



**“A TASTE OF IRELAND”
THE IRISH MUSIC & DANCE SENSATION
COMES TO CENTRAL ILLINOIS
OCTOBER 19-20, 25
PERFORMANCES IN DECATUR, WASHINGTON, SPRINGFIELD**

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS (10 October 2024) — One of the world’s top Irish dance shows, featuring a starry roster of international dance champions, *A Taste of Ireland—The Irish Music & Dance Sensation* comes to Central Illinois in October for three performances only: **7:30pm Saturday, Oct. 19** at the **Kirkland Fine Arts Center** in **Decatur**, **3:00pm Sunday, Oct. 20** at **Live @ Five Points Washington** in **Washington**, **7:30pm Friday, Oct. 25** at the **UIS Performing Arts Center** in **Springfield**. Offering an exhilarating celebration delivered with more than a pint of Irish wit, *A Taste of Ireland—The Irish Music & Dance Sensation* is presented by Pace Live as part of its 2024 world tour. The production debuted in the U.S. earlier this year with a wildly successful Off-Broadway engagement, followed by smash hit runs around the world, where it was praised by *Time Out Sydney* as "world-class Irish dancing, melodic folk music mashups, live acapella tap battles, and craic galore," and *BroadwayWorld Sydney* as “an evening to excite and satisfy your Irish palette.” For tickets and information, the public may visit ATasteofIrelandShow.com.

Featuring an acclaimed cast of World Champion Irish dancers, dazzling musicians, and a contemporary vocalist, *A Taste of Ireland—The Irish Music & Dance Sensation* combines Irish charm with sensational talents for an unforgettable evening of entertainment. Set to reimagine classics such as ‘Danny Boy,’ ‘Wild Rover,’ ‘Tell Me Ma,’ and others that have been given modern spins, the high-octane performance offers thrilling dance performances that convey heartfelt emotion, transporting audiences through Ireland’s tumultuous history with electrifying dances, dramatic scenery, and spectacular lighting effects. Directed by **Brent Pace**, produced by **Ceili Moore**, with music by **Charlie Galloway**, the production features World Champion Irish dancers and stars from *Lord of the Dance* and *Riverdance* including headliners **Gavin Shevlin** (two-time World Champion, formerly of *Lord of the Dance* and *Riverdance*), **Julia O’Rourke** (four-time

World Champion, star of ‘JIG’), **Megan McGinley** (Ulster Champion fiddler, All Ireland Finalist, featured in ‘Scruth,’ formerly of *Lord of the Dance*), and **Callum O’Neill** (World Champion, formerly of *Riverdance*.)

A Taste of Ireland—The Irish Music & Dance Sensation blends cultural traditions with modern flair and plenty of ‘craic,’ creating a performance that has had audiences across the globe leaping to their feet for an immersive experience that captures the essence of Irish culture. With over 150 five-star reviews on Facebook, the show combines storytelling with modern Irish dance, tap, and contemporary dance, while its world-class performers offer up heartwarming storytelling, to create a memorable and dynamic performance that bridges traditional and contemporary Irish art forms.

Said the show’s producer and director **Brent Pace**, “We offer audiences an unforgettable adventure through the heart and soul of Ireland, where every beat of music and every step of Irish dance shares a captivating journey. Each narrative is interwoven with dramatic lighting and breathtaking visual scenery, with performances meticulously crafted to express the depth of these stories, ensuring that you feel Ireland’s history through the movement, music, and dance.” He also notes, “Dance fans will be further thrilled to find that the taps in *A Taste of Ireland—The Irish Music & Dance Sensation* are not pre-recorded but performed 100 percent live. Every performance is a breathtaking feat of excellence.”

The talented cast of *A Taste of Ireland—The Irish Music & Dance Sensation* also includes **Karaleigh Desmond** (New Hampshire, USA: *A Taste of Ireland* Off-Broadway, *Lord of the Dance*), **Liam Fitzgerald** (Sydney, Australia: *A Taste of Ireland* Off-Broadway), **Emily Grace** (New Jersey, USA: World Podium Placer), **Rochelle Hoffmann** (Kelowna, Canada: *A Taste of Ireland* Off-Broadway), **Ronan Kristufek** (Illinois, USA: World Podium Placer), **Dan McCormick** (Ohio, USA: *Riverdance*), **Michael Roberson** (Arkansas, USA), **Fiona Shanley** (Florida, USA: *Riverdance*), **Meagan Urbanek** (Florida, USA: World Champion), **Cian Walsh** (Cork, Ireland: World Podium Placer), **Tyler Watkins** (Brisbane, Australia: *A Taste of Ireland* Off-Broadway). Musicians **Aaron O’Grady** (Cork, Ireland) and **Jesse Bush** (USA) round out the cast.

A Taste of Ireland—The Irish Music & Dance Sensation is produced by **Pace Live** and features music by **Charlie Galloway**, scenic design by **Gavin Leahy**, lighting design by **Ben Hughes**, vision and sound design by **Jack Kearney** and **Tyler Watkins**. **Ben Ling** serves as technical

coordinator, with **Bob Rogers** as production manager, **Sean Michael McHugh** as dance and casting associate, **Meika Clark** as associate lighting designer, **Pablo Lafuente** as the studio engineer, **Molly Armstrong** as costume consultant, and **Sean Higgins** as the videographer.

Brent Pace (Producer and Director) has over 20 years of experience in Irish dance. As the son of a prominent Australian Irish dance teacher, Pace trained with top dancers in London, Dublin, Australia, and the United States. His career highlights include becoming a world medalist, a six-time national champion, and earning top placements in major competitions worldwide. After joining *The Rhythms of Ireland* in 2009, he became its youngest lead dancer by 2011 and later performed as principal dancer with Gaelforce Dance. He also starred in *ABC3's "Dancing Down Under"* documentary, which followed his journey to the world championships. Now a theatrical producer and director, Pace continues to specialize in Celtic productions and trains at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in Sydney, Australia.

Ceili Moore (Producer) began dancing at the age of three under the tutelage of Geraldine French, her mother Fiona-Gaye Moore, and Bernadette Langshaw-Clarke. Throughout her competitive Irish dance career, she won titles such as Australian National, North American National, All Ireland, and World Champion. She began her professional career at age 18, performing in shows such as *Riverdance* and *Lord of the Dance* across 15 countries. Her highlights include performing the lead role of Morrighan alongside Michael Flatley, performing on the West End, and appearing on "The Graham Norton Show" and "Good Morning America." Moore also served as an ambassador for the Peter "Bullfrog" Moore Foundation and was featured in *ABC3's "Dancing Down Under"* documentary. Since 2016, she has been a producer and choreographer with *A Taste of Ireland*, working alongside her partner Brent Pace on the continuous development of Pace Live productions touring globally.

FOR CALENDAR EDITORS:

WHAT: One of the world's top Irish dance shows, featuring a starry roster of international dance champions, *A Taste of Ireland—The Irish Music & Dance Sensation* comes to Central Illinois in October for three performances only. Offering an exhilarating celebration delivered with more than a pint of Irish wit, *A Taste of Ireland—The Irish Music & Dance Sensation* is presented by Pace Live as part of its 2024 world tour. The production debuted in the U.S. earlier this year with a wildly successful Off-Broadway engagement, followed by smash hit runs around the world, where it was praised by *Time Out Sydney* as "world-class Irish dancing, melodic folk music mashups, live acapella tap battles, and craic galore," and *BroadwayWorld Sydney* as "an evening to excite and satisfy your Irish palette."

WHEN/WHERE/TICKETS:

7:30pm Saturday, October 19

Kirkland Fine Arts Center, 1184 West Main St, Decatur, IL

\$35 - \$65 (+ applicable fees)

3:00pm Sunday, October 20

Live @ Five Points Washington, 360 North Wilmor Road, Washington, IL
\$35 - \$65 (+ applicable fees)

7:30pm Friday, October 25

UIS Performing Arts Center, 2200 Ernest Hemingway Drive, Springfield, IL
\$38.50 - \$68.50 (+ applicable fees)

INFO: ATasteofIrelandShow.com

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PRESS: Contact Paige D'Encarnacao, CBCO Public Relations & Marketing
paige@cb-pr.com | 415-570-2623

PHOTOS: Downloadable high-res photos are available: <https://cbpr.co/press/atasteofireland>