



A CELTIC CHRISTMAS BY A TASTE OF IRELAND

MAGICAL HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

COMES TO MORGANTON

Monday, December 2, 2024

MORGANTON, NC (13 November 2024) — The heart-stirring spirit of an Irish holiday comes to life when *A Celtic Christmas by A Taste of Ireland* comes to Morganton, with a performance **7:30pm, Monday, December 2, 2024, at COMMA Performing Arts Center in Morganton.** This thrilling production elevates the holiday season with electrifying performances by stars from *Riverdance* and *Lord of the Dance* and a star-studded roster of World Champion Irish dancers, who fuse incredible red-hot rhythms with jaw-dropping talent in an unforgettable night of storytelling, Irish charm, and spectacular entertainment. For information and tickets, the public can visit ATasteofIrelandShow.com.

Featuring traditional high-energy Irish tunes, heartfelt ballads and favorite carols, *A Celtic Christmas by A Taste of Ireland* has toured to packed theaters around the world in a multidimensional show choreographed and produced by National Irish Dance Champion and *Gaelforce Dance* star **Brent Pace**, with Irish Dance World Champion and *Lord of the Dance* lead soloist **Ceili Moore**.

In *A Celtic Christmas by A Taste of Ireland*, audiences are immersed in the magnificence of Christmas in Ireland, transported to a land where energetic music and dance are the beating heart of the festive season. As lads croon their way along the cobblestone streets, filling the air with the rich sounds of Irish ballads, high-spirited lasses hit the floor with thunderous, powerful beats that resonate deep in the soul. Set against the enchanting backdrop of a snow-dusted Ireland, the show follows two star-crossed lovers, Oisín, a humble man from the rugged lands of Tyrone, and Ava, a spirited young woman from a wealthy family in Athenry, who find

themselves drawn together under the mystical charm of the mistletoe. Their whirlwind romance blossoms into love, and then face harsh trials. But all ends well during a lavish Christmas ball, where the lovers reunite in a dramatic reunion that captures the spirit of hope, resilience, and enduring love in a moment of festive joy.

With all the heart-warming spirit of an Irish Christmas, ***A Celtic Christmas by A Taste of Ireland*** offers up a night of thrilling music paired with jaw-dropping dance talent. This memorable blend of storytelling and Irish charm invites all ages to join in the spirit of “Nollaig Shona” (Happy Christmas).

Headliners for this tour include **Gavin Shevlin** (Donegal, IRE) the two-time World Champion Irish Dancer who has performed in *Lord of the Dance* and *Riverdance*, and starred in *A Taste of Ireland* Off-Broadway and his twin sister **Niamh Shevlin** (Donegal, IR), Top 5 in the World Irish Dance Championships, who starred as lead dancer in *Lord of the Dance*, winner of the Donegal Rose. Also starring in this production is **Julia O'Rourke** (Long Island, NY), a four-time World Champion who starred in the Irish dance film *Jig*; Master fiddler **Megan McGinley** (Gaoth Dobhair, IRE), an Ulster Champion and All Ireland Finalist, featured in TV show 'Sruth', Young Musician of the Year. They are joined by **Ella Giammichele** (Brisbane, AU), Off-Broadway *A Taste of Ireland*; **Nicole Kelly** (Wexford, IRE) star of *Lord of the Dance*; **Natalie Wagner** (Missouri, USA); **Emily Grace** (New York, USA), Top 5 World Championships; **Karaleigh Desmond** (New Hampshire, USA), Off-Broadway *A Taste of Ireland*; **Hannah Cunniffe** (New Jersey, USA) World Medalist, **Liam Fitzgerald**, (Sydney, AU), Off-Broadway *A Taste of Ireland*; **Daniel McCormick** (Ohio, USA), Top 5 World Championships, **Thomas Doherty** (Rugby, UK), star of *Lord of the Dance*; **Michael Roberson** (Arizona, USA), **Ciaran Bagley** (Wisconsin, USA), First place Mid-America, North American Champion, World Champion medalist; **Caleb Gringon** (Ohio, USA), placer: World, All-Ireland, North American Nationals. They join a cast of outstanding live musicians to perform in this rousing production. (Note: casting subject to change.)

Says Director and Producer **Brent Pace**, "For ***A Celtic Christmas*** we've curated a spectacular line-up, featuring unparalleled talents from around the globe. From world-class musicians to the most skilled Irish dancers of today, our stage is graced by the very best in the industry. Beyond the sheer technical brilliance that audiences love, what sets this show apart is the heart-warming spirit of the season that envelopes the entire production."

Producer **Ceili Moore** adds, "Our Christmas show is a tapestry woven with the rich threads of Irish influence. With music that captures the essence of our heritage, we invite our audience to immerse themselves in a truly authentic Irish experience. It's a celebration of our culture, our traditions, and the immense talent of our performers, making this show not just a performance but a heartfelt journey into the soul of Ireland."

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 undertakes regular training 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 the Australian National, North American National, All Ireland, and World Championships. 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: The heart-stirring spirit of an Irish holiday comes to life with ***A Celtic Christmas by A Taste of Ireland***. This thrilling production brings electrifying performances by stars from *Riverdance* and *Lord of the Dance* and a star-studded roster of World Champion Irish dancers, who fuse incredible red-hot rhythms with jaw-dropping talent in an unforgettable night of storytelling and spectacular entertainment. With the heart-warming spirit of an Irish Christmas, this festive celebration is brimming with yuletide cheer and the pure joy of the holiday season. ***A Celtic Christmas by A Taste of Ireland*** has toured to packed theaters around the world, offering up a memorable blend of storytelling and Irish charm that invites all ages to join in the spirit of “Nollaig Shona” (Happy Christmas).

WHEN/WHERE/TICKETS:

7:30pm, Monday, December 2, 2024

COMMA Performing Arts Center, 401 S. College Street, Morganton, NC 28655

\$38-\$68 (+ applicable fees)

INFO: ATasteofIrelandShow.com

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