



Moya Doherty – Curriculum Vitae



In 1994 RTE, the Irish National Broadcaster, hosted the Eurovision Song Contest following Irish wins in the previous two years. Moya Doherty was asked to produce an exciting cultural experience for the interval performance during the show. From that decision the world phenomenon known as Riverdance was born.

The first performance was produced by Moya Doherty. It featured Irish Dancing Champions Jean Butler and Michael Flatley, the RTÉ Concert Orchestra and the Celtic choral group Anúna with a score written by Bill Whelan.

It was so successful that later the same year the BBC commissioned a repeat performance of the act for the 1994 Royal Variety Show.

Later that year Moya and her husband John McColgan and their production company, Abhann, created a full length version, “Riverdance – The Show”, which premiered in 1995. It became hugely popular, with tickets selling out for the whole run. Later that year the show started touring the UK and Europe. Its first appearance in the United States was in March 1996 - the start of an eight-week sell-out season at Radio City Music Hall, New York.

Riverdance continued to grow in popularity and success, touring the world over, including the Far East and Australia. Since Riverdance began its full length performances, the show has...

- Played 10,000 performances
- Been seen live by over 22 million people in over 350 venues worldwide,
- throughout 40 countries across 4 continents
- Travelled 600,000 miles (or to the moon and back!)
- Played to a global television audience of 2 billion people
- Sold over 3 million copies of the Grammy Award-winning CD
- Sold 10 million Riverdance videos

Riverdance is synonymous with Ireland throughout the world and awareness of Ireland and its culture has been greatly enhanced by its success. The show has had an enormous influence on the resurgence and modernisation of Irish Dancing not only in Ireland but also in Irish cultural centres throughout the world.

Moya Doherty lives in Dublin with her husband John McColgan and their sons, Mark and Danny. Her career includes theatre, radio and television production, both in Ireland and internationally. Moya is a director of Tyrone Productions, a founding Director of Today FM and in the past ten years has sat on a number of arts-related Boards including The Ark, Dublin Theatre Festival, Walnut Hill Arts School in Massachusetts and Business to Arts. She is a current member of the Board of The Abbey Theatre.

Moya has received the Veuve Clicquot Business Woman of the Year, the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award and Honorary Doctorates from the University of Ulster & from the National University of Ireland in recognition of her ongoing commitment to the world of the arts in Ireland.

Moya Doherty and her husband, John McColgan, are currently producing, and are involved in, a diverse range of projects for the Irish and international stage.

What is EHF?

The European Hospitality Foundation (EHF) was created in 2006 and its objective is to finance non-profit projects related to HOTREC's activities. For more information: <http://www.hotrec.eu/about-us/european-hospitality-foundation.aspx>