

Stephanie McCarron



Some fact's at first...

- When and where were you born?

25 January 1982, born in Derry, North Ireland.

- Your height?

5 feet 4 inches

- What is your favourite food?

Italian Food / Crisps

- Your favourite music?

Pop

- Your favourite movie?

„Annie“, „Wizard of Oz“

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

China, Japan

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

When I danced with Michael on stage Feet of Flames.

The day I stepped on stage as gypsy.



About your family...

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

Yes, my Mum danced when she was younger. My mum is a loans officer and my dad is a baker.

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

Yes, I have one older sister and 2 older brothers. My sister danced for a while when she was younger. My sister is a hair dresser and my 2 brothers are engineers.

- 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?

Yes, it does get hard some times, because we're such a close family. We usually get home every few months for a few days or weeks.

- 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?

My family think my job as a show dancer is fantastic. They are all so proud of me and let all their friends know what I do; boasting a little but not too much of course, just proud! They try to come to see me on tour when they can, maybe two times a year.

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

Yes, I do, but not within the troupe. He's from London, we have been together for over 2 years.

About your beginnings...

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

I started dancing when I was 7, just as a hobby. My 2 dancing teachers Sharon and Patricia McCaul taught me through out the years. They were and still are good teachers and friends.

- How old have you been at your first competition?

7 years old.

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

I attended Ulster, All Ireland and World Championships.

- What was it like to do competitions?

It was good fun, meeting loads of people from all around. The big competitions made me very nervous, but I did enjoy it.

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

Show dancing, because there's no competition and you can act out how you feel, doing each part. Also all the different costumes...

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

In competition you have to have both hands by your side, whilst in the show it's all arm movements.



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

Yes, lots of sprains, broke my right foot and a fracture in which I needed an operation last year.

- Did you learn other kinds of dance?

No.

Becoming a Show Dancer...

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

No.

- Why did you choose LotD?

Because it was one of the best and it looked like fun to be in.



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

Yes, only on video though.

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

Very intimidated, there were hundreds of people there. Very, very nervous.

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

October/November 98. Went to Troupe 4 in May 99, Disney troupe.

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

I joined May 1999. I was 17 years old.

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

Went to Troupe 4, first 3 weeks rehearsals, did 6 months Disney. Then Feet of Flames was formed, after that we were brought to Troupe 1.

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

No! But I had spoken to Ciara Scott in rehearsals before we went to Troupe 4.



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

I was very nervous, but really really excited too. Troupe 4 was almost a brand new troupe, most of the people there were new into it.

- Please describe your first day with your new troupe?

Very nervous and excited. I was very quiet for the first bit, until I got to know people.

- What was the hardest part to learn?

It was all difficult, cause in competition we kept our hands by our side. In the show doing hands, face... that was a bit tricky to start with.

Encore was difficult 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?

Well, we learned steps at the auditions, then we had 3 weeks rehearsals.

My first dance was Lord of the Dance.

Getting the Leading Part...



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

Yeh! I had to audition for Marie.

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

I didn't truly thought I could do it. Marie sort of told me to try an audition.

- 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?

Over a year ago. Leighann McKenna really helped me a lot. Once you have a routine you just have to keep working at it to get it better.

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

Gypsy because it's such a long dance and you have to make it up yourself and then try to make it better all the time.

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

Bornemouth in England.

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

I was very nervous, before I went on stage. Once I was on (the stage) the nerves left me and I just really enjoyed it.

- Who were your partners for this special show?

Bernie, Michael Edwards, Chris Hannon.



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

No, I don't think I'm very elegant.

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

No one in particular, I enjoy doing it with everyone. It's so different each time.



Through the years with LotD / FoF...

- Please describe your course of day while touring!

Getting up, usually really early for bus call, having breakfast, travelling on bus for hours, get to hotel, check in, head into gym for a while, back to hotel to get ready for venue, do rehearsals for few hours, get dinner, get ready for show, dance show, come home, sometimes get food or go to pub for few drinks, go to bed – start all over again.

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

It does get tiring at times, but I do enjoy getting to see all the different places. With a normal job at home I don't really think I would ever get an opportunity like this.

- How much do you have to practice while touring?

Few hours every day.

- What is your memorable moment with LotD / FoF?

With Feet of Flames it would be Budapest / Belfast.

Budapest was huge, Belfast was all family and friends, it was amazing.

With Lord of the Dance: Just joining the Show to begin with and then getting to do gypsy.

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

I prefer Lord of the Dance but I really liked some of the dances in Feet of Flames, like Gypsy one and Girls Warriors.

I just think there's more magic in Lord of the Dance.

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

Lord of the Dance: Strip Jig

Feet of Flames: Girls Warriors

Lead: Gypsy... especially if it was a bit shorter.



- How do you prepare for a show?

Well, first I do make up, then hair, then get dressed, then warm up.

- Are you nervous before going on stage?

I still get a bit nervous, but not as much as what I used to. I get nervous when I do lead.

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

Troupe 4 - Disney 99

Feet of Flames

Troupe 1

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

No, just try to eat healthy.

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

The enjoyment of what I do is enough.



Costumes & other equipment...

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

We sometimes have to cut down dances to fit the stages.

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

I have 4 different wigs every 6 months.

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

Yes.



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

2 hours.

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

Feet of Flames – Cleopatras Spell

- What are your favourite shoes to dance with?

I am not sure - I enjoy both!

- Your shoe size?

UK 5

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

Heavies sometimes twice a year.

Lights every few months.

nowadays & in the future...

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

LeighAnn McKenna, because she has done so much and come so far she's done a fantastic job as Gypsy.

- 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?

Spend time with family and my boyfriend. I did have a job the last times I was off.

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



Hopefully for a while yet.

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

Hopefully dance for a long time yet, eventually settle down, enjoy a normal life.

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

Thanks for all the support it's really appricatid, it really rups me going.

