

Katie Martin



Some fact's at first...

- When and where were you born?

I was born in Coventry, England on the 1st of September 1980.

- Your height?

5' 7 1/2 .

- What is your favourite food?

Seafood and Pasta

- Your favourite music?

Chart music and R'and' B.

Joss Stone, maroon 5, Lucie Silvas, Kelly Clarckson, etc.

- Your favourite movie?

„Notting Hill“, „My best friends Wedding“, „Stepmom“.

Julia Roberts is my favourite actress.

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

Cape town in South Africa is my most favourite place in the whole world.

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

I have a Diploma in make up artistry for film and television.

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

My most treasured moment in the Show is dancing in Hyde Park with Feet of Flames and also performing Lead for the first time.

About your family...

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

My dad is an engineer and my mom is a nurse. My mum is also an amazing Irish Dancing teacher and was my very first teacher.

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

My brothers name is Thomas and he is 23 years old. He is also in Troupe 1.



- 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 can be hard but because we have been touring for so many years we're use to it now. We get to go home every couple of months.

- What do your family thinks 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?

My Mum and Dad are very very proud and they come and see the Show wherever they can come to. Mum crys everytime she comes to see it.

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

I have a boyfriend at home.

About your beginnings...

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

My mum is an Irish Dancing teacher so she had me dancing as soon as I could walk. My mum taught me up until I was 7, then she joined Schools with Danny Doherty and I danced for him up until I joined the Show when I was 16 years old.

- How old have you been at your first competition?

I was 4 years old.

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

I attended many many championships nationally and internationally for many years. I won many regional championships and come 4th in the All Ireland, Great Britain, National Championships and in the North American Championships.

What was it like to do competitions?

I used to get very nervous and would want to get sick after I did my dance walking back to take my bow. I did really enjoy them though.

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

Definitely Show Dancing as you can act as well as dance and plus you can use your hands.

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

Competitan dancing - dancing to win

Show dancing - dancing for yourself and for your won enjoyment.

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

I snapped all of my ligaments in my right ankle and needed to stay off the show for three months.

- Did you learn other kinds of dance?

Tap, Ballet, Modern

Becoming a Show Dancer...

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

No

- Why did you choose LotD?

Because it's the best Irish Dancing Show in the world.



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

Yes, in the Birmingham N. I. A. in 1997.

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

Very nervous and just praying that you got into the Show.

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

October 1997, and joined on the 10th January 1998.

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

I joined Troupe 1 on the 10th January 1998 and I was 16 years old

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

Did some training in London first, then went straight to Troupe 1.

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

Yes, I knew quite a lot of people.



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

Totally, I really didn't know what to expect because I had never been away from home for that long before.

- Please describe your first day with your new troupe!

It all went very quickly really because it all felt so surreal. Really enjoyed every minute of dancing in the Show anyway.

- What was the hardest part to learn?

Probably the encore.



- 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?

Second half of Celtic Dreams and Strip Jig were my first two dances. Then I was thrown into the encore last minute and had to learn it within half an hour.

Getting the Leading Part...



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

I did many auditions for years.

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

I went for the auditions myself and then I was suggested.

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

I always was in awe of Gillian Norris since the Show first came out so I learnt a lot from her, but Kelly Hendry helped me with a lot of my routines and dancing.

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

Gaining the confidence to walk on there and to rule the stage. Also perfecting and feeling comfortable with the role.



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

In Euro Disney Paris, 2 years ago.

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

I was terrified but I also loved every minute of it.

- Who were your partners for this special show?

Alice Reddin (Good girl), Connor Smith (Good Guy), Brendan McCarron (Bad Guy)

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

Yes, I would love to do good girl once maybe, but think I am a bad girl more so.

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

I enjoy doing lead with all the leads.



Through the years with LotD / FoF...

- Please describe your course of day while touring!

Usually get up around eight o'clock, have breakfast in the hotel then get on the bus and travel to the next place. When we get to the hotel then either go to the gym or into town.

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

I love travelling around the world although it is hard work.

- How much do you have to practice while touring?

Everyday for a couple of hours before the Show.

- What is your memorable moment with LotD / FoF?

Dancing for 24,000 people in Hyde Park in Feet of Flames.

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

I think that both Shows are equally fantastic, but Lord of the Dance story line is fantastic and quite magical.



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

*In Lord of the Dance, as Lead Fiery Nights, as back line couples.
In Feet of Flames Girls Warriors.*

- How do you prepare for a show?

Start make-up and hair at about 6 pm and then start warming up at about 7:15 pm.

- Are you nervous before going on stage?

Most of the time I'm nervous but also really excited.

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

I moved to troupe 4 when it first started and was there for a year and now I am back with Troupe 1.

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

You just have to eat sensibly and everything in moderation.

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

You just get yourself all energetic through your warm up.

Costumes & other equipment...



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

A bit, but we just adapt to the different sizes of stage.

- How many different wigs / hair pieces do you have?

Oh, I have loads and loads of different hair pices and I get new ones every couple of months.

- Have you ever danced a show without a wig / hair piece?

Yes, but you have to really try and make your hair big.

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

Start getting ready between 5 and 6 pm, 5 pm if I am doing lead then start warming up at around 7:15 pm.

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

I don't have favourite, I think they are all really nice.



- What are your favourite shoes to dance with?

Heavy Shoes.

- Your shoe size?

5

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

Every couple of months for light shoes and once a year for heavies.
If you put your heavy shoes in the bath it softens the leather.

nowadays & in the future...

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

Michael Flatley for the amazing achievements and success he has had.

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?

Well, I would be mainly teaching with my mum and dancing teacher and also do a part time job. I am a make-up artist too so some of that also.

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

Hopefully a long time, but already been with the company for 7 ½ years.



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

I am going to be a Dancing Teacher. Well, I already am but just need to do my teachers exam. Also I am going to be a make-up artist for film and television.

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

Thank you so much for all your support over the years and in the future.
It really keeps us all going!!!!

