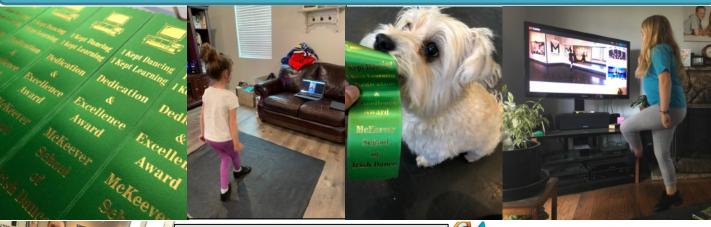


McKeever School of Irish Dance Newsletter MAY - AUGUST 2020

McKeever Dancers Keep Learning Online





Miss McKeever set up for her zooms and wearing her TCRG Running Club Shirt! A fun Digital Club started for Irish Dance Teachers who like running!

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Congrats Shannon W. You won a free private lesson :) July points winner As shelter-in-place life was extended Miss Nicole and Miss Natalie continued to add to our digital learning center! We now have an enormous library of video resources for our dancers online. It has been organized into learning modules and dancers can now track their practice with our points system! We will do a monthly prize drawing for dancers who hand in their work. Congratulations to Shannon W. who won the July prize! Hand in your August sheets in person or via email by September 3rd for a chance to win a free private lesson.

We are so very proud of all our dancers who used the online platform and kept up their dancing at home in any way!

Many of you have learned new material, improved technique, and kept your love of dance alive through these difficult circumstances! If you can do it now you have what it takes to accomplish anything you can dream of with your dancing!

All dancers who continued dancing earned a "Dedication and Excellence" ribbon to add to their collection! We handed some out at the parking lot party but please let us know if you did not receive your ribbon so we can get it to you.



Pictured above and below are awards from the Digital Feis and Digital Challenges. The following 19 dancers earned Certificates with original Celtic knot artwork by Miss McKeever as well as McKeever Medals for taking part in 1, 2 or 3 Digital challenges during quarantine!

THREE MEDALS - Hannah D. Lucy B. Devin P. Harkin M. Elizabeth B. Prairie RP. Millie K. TWO MEDALS - Arabelle J. Lena M. Sophia T. Dahlia G. Guin O. Savannah C. Olive K. Chiara K.

ONE MEDAL - June M. Ruby K. Eleni K. Mollyann K.



McKeever Dancer's Keep Competing

One of the best part of competitions is receiving expert feedback that both you and your teachers can use to help you grown as a dancer! Even though we can't go to feiseanna right now, we have found a way to keep this aspect alive! Over 30 McKeever dancers competed in our first ever digital class feis in June! We had some very talented judges use the Video Feis platform to review your dancing. Jason O'Neil (Champion and Riverdance Lead), Tyler Schwartz (World Champion, lead performer, and master of heel clicks) and Dervla McGee (Riverdancer, and teacher and owner of the McGee School in Ireland where World Champion 2019 Elliot Kwele attends classes). Dancers earned special ribbons and the judges absolutely loved getting to see you dance!









AUGUST

DIGITAL CLASS FEIS

AUG 21 & AUG 22, 2020

ONLINE Feis provided by
VIDEO FEIS

www.videofeis.com

Online registration to: Aug 19 www.QUICKFEIS.com

This is a <u>closed school feis</u> open ONLY to McKeever School dancers



LAUREN SMYTH
Riverdance Lead, Choreographer
amed Champion from Northern Ireland



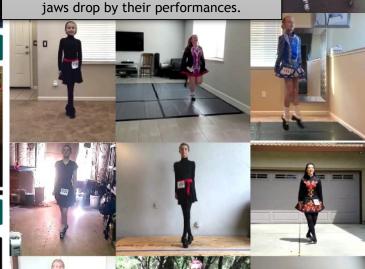
KINCAID STRINGER Riverdance Star, Champion and Teacher at the Hossion School in Galvvay, Ireland

ONLINE REGISTRATION (QUICKFEIS.COM)

Congrats to dancer Megan L.

Who has now earned the title of

Preliminary Champion!!



Getting on the News! Birthday Ambush!



Sacramento Magazine Interview

Steph Rodriguez interviewed artists and makers including Miss McKeever for her article "Creating in a Pandemic" in the May issue of Sacramento Magazine. Nicole spoke about how we adapted quickly to online learning platforms, and how our artform is actually perfect for small spaces and isolation because this is how it was preserved during times of oppression in Ireland!



Nicole McKeever

The hallways of CLARA Studios for the Performing Arts were silent as dancers, musicians and actors stayed home. That silence was deafening to Nicole McKcever, owner of the McKeever School of Irish Dance, an occupant of the midtown campus. "For Irish dance schools, March is huge," McKeew

says. "We lost 25 shows. Some we opportunities, so that was hard."

With the help of her sister, Natalie, a visual artist and videographer, McKeever posted prerecorded dance lessons and live classes online.

She says Irish dancing is an intimate art form that speaks to audiences and artists during the pandemic.
"This style of dance was built for small spaces, with small groups of people," McKeever says. "It's got this quality to it that's perfect for this time of isolation. It's kind of crazy that it's perfectly made for this time.' Learn with McKeever: mckeeverdance.com

Donate to CLARA: claramidtown.org



DJ Larry Rodriguez





Nicole McKeever







Parking Lot Party! The First Time Dancing Together in 5 Months!

After five months of dancing digitally we needed to find a safe way to see our McKeever family and dance together!! The CLARA parking lot was full of dancers and their families for our first every socially-distanced Parking Lot Dance Party! We had fun challenges to show off your McKeever pride like "Best Team Spirit Car" and "Best Team Spirit Costume". We were wowed by how many dancers could complete the Stamina Challenge - every dancer who participated was able to keep skipping and lifted their legs every time! We also loved seeing parents and siblings join in for the parent and sibling challenges, especially those who are not Irish Dancers! Great job sharing your love of Irish Dance with your family dancers! Dancers who participated in challenges received special Dublin Crystal awards and the Brazilian Center had amazing food available for families. It was a breezy and sunny Saturday morning and such a memorable day! Thank you for everyone who celebrated with us, and we hope to do something similar again on September 19th as a Charity Fundraiser for RoomRedux Sacramento!



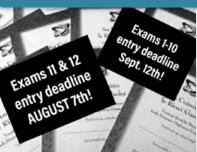
Socially Distanced Feis-ing!





The first feis in our region since March was hosted by the Scariff School in Salt Lake City, Utah and two of our champion dancers had the opportunity to attend this socially distanced competition! Sophia T. and Savannah C. competed and show off all of the hard work they did during quarantine! They danced their best and we are so proud of you for working so hard and taking the opportunity to compete!

What are Grade Exams?



Grade Exams 1-12

Oct 3rd and 4th. More info on Feisworx.com!



Unfortunately the McKeever School Feis was cancelled. We were to host this fun event October 3rd and 4th at Hiram Johnson high school. For obvious reasons this was just not a possibility this year.

However we are still going ahead and hosting CLRG Grade Exams that same weekend at the CLARA Auditorium. Our SDCRG or Grade Examiner (The biggest type of Judge you can be!) is Vincent O'Connor from San Francisco. He will grade dancers on a series of 12 exams. If you have never heard of grade exams this is the general idea... As you move through your Irish dance career you can take these exams to prove you are proficient in specific dances and have the necessary technique required. If you wanted to become a TCRG or Irish Dance teacher you will need to have taken all 12 exams before you apply for the big TCRG test (Which is what Miss Natalie is currently about to do!). If you have never done any and are a beginner start with grades 1 and 2 or both!

You have to register on feisworx by September 12th

Also check out your Digital Learning Center Page we have a new section just for grade exams that explains it all!

Dancers you just need to learn an extra 8 bars to add to some of your dances so make sure you understand how it works and please ask your teacher if you have any questions.

You will get very important certificates and feedback from the SDCRG on the day!

Mark Your Calendars - Parking Lot Party "The Sequel"



Mark your calendars! We are hosting another parking lot party Saturday, September 19th! Park your cars from 11:30-12pm and then dance from 12-1pm. We will hopefully have the Brazil Center with food available for purchase and we may even be able to put on a special champion performance since there will be a special stage area by then! More information still to come.

This event will have a suggested donation of \$10 towards RoomRedux Sacramento. You can read more info about what they do below and send them your donation through Venmo.

We are also selling McKeever masks to wear at this event and a proceeds go to two great organizations, Room Redux and Geo Gems! Thank you to Linda Hurley, Alexis Smith and Brittany Brown for your help in all of this!

BUY YOUR MCKEEVER MASK HERE

https://mckeever-masks.square.site

Room Redux Sacramento transforms the bedrooms of children who have faced physical and/or sexual abuse. Often, abuse occurs in the child's own room, making it feel unsafe. By recreating the space and removing triggers, Room Redux Sacramento fosters the mental health and healing process for these children. Referrals come from Law Enforcement, CPS, and local Counselors. Room Redux is fully funded though donations and Grants. All donations are tax deductible and a receipt can be provided. Room Redux is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit and a 170(b)(1)(a)(v)i charity. Website: www.sacramento.roomredux.org Venmo @roomreduxsacramento facebook cramento Instagram @roomreduxsac Email: roomreduxsac@gmail.com

In 2011, Linda Hurley was one of 2% of Latinx that earned an Earth Science PhD. She did not have a Professor of Color until she started my PhD program. Linda has first hand experience with the lack of diversity in the sciences. One of her favorite things to do is talk to kids about science. Linda started making GeoGems, science videos with her kids. The purpose of GeoGems is to give bite sized information about the Earth to kids of all ages. The intention behind GeoGems is to expose young people to high quality science regardless of what they look like or where they live. Website: magnetic-moment-lic.square.site Venmo: @Linda-Hurley-ixtli facebook.com/magneticmoment.ixtli Instagram @magneticmoment.ixtli Email: geogemsvideos@gmail.com

Dancer's Corner!



Dancer Devin P. Attended Camp Rince Ceol this past July in upstate NY. She had lots of fun and got to work with some top Irish Dance Instructors and make new masked friends. Dancer Estela G. also attended Camp Rince Ceol this past Summer but their digital version called "Camp in a Box" she also found it really creative and engaging!

PERFORMING ARTS



G Madison IV

onal dancer and choreographer based in LA. G is a lead dancer for many music artists including J.Lo, Rihanna, Mariah Carey, Lady Gaga and Alicia Keys



Broadway performer based in NYC. Solo on NBC's The Sing Off, performed on Broadway in Sponge Bob Square Pants, Miss Saigon, Mamma Mia, Cinderella, Allegiance, and more

Dancers Lena M. and Olivia B. took part in the CLARA Virtual Performing Arts Summer Camp this past July! They got bitten by the acting bug after attending exciting masterclasses from Broadway Stars!! The CLARA Educational Director Emili Danz went out of her way to tell Miss McKeever what an absolute joy both Lena and Olivia were to work with in the camp!



@shammybunsart

@nektersacramento

Adult McKeever dancer Shannan O'Rourke who competed on our World Championships Team started a non-profit organization called Boards for Change. She teamed up with ABC Reporter Lina Washington and local business owner Kimberly Prince to start this non-profit and match local artists with boarded up businesses and create something beautiful. Then the art was auctioned off to help black youth organizations in Sacramento. They have raised over 14K and even made National News! Miss McKeever even chipped in to paint a few things! Check more out

on www.boardsforchange.org



Dancer Lina RC. Made an entire doll building out of recycled materials during quarantine. Look at this McKeever dance studio!!!



Your eyes are not deceiving you... This beautiful temporary stage has been built by the Sacramento Ballet and we will be finding out how we can access this and use the stage as the weeks develop! The show will go on!

ambermations

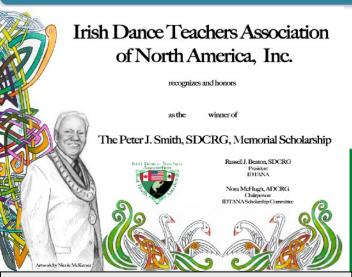


ambermations #wip Work in progress:) --- just need to do the final shadi...

McKeever dancer **Amber** Rankin is also an incredible illustrator and animator and has some fun Irish Dance illustrations in the works! Follow her on Instagram

and Youtube!

IDTANA Scholarship Certificates Designed by Your Teacher



Miss McKeever was asked by the IDTANA or the Irish Dance Teacher's Association of North America to create new original artwork for their memorial scholarships. Each year dancers from around North America apply for monetary awards based on their commitment to education and Irish Dance. These new certificates feature Celtic knot work, personalized symbols as well as portraits of the Irish Dance masters (Peter Smith, Cyril McNiff, Eddie Irwin, Dennis Dennehy, and Tim O'Hare). Miss McKeever is also on the scholarship review committee each year and helps review applications. Please look into apply next year if you are a dancer in High School or College!

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MAKE THE IDTANA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM POSSIBLE . . .

Nora McHugh, ADCRG, from Connecticut, chairs the IDTANA Cyril McNiff Memorial Scholarship Committee. Nora worked with a committee of over 40 IDTANA members who evaluated all applications. Thanks to Nora and all of her volunteer committee members for making the scholarship program so successful once again.





NEW SCHOLARSHIP CERTIFICATES!

Nicole McKeever, TCRG, from California, was the artist and designer who

and portraits of the five individuals for whom the awards are named

McKeever go to http://nicolemckeeverart.com/









Full Circle Moment

Colin Dunne

You're friends on Facebook

7:33 AM



I'm sorting through a lot of old boxes. I came across this! I'm sorry I never wrote back. I'm writing now. Hope you're well. Colin

Time an Irish dance.

The and Irish dance.

The best government you and Riverdames has done for the and all the other young Irish dancers.

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The been denting for a most thoughers and Irish dented to be dente Dear Colin Dunne, sincenely, Nicole Mckeever 618 Winterberry Blud Jackson NJ 08527

When Miss McKeever was a kid she wrote embarrassing fan letters to her Irish Dance heroes. One of them, Colin Dunne was not only a 9 time World Champion but was the second person to be asked to dance the male Lead in Riverdance after Michael Flatley. Years later Colin actually was her teacher at the University of Limerick. To her surprise Colin messaged her on Facebook during quarantine and had found these old letters and drawings from 1998..... He felt bad for not writing back but we think this makes it an even better story!

I am your biggest fan, an I admire you so much. I am an Irish dancer, and Irish dancing is my life. I had always wanted to take lessons when I was little but it was to much ey for us and it was a long commute. Then when I moved to N.J. I was finally able to take dance lessons. Starting at 13 it seemed like an impossible task to become a champion. Everyone was telling me it would take about 5 years. It was very discouraging. We fou out about Risseslance before classes started and it was the best thing I had ever seen in life I watched it 5000 million billion times. Riverdance was the best thing ever, I learned so uch from watching the show. I think that was one of the major reasons I was able to advance so quickly. In a year I went from beginner to preliminary champion. 1 am so determined to get as far as I can with dancing I love it so much. Thanks for being some ull of us aspiring young dancers can admire and look up to. You will always be my favorste Riverdancer of all time

I have started a business selling my Irish duncing artwork. It is catching on at my school and everyone is buying my prints. Now people are even asking me to do portraits of

When I saw you dance for the first time on the Jay Leno Show I couldn't believe my eyes. It was the most phenomenal thing I had ever seen. I was so glad there was some who could show the world how magnificent Irish dancing really is, and that simple tap dancing could never compete. Your the best dancer the world has ever seen, but I guess you know that already, I couldn't even fathout being a nine time world champton. You will

Thanks for your time, I know you are very busy, but please write back!



If it wouldn't be too much trouble I would love it so much if you could send me an autographed picture of yourself. Thanks.

Your biggest fan in the world!

Moving Outside For Classes! Dancers Try to Beat the Heat and Smoke



A huge shout out to all the dancers who came out to dance outside with us in August! We braved the harsh sun and pavement until a record breaking week of heat gave us temperatures as high as 111 degrees... oh and then a week of fires made the air quality unsafe to dance. But we kept dancing on zoom and the air cleared up! Than you to the Brazil Center for letting us use their space when we are not dancing in the shady spots of the parking lot! Keep it up dancers:)

Build Your Resume & Do Not Miss

IDTANA TRADITIONAL SET PROFICIENCY PROJECT UPDATE

There has been a terrific response from schools to the Traditional Set Proficiency Project.

BY THE NUMBERS

40 schools (as of August 16th) are participating in the project.

4 schools have already confirmed proficiency by at least one dancer in at least one set dance:

Doherty-Petri School (Mid Atlantic) Young School (Eastern Canada) McDade-Cara School (Mid Atlantic) Emerald Isle School (Mid Atlantic)

307 dancers have been confirmed as proficient in one or more of the traditional set dances.

St. Patrick's Day – 102 dancers Blackbird – 68 dancers Garden of Daisies – 2 dancers Job of Journeywork – 65 dancers Jockey to the Fair – 1 dancer Three Seas Captains – 3 dancers King of the Fairies – 66 dancers

JOIN THE FUN!



Congratulations!
e's to the first IDTANA Dancers to complete the IDTANA Traditional Set Proficien
Project Challenge for the IDTANA Presidential Proficiency - Certificate!

Congratulations to all of the dancers and dance schools who are participating in this project!

Ashurst Academy
Black Rose Academy
nishfree Massachusetts
Mulcahey Academy

Mid-America
Bentley Academy
Cannon
Dwyer School
Erickson Academy

Mid-Atlantic
An Clar School
Carle Irish Dance
Crane Irish Dance
Otherty-Petri Acade
Emerald sile Acader
Golding Academy

Inishfree NY
Dade-Cara Academy
ulvihill-tynch School
itali O'Leary School
Rince Na Sonas
Rince na Tiarna

Mattern US
p Irish Dance Compar
McKeever School
Power Academy
Whelan Acade

Finnegan School
Miller School
Rising Tide
Tir Na NOg

IDTANA has a fun project for dance schools that we are signing up to take part in! There are seven traditional set dances, Saint Patrick's Day, Blackbird, Job of Journeywork, Garden of Daisies, King of the Fairies, Jockey to the Fair and Three Sea Captains. You can learn one or all seven for this project. We will hire a judge, most likely in November who will sign off on the certificates and if a dancer is proficient in all 7 they earn the distinguished Presidential Award and will be honored publicly in newsletters and social media! Lets have a few McKeever dancers build that resume!

Check out Realta
Rince for any of
your embroidered
mask needs. If you
know of a business
that may need their
services Mags
Gogarty usually
creates our
embroidered team
costumes and we
would love to
support her during
these times.



