

Mark Mulholland



Some fact's at first...

- When and where were you born?

9th July 1981, Belfast.

- Your height?

5''8

- What is your favourite food?

Mexican and Chinese

- Your favourite music?

Like all types of music.

- Your favourite movie?

"A few good men"

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

Cape town, South Africa

New York, U.S.A.

Vienna, Austria

Lisabon, Portugal.

About your family...

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

I have 6 brothers and 2 sisters. I am the only one who dances.



- 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?

Get home frequently, so it's fine!

- 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?

Yes, they have come loads of times.

About your beginnings...

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

Started at 5. Danced for Armstrong - Belfast.

- How old have you been at your first competition?

6 years old?

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

Yes.

- What was it like to do competitions?

Hard, but was good craic.

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

Show dancing, because you are performing instead of competing.



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

Use of arms.

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

Yes, broke my right foot and trapped nerves in both feet.

- Did you learn other kinds of dance?

No.

Becoming a Show Dancer...

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

Rhythms of the Celts, 1998-1999

- Why did you chance?

I came to Lord of the Dance, once I finished school.

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

No.

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

I was told then that I was coming to troupe one.



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

In July 1999. I was 18 years old.

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

Always Troupe 1!

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

Not really. I knew people in other Troupes, but not in Troupe 1

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

I was nervous but after a few days you fit in, no problem. Everyone is really nice.



- Please describe the first day with your new troupe!

Was in Bournemouth, England...

- What was the hardest part to learn?

Dangerous Games steps were hardest to learn.

- 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?

I learned the steps at auditions and did Warriors, Warlords and Lord of the Dance on the first night.



Through the years with LotD / FoF...

- Please describe your course of day while touring!

Get up – get on bus – got to next place – go to venue – rehearse – Show – Pub – bed.

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

I love travelling and visiting new places. Though some countries are harder tours than others.

- How much do you have to practice while touring?

Most days we rehearse.

- What is your memorable moment with LotD?

So many, don't know what to pick.

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

Lord of the Dance.

- What is your favourite dance in LotD?

My favorite is Planet Ireland.



- How do you prepare for a show?

Warm up and stretch for 20 minutes.

- Are you nervous before going on stage?

No, not any more.

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

No, just look after yourself, try and eat healthily.

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

Adrenalin and God.

Costumes & other equipment...



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

Yeah, but Bernie is very good.

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

Girls Strip Jig.

- Your shoe size?

7 ½

nowadays & in the future...

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

Damian O'Kane. He is great! Such a dancing idol.

- What do the dancers do, when they get a long tour-break?

Depends – some relax, others work part-time. I like going on holidays.

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

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

Take over the world. Be very rich.

No, seriously would like to run my own business.

