



TRINITY IRISH DANCE COMPANY

Founding Artistic Director Mark Howard

Associate Artistic Director Chelsea Hoy

Artistic Associates Ali Doughty, MacKenzie Holland, Marissa Wurster

Company Ali Doughty, Michael Fleck, Lydia Fredrick, Anna Gorman, MacKenzie Holland, Erin Hayes, Abigail Graham-Luke, Chelsea Hoy, Renae Marshall, Sierra McNall, Sydney Niewiedzial, Kelsey Parry, Gracie Peters, Clare Rahner, Aaron Wolf, Marissa Wurster

Musicians Jake James, Christopher Kulwin, Brendan O'Shea, Steven Rutledge

Production Manager Garvin Jellison

Stage Manager and Lighting Director J. Arthur Franjoine

Audio Engineer Trevor Powers

There will be an intermission.

Friday, March 27 @ 8 PM

Saturday, March 28 @ 2 PM

Saturday, March 28 @ 8 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

**NextMove
DANCE**

The 19/20 dance series is presented by the Annenberg Center and NextMove Dance.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Trinity Irish Dance Company (TIDC)

TIDC has significantly changed the direction and scope of Irish dance, re-introducing the art form as the phenomenon it is today. TIDC is constantly in search of original means of expression while maintaining a high regard for tradition. This innovative, nonprofit company was created to celebrate the pioneering work of Founding Artistic Director Mark Howard. Howard's uniquely Irish-American company was the birthplace of progressive Irish dance, which opened new avenues of artistic freedom that led directly to commercial productions such as *Riverdance*.

By using Irish dance as an instrument and a metaphor, TIDC redefines the medium with passion, flair and precision. Through the years, TIDC has collaborated with many noted contemporary choreographers, which has led to an increased vocabulary of movement and the development of a new genre of dance.

Considered an American treasure by critics and enthusiasts worldwide, TIDC has performed sold-out tours in Europe, Asia and North America, appearing in distinguished venues such as the Joyce Theatre, Washington, D.C.'s Kennedy Center, UCLA's Royce Hall, Princeton's McCarter Theatre Center, Ottawa's National Arts Centre, Tokyo's Orchard Hall and Chicago's Auditorium Theatre, among many others. The company has traveled to entertain dignitaries as varied as Monaco's royal family, Irish and American presidents, Japanese royalty and Indian meditation masters.

TIDC holds an important place in the dance world, offering both a highly skilled presentation of traditional Irish step dance and a brilliantly engaging interpretation of contemporary world vision. trinityirishdancecompany.com

Mark Howard (Founding Artistic Director/Choreographer)

For more than three decades, this Emmy® Award-winning choreographer has been striving for and achieving something that is profoundly significant and equally difficult to attain—the transcendence of craft to art and the synthesis of forms to create something that is forward-looking and new. His work maintains integrity while simultaneously going beyond the framework of ethnicity to carve new traditions.

Born in Yorkshire, England, and raised in Chicago, Howard began his dancing career at eight years old at the Dennehy School of Irish Dance. He began teaching when he was only 17 years old, and by 19, he had launched the Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, subsequently leading them to unprecedented world championship team titles for the United States, the first when he was only 25.

Howard's pioneering work in the late 80s led to his unique transition from the competitive stage to the performing arts stage, and began his gradual evolution from coach to artistic director. By 1990, these formative years led to the creation of a nonprofit forum, Trinity Irish Dance Company (TIDC), to celebrate and further his work. From its inception, TIDC has been met with great critical acclaim at renowned venues across the world.

Howard has been named three times as one of *Irish American Magazine's* "Top 100 Irish-Americans," was honored by iBAM! in 2011, and by Chicago's Lawyers for the Creative Arts in 2015 for his outstanding contribution to the performing arts. His work has led to numerous choreographer's fellowships awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts. From PBS and ABC specials, to extensive film work for Disney, Touchstone, Universal and Dream Works, Howard has worked with the likes of Oprah Winfrey, Ron Howard and Sam Mendez. He was the personal dance coach for actors Tom Hanks and Daniel Craig while working on the film *Road to Perdition*. Howard himself was a regular guest on *The Tonight Show starring Johnny Carson* from 1989 until 1991, and has accumulated a multitude of national and international television credits including *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, *CBS This Morning*, *The Today Show*, *Live with Regis*, *Good Morning America*, *MARTHA*, *Conan* and *1st Look*, to name a few.

Howard continues to choreograph new works, as well as expand his independent career to work in theatre, television, concert and film. The feature film screenplay *SOLES*, which focuses on Howard and Trinity, is currently in the works.

Chelsea Hoy (Associate Artistic Director/Choreographer)

At 24, Denver-born Hoy has already become a major player in the performing arts world. Generous, rebellious, creative and complex, her choreographic influence has significantly shaped TIDC's newest works *Communion*, *Soles* and *Push*. Hoy recently co-choreographed her first full-length piece, *An Sorcas (The Circus)*, which began previewing in Japan and the U.S. this past summer.

In the dance studio, Hoy finds the creative process to be a rewarding and therapeutic combination of fluid expression and technical configuration. She is a game changer with a big vision, motivated by the ability this art form has to deeply connect strangers and friends alike. Hoy grew up dancing competitively for the Wick School of Irish Dance in Denver, Colorado. She joined TIDC in 2014, after she began her studies at Loyola University Chicago. She graduated in 2017 with bachelor's degrees in psychology and photography. In addition to helping guide the company's future, she is a professional photographer, dance instructor and visual artist. Hoy's love of empowering children through the arts continues to shape TIDC's outreach programming. A powerful activist and artist, she has been entrusted with TIDC's ethos and future.

Ali Doughty (Artistic Associate)

Hailing from Philadelphia, Doughty started dancing at the age of eight with the McDade-Cara School of Irish Dance. After moving to Ohio to attend the University of Dayton in 2012, she continued her competitive dancing career with The Academy in Columbus. While balancing her studies in exercise physiology, Doughty continued to compete internationally and was ultimately crowned World Champion in 2014. Upon her graduation, Doughty moved to Chicago to join the TIDC movement and begin her evolution from formidable competitor to a limitless performing artist. With a seamless blend of aerial grace and percussive power, Doughty connects with audiences on a deep level. She is part of a nucleus of company members that are carrying the TIDC legacy to new heights as she pursues her doctorate in physical therapy at Northwestern University. She hopes to combine her passions in the future through dance therapy.

Mackenzie Holland (Artistic Associate)

Holland grew up competing and performing with the Trinity Academy of Irish Dance, and is now a lead solo, team and performance teacher. A graduate of DePaul University with a bachelor's degree in communications, Holland works full-time at one of the largest public relations agencies in downtown Chicago. The Trinity Irish Dance Company has given her the chance to continue expressing her love for the art form, while connecting with people around the world. Through TIDC, Holland hopes to empower those around her and inspire the next generation of performing artists.

Marissa Wurster (Artistic Associate)

Wurster danced with the Trinity Academy of Irish dance for almost 16 years as both an accomplished competitor and engaging performer. Her love for performing has grown immensely since she was cast for her first tour of Japan with the Trinity Irish Dance Company in 2010. As a student with a passion for science, the performing arts exist as a creative outlet for Wurster. She graduated from Marquette University with bachelor's degrees in biomedical sciences and psychology with a minor in neuroscience. She is currently pursuing a graduate degree in nursing while she continues her TIDC journey.

Michael Donnellan (Contributing Choreographer)

Donnellan began his Irish dancing career at five years old. In the last 30 years, he has won two solo World Championship titles, as well as titles at the All Ireland, British National, Munster and Great Britain championships. Donnellan is a former leading male performer of both *Riverdance* and *Lord of the Dance*. In 1999, he turned his talents to directorial and choreographic work with Star Entertainment's *Magic of the Dance*, and later took the role of director of choreography of Retfar Entertainment's *The Rhythms of Ireland*, both of which continue to see Donnellan's work performed on a nightly basis. Now, Donnellan is a choreographer of Danceperados of Ireland and the Director of Dance at Raglan Road at Disney World Resort Florida. He is a qualified physical education teacher from Brunel University London, and holds a master's degree in dance performance from the

University of Limerick. As a qualified TCRG and ADCRG, Donnellan is the director of the Donnellan School of Irish Dance in Ennis Co. Clare, Ireland, which also has a branch near Hamburg, Germany. He holds workshops in Lisbon, Spain, and regularly performs with the world-renowned Kilfenora Ceili Band and Fusion Fighters.

Michelle Dorrance (Choreographer)

Dorrance is a New York City-based performer and choreographer, and is the Artistic Director of Dorrance Dance. Called “one of the most imaginative tap choreographers working today” by *The New Yorker*, Dorrance was mentored by Gene Medler (North Carolina Youth Tap Ensemble) and was lucky to study under many of the last master hoofers. Career highlights include: STOMP, *Imagine Tap*, Charlie’s Angels/Chasing the Bird, *ti dii*, Mable Lee’s Dancing Ladies, and solo work ranging from *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* to collaborations with Damian Woetzel, and commissions for ABT and the Martha Graham Dance Company. A 2017 Ford Foundation Art of Change Fellow and 2015 MacArthur Fellow, Dorrance holds a BA from New York University and is a Capezio Athlete.

Michael Gardiner (Contributing Choreographer)

Gardiner started Irish dancing in Denver, Colorado at the age of five. He won the Western Regional Oireachtas four times and competed all over the United States. In 2006, Gardiner moved with his family to Clarinbridge, Co. Galway and joined the Hession School of Irish Dancing. Under the tutelage of the Hession teachers, Gardiner won many regional and national titles, including the Connacht Championships, British Nationals, Great Britains, All Scotlands, All Irelands, Irish Nationals, and ultimately, back-to-back World Championships. Gardiner retired from competitive dancing in 2015 after winning his second world title. With his brother Matthew, he made Irish dance history by becoming the first brothers in 30 years to simultaneously win the World Championships. Gardiner has performed with the Kilfenora Ceili Band, Fusion Fighters, and recently returned from *Riverdance’s* winter tour of China. He is drawn to TIDC because of its unique balance of innovation with tradition. He is a keen lover of Irish dance and music, and recently graduated with a bachelor’s of architecture from the University of Limerick.

Sandy Silva (Co-Choreographer)

Silva and her work stand at the vanguard of contemporary artistry in traditional music and dance. For the past 30 years, she has drawn from percussive dance practices from many regions, including Hungary, Appalachia, Cape Breton and Andalusia, as well as the idioms of circus, contemporary dance and theatre. Silva weaves a dialogue between these vocabularies, blending the local and the post-modern in an organic, bodily response to her world. The result is an incredibly dynamic and emotive expression at the crossroads of movement and sound. Committed to the craft of bodily rhythm-making, Silva transcends the world of sound and gesture to engage emotionally with cultural form. She is a dynamic and consummate performer: her very presence can hush a crowd with the faintest whisper of a shoe against the floor or set the stage alight with blazing body rhythms.

Melinda Sullivan (Choreographer)

Sullivan is a Los Angeles-based artist with a diverse career in dance, television and theatre. A *So You Think You Can Dance* Top 10 Finalist and All-Star, Sullivan has toured with Disney’s *High School Musical* and *Cats*. Film and television credits include *La La Land*, *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, *The Academy Awards*, *The Late Late Show with James Corden*, *Glee* and *A Legendary Christmas with John Legend*. As a choreographer, Sullivan is a recipient of the Capezio A.C.E. Award and *Dance Magazine’s* “25 to Watch.” She recently was a guest artist with Dorrance Dance, premiering new work as a collaborator at Joyce Theater in NYC and Jacob’s Pillow. Sullivan is on faculty at the Colburn School in Los Angeles and continues to teach, perform and choreograph worldwide.

Jake James (Fiddler, Bódhran)

James is a two-time All-Ireland fiddle champion, bódhran player and dancer from Queens, New York. James started playing the fiddle at seven years of age and is a student of Niall Mulligan, Co. Antrim. James started playing bodhrán at 13 years old and studied with Eamon Murray, of Beoga. He has won the trophy at the Mid-Atlantic Fleadh Cheoil seven years in a row on bodhrán, and has won the All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil two times on fiddle. James studied Irish dance with Dublin-born Niall O’Leary from the age of three. Over the years, he has performed and taught at different venues and events including the Great American Irish Festival in Frankfort, the Irish Arts Center, Symphony Space, BB King’s, Joanie Madden’s Folk ‘N Irish Cruise, Gracie Mansion and Carnegie Hall.

Christopher Kulwin (Guitar, Vocals)

Kulwin is a Chicago-based musician who began playing guitar at eight years old. He has since grown as a multi-instrumentalist trained in piano, drums, accordion, fiddle and more. Kulwin has been a collaborator with varied musical acts across the country. Dedicated to community and culture, Kulwin is a founding member of the Treehouse Collective, which owns one of the most prestigious recording studios in Chicago. Kulwin is often found contributing to Chicago's DIY community, a common core known for concerts in obscure and odd locations that has taken the city by storm. Kulwin is currently playing with the Chicago band, Rookie, and is working on opening "The Workshop": an accessible studio for Chicago artists in need of a space to create. Kulwin took his first trip to Japan with the company in 2016 and is incredibly honored to share his talents with TIDC on international stages.

Brendan O'Shea (Guitar, Vocals, Composer)

O'Shea is a singer-songwriter originally from Killarney, Ireland who moved to the United States in the late 90s. Since then, he has become a veteran of New York City's songwriter scene and has released two albums that have garnered praise from critics and press around the world. The Irish music magazine *HotPress* rated his last release *Be Here Still* an 8.5 out of 10 and XM Radio's Mike Morrone called it one of his "favorite records of the year." O'Shea's songs can also be heard in such films as Ron Howard's Academy Award-nominated film *Backdraft* and the wildly successful Karen Gehres documentary *Begging Naked*. In addition to headlining his own shows in both the United States and Europe, O'Shea has embarked on two tours of Japan in collaboration with Trinity Irish Dance Company as well as sharing stages with his contemporaries The Frames, The Swell Season, Cowboy Junkies, 10,000 Maniacs, Elliott Smith and Interpol, to name a few. In 2007, O'Shea became a founding member of Fairplay Collective, a unique endeavor in which songwriters come together to support and promote each other's individual projects as independent artists. In 2008, O'Shea and friends began hosting a successful Sunday night concert series in NYC's East Village called the Scratcher Sessions, which features musicians from around the world. With or without a guitar in hand, O'Shea excels at drawing people in. O'Shea's latest album, *Midatlantic Ghost*, a beautiful acoustic record with songs of leaving and song of love, is available on iTunes. brendanoshea.com

Steven Rutledge (Percussionist)

Rutledge is a Chicago-based freelance musician and music instructor with a strong passion for playing and teaching music. He is a proficient drummer and percussionist, and is also well-versed in guitar, bass guitar and keyboards. Rutledge grew up playing music professionally in his hometown of Portland, OR. He studied sociology and education at the University of Oregon in Eugene, OR, and moved to Chicago in 2010 to pursue a degree in music at Columbia College Chicago. He played with various ensembles at Columbia College and spent three years studying privately with Chicago-based musician Tom Hipskind, who is currently one of the most sought-after drummers in Chicago. Rutledge graduated in 2013 with a BA in drum set and percussion performance, and a minor emphasis in music business. Rutledge has worked with several premier Chicago acts, including Woo Park, Nasty Snacks, North By North and Hanna Ashbrook, and is currently the drummer for Luke Henry and Hunnybear, and Alpaca Smokes. He joined the TIDC band in 2018 for his first tour of Japan.

Garvin Jellison (Production Manager)

Jellison is a designer who has worked with Seanachai Theater, Chicago Flamenco, Pride Films and Plays, Ballet Légere, The Artistic Home, The Joffrey Ballet, Redtwist Theatre and others. Jellison has also worked with Links Hall, Lookingglass Theatre Company and Chicago Shakespeare. Jellison was the Production Stage Manager for Hubbard Street 2 in 2013, and was General Manager for Haven Theatre Company until 2015. Garvin holds a BFA from The Theatre School at DePaul University.

J. Arthur Franjoine (Stage Manager, Lighting Director)

Franjoine is a lighting artist interested in creating environments that have potential to trigger visceral responses within the subconscious. Franjoine often works at the intersection of gender, identity and dysphoria. Franjoine is invested in working with collaborators who aspire to create visual utopian metamorphoses, and believes performance should be able to transform into gas, float into the mind and cause sublimation. Franjoine is a design associate of Al Crawford (Lighting Direction/Alvin Ailey) and works with Arc3Design, a cross-genre design group dedicated to merging theatrical aesthetic into all areas of art, architecture, dance, live music, theatre, broadcast and live event production. josephfranjoine.com

Al Crawford (Lighting Designer)

Crawford has been the Lighting Director of the world renowned Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater since 1998. Now in his 20th season with the famed dance company, he has produced the lighting for Ailey in virtually every major theatre, performing arts center and opera house on the planet having toured to 48 states and over 60 countries including historically significant performances in Russia, China and South Africa. Crawford has designed 18 new works for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater and 12 for Ailey II. Additionally, he has been responsible for maintaining the lighting for the significant Ailey repertory designed by many of the top lighting designers in the industry. A huge believer in cross-genre design, Crawford founded Arc3design, a lighting design group dedicated to merging his theatrical aesthetic into all areas of art, architecture, dance, live music, theatre, broadcast and live event production. Arc3design employs a team of talented designers and technical artists that support the creation and implementation of new projects worldwide.

Trevor Powers (Audio Engineer)

Powers has been an audio engineer since 1992. A Milwaukee native who calls Greenfield, WI his home, Powers has been the audio engineer for 2,000+ shows. Highlights from his varied career include Aretha Franklin, Barenaked Ladies, the NFL, the World Skiing Championships and Sammy Hagar. Powers joined the Trinity Irish Dance Company team last spring.



TIDC is partially supported by a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

For booking information, please contact:
Margaret Selby, President, Selby/Artists Mgmt
212.382.3261 | mselby@selbyartistsmgmt.com | selbyartistsmgmt.com

