

Michael Piotrowski



Some fact's at first...

- When and where were you born?

I was born in Tychy, Poland in 1988.

- What's your full name?

Michael Carl Frances Piotrowski – at least that's how it'd go in English!

- Your height?

5'10".

- What is your favourite food?

Sushi!!!! Sushi all the way!! But I like home wokring too! I'm not too fussy when it comes to food.

- Your favourite music?

Classical would be my first choice, but I really like Pop / Rock – something with beat.

- Your favourite movie?

„Like in Heaven” (“Wie im Himmel” in German) – It’s a Danish movie (I think).

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

I’m in love with Salzburg! I also have a soft spot for a little town, Roth, in Germany 😊.



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

Well, I’m a professional clarinet player, I graduate from a music school playing it (and piano).

I started Music Uni as a Singer and I’m hoping I’ll finish it one day 😊

It’s not a hidden talent though I do everyone’s head in by singing random songs backstage 😊

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

I try to treasure and appreciate ever day of my life!

About your family...

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

I absolutely love them, they are extremely supportive and I wouldn’t be were I am right now, if it wasn’t for their help.

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

I have 3 sisters, 2 of them are musicians and the other is paintings restaurateur. They all tried dancing at some point but weren't really got into it as much as I did.

- 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 lived o my own or a while before I joined the troupe, so I'm used to being away and not seeing my family. But then of cause I got moments when I'd really want to see them again. We all got along pretty well and I enjoy spending time with my parents and sisters.

- 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?

I think they are really proud and happy for me. They've seen the Show before I've joined and they really enjoyed it, so they were thrilled when they found out I'll be touring with LotD.



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

I'm working on it -)

About your beginnings...

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

I started dancing while back, without a certified teacher first. Then I joined Anne-Marie Cunningham Dance Academy and worked with her ever since. Kevin McCormack also teaches for that school and I had a pleasure to work with him too.

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

I danced at many major championships like All Irelands, Great Britains, Worlds etc. I placed 1st four times in the row at European Championship.



- What was it like to do competitions?

It was basically everything. Starting with fun, meeting friends, travelling to new places, finishing on really hard and difficult perpetrations, long hours of practise and sometimes even injuries!!!!

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

I can't really say what I like more, cos I enjoy doing both. You can show off your abilities at competitions, being a solist and then it's fun to put a bit more character into dancing, when dancing in a show.

Every troupe member competed for long years so "competitive" dancing is kind of in our blood and sometimes me a few other dancers like to do a little step about with our feis steps, as a warm up.

It's also a great exercise.



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

You play a certain part, a role, when dancing in a Show. A bit of acting is necessary, so we could say, showdancers are also actors, cos at competitions you would just smile and look happy ☺ (Which is difficult sometimes though!)

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

Every dancer had been injured at some point. Unfortunately you can't avoid it but luckily my injuries were never too serious.

- Did you learn other kinds of dance?

I did ballet for a while but trust me, you don't want to see it.....

Becoming a Show Dancer...

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

I did Feet of Flames before joining LotD.

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

I've seen the show many times before my auditions. My friends were in it so I knew some people before I've officially joined the troupe.



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

I was very nervous... but also excited. I auditioned in London, so I arrived there a day before and stayed at my friend's place – thanks Sarah! I came to the venue a bit early so I had loads of time to warm up and calm down!

We were using dancers dressing rooms and it was almost like already being in the Show. I also pretty much humiliated myself when I kept on dancing and dancing and dancing (not paying attention to what's going on) my reel... instead of stopping after 16 bars as asked before...

I was just too stressed out... Bernadette, who led the audition had to wave her arms for me to notice I should stop... embarrassing...

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

I did my auditions in May and I got a call back in August. Those 3 months in between were the longest in my life!

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

I joined T1 straight away as I did Feet of Flames and knew some of the steps already.



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

Yeah, I knew a few people before I joined, some from competitions, some through mutual friends

- Please describe your first day with LotD – do you remember what you have felt or thought? Have you been nervous or afraid not to meet the requirements?

I was extremely excited! I couldn't wait for the line up to start. Then, I asked the dance captain if I should watch the line up down from the audience but the answer was "no, stay on the stage! You're part of the team now!"

I was delighted to hear it and that's when I recognised that it's actually happening and it's not only a dream!

- What was the hardest part to learn?

Dangerous Games.... steps are great but pretty difficult!

- 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 danced in FoF before so when I joined LotD I knew some the dances already and was ready to dance some on them on my first day. But when I was learning the dances, I had to learn them in 1 day – the steps at least. Putting steps into an actual choreo is a completely different story. Sometimes it takes weeks before you are ready to perform on stage. No one dances in the Show unprepared.



Through the years with LotD / FoF...

- Please describe your course of day while touring!

I wake up in the morning, have a breakfast and get on the bus. We travel for few hours and then check into a new hotel. I have my rehearsal gear and get back on the bus to go to the venue. Then we line up the show (so everyone knows who is doing what later on during the show) and after that we have some time to do our own stuff. Some people run around the auditorium (I personally like to train with skipping rope) other do fitness routines. Then I'd stretch and get ready for the show. After the show, back in the hotel, I'd be completely lost and wouldn't remember in which room I'm staying tonight...

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

Sometimes travelling can be really tiring and it's no fun spending 6 hours on a bus, but visiting all those exiting and beautiful places is absolutely priceless!

(Plus I have a super comfy pillow and a warm blanket on our bus, so I basically feel like travelling in my bed.)



- What is your memorable moment with LotD / FoF / CT?

Dancing on the stage with Mr Flatley. I'll never forget that!!!!

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

LotD I think,... mostly because I'm in it, but also because of the other dancers, I have a pleasure to work with.

- What is your favourite dance in LotD / FoF / CT and why?

Lord of the Dance (in LotD and FoF) - I love the music and the steps!



- How do you prepare for a show?

I do a little fitness routine and stretch.

- Are you nervous before going on stage?

No 😊 I think everyone in the troupe got over being nervous before performing.
Excited – yes! But it's a completely different feeling.

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

I wouldn't call it a diet, but you really have to eat a proper food in order to stay in shape! I'm not talking about getting fat but making sure your body gets everything it needs!

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

I am naturally hyperactive.... our lovely wardrobe ladies – Hayley and Rowena – they would know about it, haha!

Costumes & other equipment...

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

We have our own stage travelling with us so the size is usually the same, but when it happens that the stage is smaller we don't have problems with it as we line up the show every day to make sure everyone know their dancing spots and lines.

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

Not too long for boys but AGES for girls 😊

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

Red LotD Costume! But Warriors breast plate is cool too!!

- What are your favourite shoes to dance with?

I like heavies cos I enjoy "taps" but then softs are great too, as they let you jump and hop a lot.

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

I'd get a new pair every year, sometimes more often though!

Any tricks...let me know if you do 😊 my heels will appreciate it!

nowadays & in the future...

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

Mr Michael Flatley definitely. He changed the way people look at Irish dancing and by the way I wouldn't be dancing if it wasn't for him!

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

Go home and catch up with my family and friends.

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

Yes, hopefully a long time!



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

I definitely want to do my TCRG but I'm not sure what would happen next.
Non-dancing... finish my music degree.

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

I think we're really lucky to have you guys!

If you'd like to meet us after the show, come to the back door, we're all pretty friendly.

So we can have a chat and answer some more questions, if you have them!

Thank you for your support!

XX