



ABHANN PRODUCTIONS

Presents

# Riverdance 20 YEARS

Starring

**PRINCIPAL DANCERS:**

MAGGIE DARLINGTON, LAUREN SMYTH, CHLOEY TURNER,  
STEPHEN BRENNAN, JAMES GREENAN, JASON O'NEILL

The Riverdance Irish dance troupe, musicians and singers  
and featured international soloists.

*Set Designer*

ROBERT BALLAGH

*Costume Designer*

JOAN BERGIN

*Sound Designer*

MICHAEL O'GORMAN

*Lighting Designer*

JOHN COMISKEY

*Projection Animation*

LUIS POVEDA

*Poetry Written by*

THEO DORGAN

*Orchestrations by*

NICK INGMAN and BILL WHELAN

*Press Representative*

POLK & CO.

*Executive Producer*

JULIAN ERSKINE

*Composer*

BILL WHELAN

*Producer*

MOYA DOHERTY

*Director*

JOHN McCOLGAN

# the cast

## The Riverdance Irish Dance Troupe

### Principals

Maggie Darlington, Lauren Smyth, Chloe Turner,  
Stephen Brennan, James Greenan, Jason O'Neill

### Troupe

Katie Anschuetz, Brandon Asazawa, Megan Baffa, Will Bryant, Alexander Cross,  
Julia Gats, Katie Hands, Aoife Kennedy, Zachary Klingenberg, Kelsey Latham,  
Mia Leonelli, John Lonergan, Meghan Lucey, Greg Molony, Patrick O'Mahony,  
Andrew O'Reilly, Louise O'Sullivan, Gianna Petracic

## The Riverdance Band

**Pat Mangan** — *Fiddle/Musical Director*

**Mark Alfred** — *Drums/Percussion/Bodhrán*

**Matt Bashford** — *Uilleann Pipes/Low Whistle/Tin Whistle*

**Ken Edge** — *Saxophone*

## The Riverdance Singers and Drummers

Members of the Company

## The Riverdance Baritone Soloist

Michael Everett

## The Riverdance Flamenco Soloist

Marita Martinez-Rey

## The Riverdance Russian Ensemble

Rifat Gabdulkhakov, Natia Mangan, Katrina Meske, Alexander Safonov,  
Mariia Tsuneva, Dmitriy Zolotorevskiy

## The Riverdance Tappers

Michael Everett

Tyler Knowlin

## Poetry Narrated by

John Kavanagh

ORIGINAL PRINCIPAL IRISH DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL FLATLEY

ORIGINAL CHOREOGRAPHY BY MAVIS ASCOTT, JEAN BUTLER, JOHN CAREY, BRENDAN DE GALLAI, COLIN  
DUNNE, CAROL LEAVY JOYCE, EILEEN MARTIN, PAULA NIC CIONNATH, MARIA PAGES, TARIK WINSTON

At certain performances, alternative principal performers will dance the principal roles.  
Cast and content may be subject to change without prior notice.

# scenes & musical numbers

## ACT ONE

<i>Reel Around the Sun</i> . . . . .	The Riverdance Irish Dance Male Principal & Troupe
<i>The Heart's Cry</i> . . . . .	The Riverdance Singers
<i>The Countess Cathleen</i> . . . . .	The Riverdance Female Irish Dance Principal, Troupe and Russian Folk Dancers
<i>Caoineadh Chú Chulainn (Lament)</i> . . . . .	The Riverdance Irish Piper
<i>Thunderstorm</i> . . . . .	The Riverdance Male Irish Dance Principal & Troupe
<i>Firedance</i> . . . . .	Flamenco Soloist and the Riverdance Male Irish Dance Troupe
<i>Shivna</i> . . . . .	The Russian Folk Dancers and the Riverdance Singers
<i>Slip into Spring — The Harvest</i> . . . . .	The Riverdance Musicians
<i>Riverdance</i> . . . . .	The Riverdance Irish Dance Principals & Troupe, Singers and Drummers

## ACT TWO

<i>American Wake</i> . . . . .	The Irish Dance Troupe and Riverdance Singer
<i>Heal their Hearts — Freedom</i> . . . . .	The Baritone Soloist
<i>Trading Taps</i> . . . . .	The Riverdance Male Irish Dance Principal & Male Troupe and the American Tappers
<i>Macedonian Morning/The Russian Dervish</i> . . . . .	The Riverdance Musicians & The Russian Folk Dance Troupe
<i>Andalucía</i> . . . . .	The Flamenco Soloist
<i>Anna Livia</i> . . . . .	The Riverdance Female Irish Dance Principal & Troupe
<i>Slow Air &amp; Tunes</i> . . . . .	The Riverdance Musicians
<i>Heartland</i> . . . . .	The Riverdance Irish Dance Principals & Troupe
<i>Finale</i> . . . . .	The Company

# the riverdance cast & band

## The Riverdance Irish Dance Troupe

The Riverdance Irish Dance Troupe are world-class Irish dancers. They hail mostly from Ireland, but also from Britain, the United States, Canada and Australia. Between them the dancers can boast of hundreds of championships won in Ireland and abroad. Most started dancing at three or four years of age at local dance schools and progressed to world championship level before being chosen to perform in *Riverdance*. The dancers would have known and competed against each other at various competitions, including the World Championships. *Riverdance* has given them the opportunity to perform together for the first time in a non-competitive way. The grace and eloquence of their soft-shoe dance and the power and precision of their hard-shoe routines clearly display the endless hours of practice and their dedication to the art of Irish Dance.

## The Riverdance Principal Dancers

### MAGGIE DARLINGTON

Maggie began dancing with the Claddagh School of Irish Dance in California. She won four North American Championships, two All-Ireland Championships and in 2007 won the World Irish Dancing Championships. In 2010, Maggie performed the lead role in Busch Gardens' production *Celtic Fyre* and originated the lead female role in *Battle of the Dance*. She joined the cast of *Riverdance* in 2011.

### LAUREN SMYTH

Lauren was born in Newtownards, Northern Ireland, and she began Irish dancing with the St. Patrick's School of Irish Dance. She won many regional championships including the Ulster and Northern Ireland titles numerous times. Lauren transferred to the Reilly School of Irish Dance where her success in competition continued. She joined *Rhythm of the Dance* in 2007 where she performed the lead role for three years. In 2010, she then progressed to fulfil her lifelong ambition in joining *Riverdance*.

### CHLOEY TURNER

English-born, Chloey started Irish dancing with Jenny Flower at the Matthews Academy and has competed at national and international feiseanna, qualifying for the world championships every year. Chloey is a keen athlete and a qualified personal fitness trainer. Chloey joined *Riverdance* in 2008, touring Europe, Japan and China and one of her highlights was performing at Radio City, New York.

### STEPHEN BRENNAN

From England, Stephen is a World Champion Irish dancer. He joined *Riverdance* in 2005 and to date has performed extensively across 28 countries as well as 35 states of America. Most recently, Stephen has toured with *Heartbeat of Home*. He holds a First-Class Honours degree in Architecture and is a qualified Irish dancing teacher. Stephen lists the absolute highlight of his career as performing the lead role in *Riverdance* for his parents for the first time.

## JAMES GREENAN

James lives in Co. Cavan and danced with Scoil Rince Mona Ni Rodaigh. He won several prestigious World Championships, All Irelands, Great Britains, North Americans and Ulster titles in both solo and Céilí competitions. He toured with Gaelforce and Dancemasters and with Noctu in New York. His career with *Riverdance* began in 2011 and he has performed with the show in North America, China, Brazil, Argentina and at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.

## JASON O'NEILL

Jason started dancing at the age of five alongside his six sisters. Under the tuition of the Armstrong school in Belfast he developed a deep-rooted passion for rhythm. Jason has been a lead dancer with Prodiijig's *Footstorm* and with *Heartbeat of Home* and is truly honoured to attain lead role in three shows. As an avid traveller he has now performed in 200 cities worldwide. Jason is delighted to join *Riverdance* again for its remarkable 20th anniversary.

## The Riverdance Band

## PAT MANGAN

### Fiddle, Musical Director

Two-time All-Ireland fiddle champion Patrick Mangan is from Brooklyn, New York, where he was introduced to traditional music at an early age. He grew up playing alongside legendary Irish musicians from both sides of the Atlantic. At age 16, Patrick appeared in *Riverdance On Broadway*, becoming the youngest fiddler in the show's history. Since then he has toured extensively, playing to enthralled audiences around the world. In addition to his love of the stage, Patrick is also an award-winning composer. His debut CD, *Farewell to Ireland*, is available now at [www.cdbaby.com/mangan](http://www.cdbaby.com/mangan).

## MARK ALFRED

### Drums, Percussion, Bodhrán

A native of Monaghan, Mark began playing drums at the age of four. He studied at the Royal Irish Academy of Music in Dublin and then the Performing Arts College. He is now one of Europe's most sought after, and highly regarded drummers and is constantly in demand from a host of leading stellar international music acts. His very individualistic and energetic style has seen him play with many international acts including Lionel Richie, Simply Red, Katie Melua, Josh Groban, The Corrs, The Divine Comedy, Lemar, Gary Moore, Mary Coughlan, Ronan Keating, Westlife, Girls Aloud, Donnie Osmond and the late Christy Hennessy. Mark Alfred uses and proudly endorses: Pearl Drums, Zildjian Cymbals, Evans Drumheads, Vater Drumsticks, Protection Racket Cases.

## MATT BASHFORD

### Uilleann Pipes, Low Whistle, Tin Whistle

Matt has been touring the world extensively for the past 15 years. During this time Matt has played and recorded as a session player with many different groups as well as being a soloist with Belfast Irish Harp Orchestra, Bruce Guthro, Bill Whelan, Phil Coulter, The Chinese Traditional Music Orchestra of Hangzhou and The Irish Chamber Orchestra. He is currently working on a new project of eclectic post-rock music with his own band Iron Mountain which is due for imminent release. Matt holds an Honours Degree in Performance from the Irish World Academy of Music at the University of Limerick.

## KEN EDGE

### Saxophone

Kenneth Edge began his career in music by winning RTÉ's "Young Musician of the Future" competition in 1983. Since then, Ken has performed with some of the greatest musicians and orchestras in the world. Composers such as Shaun Davey, Micheál Ó Súilleabháin and John Buckley have written new pieces especially for Ken. Aside from his performing career, Kenneth has held the posts of Music Director of Ireland's CoisCéim Dance Theatre Company, for which he composed the scores for five of their productions, and Artist-in-Residence at the University of Limerick.

### The Riverdance Russian Ensemble

The Riverdance Russian Ensemble combines elegance and grace with verve, dynamism and joyous physicality. The company's dancers come from a diverse mix of cultural backgrounds. What they have in common is a dedication to dance and many years of training and performance in pursuit of perfection in their chosen art. Working as individual performers, they have come together for *Riverdance* to fuse the many elements of their unique styles.

### The Riverdance Flamenco Soloist

## MARITA MARTINEZ-REY

### Flamenco

Marita was born in Úbeda, Jaén, Spain. She graduated in Spanish Dance from the Royal Conservatory of Córdoba in 2001 and a year later in Classical Ballet with AraLeo Moyano. She also studied Flamencology, Cátedra de Flamencología de Córdoba, as well as BA (Hons) in Music and History studies at the Universidad Complutense

in Madrid. Her professional experience started in the opera *El Cid* with Plácido Domingo which was performed in La Maestranza, Seville, in 1999. She joined the Ballet Gallego Rey de Viana for a year in the production *Vira ó Vento*. After that she returned to Madrid where she has worked with several companies. In 2005, she joined the Compañía Antonio Gades where she has worked in the productions *Carmen*, *Bodas de sangre* and *Fuenteovejuna*.

### The Riverdance Tappers

## MICHAEL EVERETT

### Tapper, Baritone

Michael Everett was born in Poughkeepsie, New York, but raised in Dallas, Texas. From before he could remember Michael has had a passion for the performing arts. Growing up he found himself dancing to Michael Jackson and singing to whatever was on the radio. In school he was always a part of the choir but was never afforded the opportunity for classical dance training. Finally, at the age of 18, Michael started his technical dance training at Oklahoma City University where he studied ballet, jazz and first put on his tap shoes. After graduating in 2008 with a degree in Dance Performance, Michael spent a couple of years as a singer/dancer on Norwegian Cruise Lines before finally making his way to New York City. Michael is thankful for all the support and encouragement from his friends and family.

## TYLER KNOWLIN

### Tapper

Tyler Knowlin is a professional tap dancer from Connecticut. He attended The Hartford Academy for the Arts, where he was introduced to rhythm tap and given the opportunity to train with masters such as Jimmy Slyde and Gregory Hines. At 14, Tyler performed at New York City's first

annual tap festival, Tap City. Tyler's east coast performances include Jacob's Pillow, The Bushnell, Charter Oak Cultural Center, Playhouse on Park, The Duke Theater, and Lincoln Center. In 2007, Tyler moved to San Francisco. He taught for City Dance Studios

and ODC Dance. In 2013, Tyler taught and performed in Brazil. Tyler was most recently a featured performer in Hillary Marie's original show *Soul Walk*. Tyler would like to thank everyone who has supported him on this amazing journey.

## the creative team

### **BILL WHELAN**

#### **Composer**

As a composer, Bill Whelan has written extensively for theatre, dance, film and the concert stage. His film work includes *Dancing at Lughnasa* starring Meryl Streep, *Some Mother's Son* featuring Helen Mirren, and *Lamb* with Liam Neeson. Music for television includes *The Seven Ages*, Sean Ó Mordha's history of the Irish State. He was appointed composer to the W.B. Yeats International Theatre Festival at Dublin's Abbey Theatre in 1989, writing original music for 15 Yeats plays. His adaptation of *HMS Pinafore* received a Laurence Olivier Award nomination. *The Seville Suite* was commissioned for Ireland's National Day at Expo '92 and was performed at the Maestranza in Seville. It has since received performances around the world including La Coruna, Shanghai, Caracas and New York. *The Spirit Of Mayo* followed in 1993 and was performed by an 85-piece orchestra and chorus in Dublin's National Concert Hall. He was honoured with the 1997 Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album for the lyrics and music of *Riverdance*. The album is a certified Platinum record in the U.S., Ireland and Australia. *The Connemara Suite*, a trilogy of pieces written for chamber orchestra, premiered in Carnegie Hall in March 2005. Bill Whelan's *Symphonic Suite* from *Riverdance*

has received its first performance in 2013. *Linen & Lace*, a flute concerto for Sir James Galway, was commissioned by Lyric FM to mark the Limerick City of Culture in 2014. A new musical, *The Train*, with lyrics by Arthur Riordan and music by Bill Whelan was performed in Limerick and Dublin in October 2015. Bill's production and arranging credits include U2, Van Morrison, Kate Bush, Richard Harris, Planxty, The Dubliners and many traditional world musicians and performers. He is a member of the Boards of Berklee College of Music in Boston, The University of Limerick, Crash Ensemble and Music Generation, the newly established music education body for Ireland. He has completed a co-teaching course with Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Paul Muldoon at Princeton University and was recently appointed adjunct Professor to Trinity College Dublin's School of Drama, Film and Music. Bill Whelan is a Fellow of the Royal College of Music and is the recipient of many International Awards including the Spirit of Ireland Award in New York.

### **MOYA DOHERTY**

#### **Producer**

Moya Doherty's career includes theatre, radio and television journalism and an award-winning track record in television production, both in Ireland and the U.K.



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Moya was the Commissioning Producer and originator of *Riverdance* for the Eurovision Song Contest of 1994; she is a founding Director of Tyrone Productions, Ireland's leading independent television production company, whose many credits include *Beckett on Film* and the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics World Summer Games (held in Dublin in June 2003), and drama credits including *Ros na Rún*, now in its 20th season, for TG4, and *Quirke*, a major co-production with the BBC, starring Gabriel Byrne. Moya is Chair of RTÉ, Ireland's national public broadcasting service. She is a writer and broadcaster and has co-presented a number of radio arts documentaries on George Bernard Shaw, John McCormack and Patrick Kavanagh, amongst others. She is a founding Director of Today FM radio station. She has sat on a number of arts-related boards, including Chair of the Dublin International Theatre Festival for seven years, The Ark Children's Theatre in Dublin, Business to Arts and the Board of the Abbey Theatre. She is the Producer of the music and dance stage spectacular *Heartbeat of Home* which had its world premiere in Dublin in October 2013 and has toured extensively in North America and China. Awards and honours include: Veuve Clicquot Business Woman of the Year, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year, and honorary doctorates from the University of Ulster and the National University of Ireland in recognition of her success and her ongoing commitment to the arts in Ireland.

### JOHN McCOLGAN

#### Director

John McColgan's career as a multi-award-winning producer and director began in the mid-seventies at RTÉ Television where he went on to become Head of Entertainment. While in RTÉ he



produced and directed a wide range of programming from light entertainment to drama to documentary. He was awarded a Jacob's Television Award in 1980 for "the consistently high quality of his entertainment programming." He was also Head of Weekend Entertainment at TVAM — ITV's breakfast television service. He played a key role in the evolution of *Riverdance* from the original seven-minute dance number and went on to direct the full stage-show spectacular. John has been closely involved with the Abbey Theatre — he was on the Board of the theatre for five years, served as Chairman of the Abbey Centenary Committee and

directed a critically acclaimed production of Dion Boucicault's 19th-century melodrama *The Shaughraun*. In May 2011, he produced a major theatrical event marking the historic State visit of Queen Elizabeth II to Ireland. John is the director of the new music and dance stage spectacular *Heartbeat of Home* which had its world premiere in Dublin in October 2013 and has toured extensively to universal acclaim in North America and China. John has received many awards during his career, including an Honorary Doctorate of Law from the National University of Ireland, in recognition of his services to the arts and entertainment industry.

## credits & acknowledgments

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