

Riverdance 20

The Creative Team

Robert Ballagh Set Designer

Robert is one of Ireland's most distinguished artists and designers. As a painter, his work is represented in many important collections including the National Gallery of Ireland and the Albrecht Dürer House, Nuremberg. He has designed seventy stamps for the Irish Postal Service and the last ever Irish banknotes before the Euro conversion for the Central Bank of Ireland. His striking stage designs for Steven Berkoff's version of Oscar Wilde's *Salomé* and Samuel Beckett's *Endgame* have enjoyed international success and he designed the Opening Ceremony for the 2003 Special Olympics World Summer Games held in Croke Park, Dublin. He is a member of Aosdána, a self-governing trust of Ireland's most eminent artists, and a fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science.

Joan Bergin Costume Designer

Joan is one of Ireland's best-known film costume designers. Film credits include *My Left Foot*, *In the Name of the Father* and *Dancing at Lughnasa*. She began her career in theatre and architectural design, winning awards in both areas. She designed Brian Friel's *Translations* on Broadway, and returned to New York's Lincoln Center in 1999 for their Friel season. Her work was seen on television in *David Copperfield* and on film in *Veronica Guerin*, directed by Joel Schumacher. Projects include *The Prestige*, shot in LA, and *The Tudors*, for which she has won three Emmy Awards. She has also won two IFTAs for *The Tudors*. Theatre work includes two Sam Shepard plays commissioned by the Abbey Theatre, *Kicking a Dead Horse* and *Ages of the Moon* directed by the actor/playwright, and Henrik Ibsen's *John Gabriel Borkman* starring Alan Rickman also at the Abbey. Joan is currently working on the third season of the *Vikings*.

Michael O'Gorman Sound Designer

Michael was born in London and completed his education at Trinity College, Dublin. Returning to England he founded his own sound company where his first client was Don McLean for his Sold Out 1975 tour. He was next approached by The Chieftains' management to provide sound for their first full British tour. This relationship formed the basis for the development of his interest in sound design. He has provided sound design for diverse artistic requirements, including Bill Whelan's *The Seville Suite* and *The Spirit of Mayo*, Eurovision '93, '94, '95, *The Shaughraun* (The Abbey), *The Wiremen*, *Aida*, *Handel's Messiah* (250th Anniversary at The Point), *Sweeney Todd* (The Gate), *Mother Goose*, *Beauty and The Beast*, *Aladdin*, *Robinson Crusoe* and *The Caribbean Pirates*, *Cinderella* (The Gaiety) and *The Lords of Love* (Wexford Opera House).

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John Comiskey Lighting Designer

Theatre credits include set/lighting/video design for *Phaedra* and *Sodome, My Love* (Rough Magic); *Hamlet* (Abbey); lighting for *L'Orfeo* (OTC), *Dodgems* (CoisCeim), *Kicking a Dead Horse*, (Abbey); set/lighting for *Mermaids*, *Hanging on by a Thread* (CoisCéim), and *Copenhagen* (Rough Magic), which won an Irish Times Theatre Award for Best Design. Director credits include *The Frost is All Over* (ten42); *The Well* (Abhann); *Ich Liebe Dich* (Gavin Friday); and production director of Riverdance. He was curator and designer of the Irish participation at the Prague Quadrennial Exhibition of world theatre design 2007. Film and television director credits include the dance film *Hit and Run*; and documentaries *Behind the Walls*; *The Wren's Day* and *The Berlin Years of Agnes Bernelle*. Filmed concerts include *Celtic Woman*, Brian Kennedy, Liam Lawton and Ronan Tynan (all PBS); the *Eurovision Song Contest 1995*, and programme credits include *Nighthawks*, *Today Tonight*; *The Blackbird and the Bell*, and various special events.

The original Lighting Design for Riverdance was created by Rupert Murray. 3 February 1951 – 17 August 2006. RIP

Julian Erskine Executive Producer

Julian has worked in the entertainment industry for over 40 years. He started his career in stage management and after several years as a lighting designer and production manager he set up and managed Ireland's first professional scenery supply company. In 1989 he returned to the world of theatre as a freelance producer and, in 1994, he joined the fledgling *Riverdance* team on a consultancy basis. A year later he was appointed Executive Producer and since then he has been responsible for all the *Riverdance* companies and productions worldwide. From 2005 to 2010 he was a director of Long Road Productions, an independent entertainment production and management company. Currently he is developing several new projects with his own production company, Tumblehome.

Padraic Moyles Associate Director

Born in Dublin, Padraic emigrated to New York when he was nine years old. At the age of twelve he starred as the principal actor in the Off Broadway production of *Grandchild of Kings*, directed by Harold Prince. Dancing under the tutelage of Donny Golden, he joined *Riverdance* in 1997, going on to become Dance Captain and Principal Dancer. He was nominated for an Ovation Award for his leading role in the show. In 2006 he joined the Broadway production of *The Pirate Queen* as Dance Captain before returning to *Riverdance* in 2008. He has had the privilege to perform for a number of heads of state and notable individuals from around the world, including Michelle Obama and Queen Elizabeth II. Padraic is also proud to be the Associate Director for the international show Heartbeat of Home which has toured China and North America. He would like to give special thanks to his father, brothers, sister, his wife Niamh and daughter Juliette-May for their continued support. He dedicates all his work to his late mother Christine Moyles.