a strong solo. That means Hell's Kitchen and the Duel will be more than amazing!

When the other guys came up with David as one of the 2 leading guys, they looked so angry. You could feel a sort of Whoooooow feeling through the audience.

Maybe someone can help me, but I think Tom's costume was also a little bit different. More glittering on his trousers.

### **Gypsy:**

Looking to us, upside down, Lisa Anderson. New for me, a Morrighan without dark hair. She's good! Very strong and powerful solo. Nice movements, fast, but nice to see.

Her dress looks like it is one of the old ones. She used the special buildings on stage for her dance, but sometimes I was a bit afraid because I thought she would fall down on the stage.

But everything ended like she begon, sort of split, and looking upside down to us.

### **Strings of Fire:**

Giada and Nicoletta....Finally! Hope to meet them after the show. I think (but I'm not 100% sure) that they played live. It sounds nice, and they made a big party of it. Giada did some sort of Maird Nesbitt kick from FOF Hyde Park ☺. They got an enourmous applause and a few people did a standing ovation. They deserved it!

### **Breakout:**

Sarah Frances Smith in a blue dress at the front. Bernie came up, did a beautiful solo. She's really the leading lady when you see them dancing. But it still looks a bit stupid and strange, that some girls do a little turn around, and some girls doesn't do it. They are looking at each other, and it just looks weird. When Lisa came up, at a few seconds, all the girls looked angry instead of nice. Lisa and Bernadette are very good together. An amazing Irish Dance fight or something like that...:P.. And then, dresses went everywhere. Lisa looked shocked. Do they have new, how you do call it, hotpants kind of things ? Bernadette has one with a lot of glittering. I don't like it that I don't have more pictures. The new choreography is very nice to

see. They change places many times. Some girls are going to another place for about 4 or 5 times. But they practised it a lot times, because the steps are exactly together.

### **Warlords:**

There are the boys... Damien flirting with Bernadette, they are really a couple. You can see it. He leads the guys very good. They are giving the best of themselves. Damien asked support from the audience, he got it. Always easy to have some very very very big fans in the audience. When they did the last steps, the reaction from the spectators was louder, and louder, and louder. And a big wooooooooooooo at the end.

### **Erin the Goddess:**

What can I say, amazing voice, some people in the audience with tears in their eyes.

### **Lord of the Dance:**

New costumes for the boys here, not sure. Beautiful part of Lisa and Bernadette. Paul and Geoff danced with Lisa, Thomas Martin and Ronan with Bernadette. Everybody who said Ronan is a good dancer, is right, would like to see him as (maybe) Lord in the show.

Again a powerful, strong solo from Damien. The last part...Party! The audience clapping and cheering, dancers giving the best of themselves.

Why does it always go too fast, the break is too soon !

### **Dangerous Game:**

After Helen played her song, Tom and his assistant Owen came up. I heard that Owen plays the Dark Lord sometimes, and I hope I can see him as lead once. He must be so good. Helen was running all over the stage to get her flute back, but she didn't get it.

The other bad guys came up: Brendan, Conor, Ronan, Denis and Paul. I was surprised Helen didn't broke an arm or a leg or another part of her body. They were so mean to her.

Good for Helen, Damien came back. He had (of course) also his good guys: Geoff, James, Chris, Thomas, Gavin and Graham.

### **Hells Kitchen:**

I don't know anymore who were the 2 guys making the noise with their hands on the stage. The little break after the tour through the south-eastern part of Europe was good for the dancers. It looks they have much more energy. All the steps perfectly on time. They looked so angry all together. Good for Helen she came back again to stop the fight.

### **Spirits Lament:**

You can't see that Helen is playing it. It looks so realistic. She is so happy when Damien gave her flute back. But then.....

### **Fiery Nights:**

There was Lisa again. She doesn't have to say a word, you can see what she wants, Damien and nobody else. On the other side... There's Bernadette, and she would like to have him also. Lisa did a good solo. Lots of different steps, using the whole stage. She's a good Morrighan. Tom came back, did a few steps with her, and they danced off the stage together.

The 4 couples were: Left front, Sarah Frances and Liam, Left behind, Gavin and Louise. At the right side of the stage at the front Ciara Sexton and Geoff, and behind them Cherie and Brendan. Ciara Sexton is a very

good dancer, she's a (I think) 4 times world champion, she's amazing. Very young, but so good. I hope she will be a leaddancer in the future. She as Morrighan and Sarah Lennon as Saoirse, that would be lovely to see.

### **The Lament:**

Hope to see Giada and Nicoletta much more times. They know each other so well, and you can hear that in their music. It's just beautiful. Eyes closed, and listening.

### **Siamsa:**

Always a big change from the sad and slow Lament till a happy and fast Siamsa. Ciara Sexton, Graham, Aisling, Roisin and David in pink, in a sort of mix between orange and pink Nicole and Sarah L, orange were Thomas and Damon, green Ronan, Cara, Mirella and Denis. And finally in yellow Chris, Owen and Claire R. Constantly yelling, the dancers and the audience ;). Good reaction from the audience in this number. You could see the dancers liked that they got a reaction.

### **Erin the Goddess:**

Sally came back. I don't remember which song she was singing, but it was again amazing. I hope she will stay in the troupe after her marriage.

### **Stolen Kiss:**

Again new clothes, a beautiful new top and a black shirt. It looks a little bit like her costume from her special solo in the FOF 1998 show in Hyde park. I've added a picture from Planet Ireland in this report, you can see the new clothes there. Bernadette has so much experience in dancing in the show, no mistakes, a perfect solo. First Ciara Sexton, Sarah L, Stephanie and ??? joined Bernadette. Then Cherie, Louise, Laura and Roisin also danced. That sort of circle around Bernie before Damien came up again is nice to see. Very slow dancing, but that makes it so nice to see.

Many people have said it before, I know, but Bernie and Damien are a dreamcouple together. So perfect together. Although Lisa is good as a sort of break up. Damien danced with her, but you could see he didn't liked it. So he left her alone, and took his Bernie back in his arms.

### **Nightmare:**

Lisa said to David what she wanted, and David and Chris captured Damien. I don't know who were the other dancers on stage. Again a few changes in the choreography. Can't describe it, you have to see it. Damien and Tom danced so many shows together as Lord and Dark Lord that they kind of know what they can expect from each other. Tom is really angry. David and Chris took Damien on top of the stairs. Tom's solo seemed a bit like the solo from Daire Nolan in FOF Hyde Park. More original, nice to see. Then, a big boom, and Tom got his Victory, or he thinks he have??

### **Duel:**

Because there is Helen again, lots and lots of smoke, Damien is back!. The duel was brilliant. Helen went off the stage as fast as she could, because an amazing duel would begin soon. They used the whole stage. Lots of high jumps, clicks back and front from both of them. Wish I could dance like that. Damien danced faster, and faster, and faster, a big boom again, and Tom was gone.

### **Victory:**

There was Helen again. She got a big hug from Damien, but had to leave him, because his Bernadette was there again. The monks came up, Bernadette and Damien went off the stage. Helen did her little “dance”, and Victory Dance started.

Most of the dancers were back on stage. Everybody again smiling and laughing. Always nice to have a good end of the show. The leaddancers came back. They got an enormous applause from the audience. They absolutely deserved it. Extra applause for Tom because he was an excellent dark lord. Chris is still my favourite, but Tom is very close to him.

Lights off....time for Planet Ireland

### **Planet Ireland:**

Again the dancers came back. Most of the people in the audience were standing instead of sitting and clapping along with the music. Good audience this evening. But everybody sit down again for the a capella part. Damien leads the troupe till the point that the music starts again. Good solo's. I've seen in a few clips of T2 that sometimes the Lord there doesn't dance the solo. One of the male troupedancers dance the solo. Maybe an idea for T1 ??

When the music started, some people were standing up again. I finally had my opportunity to take a picture. The security didn't saw anything. A perfect ending of an amazing evening.

Before I forgot, no control of bags at the entrance of the theatre. So I could take my handbag with me, and inside my handbag there was my camera, telephone(with camera), just everything. Nice security there.

I want to thank the whole troupe for an amazing evening and I hope I can see them all back in March 2009 in Belgium. Can't wait to see you all again!

(This picture isn't good, but I had to take it fast, I was a bit afraid the security would see it)

