

PRESS RELEASE

Tomaseen Foley's *A Celtic Christmas* Tour 2018

Every Christmas, for the past twenty years, from California to Florida and from Maine to Texas, **Tomáseen Foley's *A Celtic Christmas*** has crisscrossed the country, bringing to packed concert halls his authentic remembrance of a way of life that is, alas, no longer with us -- an unforgettable staging of a night before Christmas at a remote farmhouse in the west of Ireland in the 1940s and 50s - the days before the motor car, the television and the telephone.

Storyteller/Director **Tomáseen Foley** was born on a small farm in the remote parish of *Teampall an Ghleanntáin* in the south-west of Ireland and grew up cradled in a culture unique to the old communal way of life. *The Oregon Cabaret* has developed and presented a hit musical from his story *Parcel From America*. He has released two CDs: *Parcel From America*, and a live recording, *The Priest and the Acrobat*. www.tomaseenfoley.com

The show's Music Director is *Grammy Award*-winning guitarist **William Coulter** - an internationally recognized master of the steel-string guitar. He has been performing and recording traditional Celtic and American folk music for nearly 30 years. www.williamcoulter.com

The show also features renowned *uilleann* piper, flute and whistle player - and world-champion-level traditional Irish Dancer **Brian Bigley**- www.brianbigleymusic.com/

New to the show this year, from County Clare, is one of Ireland's most promising young artists - vocalist, multi-instrumentalist, and world-champion-level Irish dancer, **Eimear Arkins**. Eimear holds eleven solo All-Ireland *Fleadh Cheoil* titles and has represented Ireland in France at *Rennes Expo*, in Spain in *La Noche Negra*, in China at *World Expo*, and in Italy at *World Expo 2015*. Her new solo album is entitled *What's Next?*
www.eimeararkins.com

Also new to this year's show, from County Mayo in the west of Ireland - on accordion, **Bríd O'Donnell**. Bríd is an honors graduate in Music and Dance from the University of Limerick, and is a member of the band, *Billow Wood*. (West coast shows only) www.billowwood.com

From County Galway in the west of Ireland, one of the most original and scintillating dancers on the traditional Irish dance scene today, world-champion-level traditional Irish Dancer **Marcus Donnelly**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xBZrrSTHvQ>

We are delighted to welcome back to this year's show - fresh from her tour of China with *Riverdance*, one of the

most engaging and delightful of traditional Irish dancers, **Alyssa Reichert**. Alyssa has completed with great distinction at all levels of the Irish dance world, including the World Irish Dance Championship in Scotland in 2015.

Tomáseen Foley is a master of the Irish narrative, and a keeper of the flame for a priceless piece of Irish culture.

Tom Horan - Rego Irish Record

Every time I see "A Celtic Christmas" I am moved deeply.

Richard Moeschl, Mail Tribune, Medford, OR.

Reviews: <http://tomaseenfoley.com/wpcontent/uploads/2014/05/Reviews2014.pdf>