



MICHAEL FLATLEY'S LORD OF THE DANCE

April 2, 2012
Schuster Center

SYNOPSIS

Michael Flatley, creator and director of this award-winning international dance phenomenon, proved his vision that hearts and minds, united through music and dance, cross all traditional boundaries. His *LORD OF THE DANCE* continues to shatter box office records all over the world, leaving audiences breathless and clamoring for more.

Described by the *Los Angeles Times* as a "show piece extravaganza," *MICHAEL FLATLEY'S LORD OF THE DANCE* is a magical adventure of sight and sound that transports its audience to a mythical time and place, lifting the spirits and capturing the hearts of all who experience it.

From the moment the lights go down to the last encore, audiences are spellbound by a masterfully orchestrated combination of precision dancing, state of the art lighting and pyrotechnics. The musical score leaves no soul untouched.

Based on Irish folklore, this classic tale of Good vs. Evil, expressed through the universal language of dance, has thrilled audiences worldwide and catapulted Irish dance to a new dimension and unprecedented worldwide acclaim.

As the story unfolds, the Little Spirit travels through time to help the Lord of the Dance protect his people from the challenge of Don Dorcha, the Dark Lord. As this evil dark power challenges the hero, the incredible adventure continues, drawing its audience into a mythical universe of love, danger, and desire.

Michael Flatley's timeless production has barely been out of the best sellers list, and for the last 11 years has continually established itself as the No. 1 dance spectacular.

As Michael says "It's absolutely fantastic being No. 1 and we intend to stay that way." Michael is committed to his art and to giving his audiences "The World's Greatest Dance Show."

Source: http://www.lordofthedance.com/#/abouttheshow/the_story/

TOURING HISTORY

Opening Night:

Written, devised, produced and choreographed by Michael Flatley, *LORD OF THE DANCE* premiered at The Point Theatre in Dublin on July 2, 1996, within just eight weeks of its inception.

The audience went wild. By the end of the evening, the show had received several standing ovations and such rave reviews that it was to become the most talked about, most written about, and the most critically acclaimed show in musical history.

MICHAEL FLATLEY'S LORD OF THE DANCE
Victoria Theatre Association

LORD OF THE DANCE has gone on to receive unparalleled accolades, and to break theatrical records across the globe. *MICHAEL FLATLEY'S LORD OF THE DANCE* not only brought Irish dancing to the world stage; it catapulted the art of Irish dance to a higher plane, unprecedented worldwide recognition and dove straight into the hearts and minds of millions worldwide.

Outstanding Sales:

Within months of its opening, *LORD OF THE DANCE* was established as the highest grossing international tour of the year, setting new records for live performances and video sales all over the world. In Australia, 250,000 tickets sold out within a mere ten days of going on sale. In the UK the video of the show was the 1996 Christmas No.1, garnering outstanding sales equivalent to 12x Platinum. To date it has sold in excess of 10 million CDs, videos and DVDs and the soundtrack album has received Gold and Silver Discs for sales in Australia, Canada and the United Kingdom.

Record Books:

In July 1996, *LORD OF THE DANCE* began a four week sell-out run of performances at the Coliseum Theatre in London and, by 1997 the show was re-writing the record books.

America fell under its spell in March, 1997, with thirteen consecutive sell-out shows at New York's prestigious Radio City Music Hall. In Los Angeles in March, Michael and the troupe delivered a scintillating performance at the 69th Academy Awards Ceremony in Hollywood before a global television audience estimated at over 2.5 billion.

1998 was another record-breaking year for *LORD OF THE DANCE*. The show performed 21 consecutive sell-out shows at London's Wembley Arena--a feat for which it still holds the record.

LORD OF THE DANCE continued its record-setting journey. In South Africa, it broke all known box office records when tickets sold out in record time. In the USA, during its five year residency in Las Vegas, it was seen by an audience estimated to be in excess of two million, taking in over \$1.6 million in ticket sales.

Countries:

LORD OF THE DANCE has subsequently outsold all other major shows across the globe. Seen by over 50 million people in 60 different countries, it has thrilled audiences on six continents from Russia, throughout Europe, across the US, Canada and Mexico, Brazil and Argentina, Australia and the Pacific Rim, the Middle East, Israel and Lebanon.

In 2002 the show played a series of high-profile concerts at the Kremlin in Moscow, and later completed a unique Christmas season at Disneyland Paris, playing to an audience of 40,000.

For the last eleven years it has been recognized as the world's highest grossing dance show, selling in excess of \$500,000,000 worth of tickets.

By the time Michael Flatley starred in his final performance of *LORD OF THE DANCE* at Dublin's RDS Arena on June 28th, 1998, the show had already established a unique place for itself in entertainment history.

Michael has since created and starred in two additional spectacular shows, *Feet of Flames* and *Celtic Tiger*, but has retained artistic control over *LORD OF THE DANCE* and launched it on an assured and successful future. It has gone from strength to strength.

Today, the show is permanently reviewed by a team of twenty creative professionals including set designers, costume designers, lighting and sound experts, and choreographers to ensure its high standards are maintained. There is a constant search throughout the world to find new and exciting dance talent to introduce into the show.

There are currently two *LORD OF THE DANCE* troupes touring the globe, one within North America, and one touring worldwide.

Source: http://www.lordofthedance.com/#/abouttheshow/touring_history/