

McGoldrick's

Thread





“A Charming Musical... Splendid comic timing”

- The New York Times

“The step dancing is engaging and just plain phenomenal”

- Blog Critics

“Shines with family values that are steeped in Irish tradition”

- Theatre Reviews

McGoldrick's *Thread*



Written and conceived by Marianne Driscoll, developed and directed by Kira Simring, and composed by Ronnie D'Addario, *McGoldrick's Thread* tells the heart-warming story of trial, triumph, and love that radiates through an Irish family who settled in the Bronx.

Told through an energetic delivery of Irish dance (featuring groundbreaking choreography by *Hammerstep*'s Jason Oremus and Garrett Coleman), music (featuring an original Irish score by *Riverdance*'s Patrick Mangan), and storytelling, *McGoldrick's Thread* celebrates the "thread" of an Irish family, a timeless bond that resonates beyond the reality of urban life.

The opening run of *McGoldrick's Thread* was incubated at Nancy Manocherian's cell and enjoyed a four week, sold out run at Theatre 80 St. Marks as part of Origin's 1st Irish Theatre Festival winning Best Production, Best Direction, and a Special Jury Prize for Outstanding Choreography.







Scenes from the opening night of *McGoldrick's Thread* at St Mark's Theatre, NYC September 2013

About

The Story

McGoldrick's Thread is the story of the O'Reilly family, who have settled in a small apartment in the Bronx after leaving Clonmel, Ireland to raise their four children. Magee, the youngest and only daughter, is a competitive Irish dancer whose traditional, worn and outgrown dance dress poses a problem for her upcoming Feis. Colorfully moving through time and place, New York and Ireland; the play reveals the trials, triumphs and humor of the O'Reilly and McGoldrick families. In their small apartment, Magee and her family learn a valuable lesson about tradition and the things we give up to create new ones.

The Score

Marianne Driscoll, Eliot Riskin and composer Ronnie D'Addario have penned a dynamic score that marries both the beauty and message of the story into memorable foot-tapping musical numbers. Add a "Dream Dance" and other compositions by Patrick Mangan and you have a truly remarkable musical experience.

The Steps

With electrifying energy from start to finish, top level dancers from five Irish dance schools through New York and Ohio are among the cast. Jason Oremus (lead) and Garrett Coleman (two-time World Champion) have appeared in *Riverdance* and are the developers of the Irish step dancing-hip-hop fusion dance group, *Hammerstep* were featured on *America's Got Talent*. Together, the thunderous dance kicks and skill of these performers propel the show into high gear and become a vital element of the storytelling.

The Cast

Casey Murray (Magee), Elizabeth West (Marion), Peter Cormican (PJ), John Charles McLaughlin (Thomas), Paul Nugent (William), Conor McIntyre (Shane), Jason Oremus (Mr. Duffy), Garrett Coleman (Eddie), Jessie Driscoll (Young Marion) and Sheppard Somers (Young PJ). With the dance talents of Mairead Brown, Jessica Byrne, Declan Byrne, Ciaran O'Brien, Natalie Vestergom, Hayleigh Jusas and Sean Crosby.

“Dazzling Footwork”

- Irish Dancing Magazine



Awards & Achievements

In 2013, *McGoldrick's Thread* ran four weeks at Theatre 80 St. Marks as part of Origins "1st Irish Festival" in New York City. This festival has been running for several years and features a selection of Irish playwrights and independent producers from around the globe showcasing their works in a chance to take top honors at the Festival's awards. Judged by a panel of international industry critics, *McGoldrick's Thread* proved to be the festival favorite, winning three of seven awards-including Best Production, Best Director and the Special Jury Prize for Outstanding Choreography.

McGoldrick's Thread sold out its entire 14 show debut run in just nine days- two months before opening night! This is a staggering achievement and was reflected by breaking 1st Irish Festival records as the fastest selling play in its seven year history. This led to considerable media attention and glowing reviews from various outlets including The New York Times.

Recent reviews of *McGoldrick's Thread* can be found on our website:

www.mcgoldricksthread.com

***McGoldrick's Thread* Wins Top Awards at Origins 2013 1st Irish Theatre Festival:**

- **BEST PRODUCTION**
- **BEST DIRECTOR**
- **SPECIAL JURY PRIZE**
(Outstanding Choreography)

Entire 14 show run sold out in 9 days

Fastest sellout time in history of the 1st Irish festival

Four added shows due to popular demand, sold out instantly

The *McGoldrick's Thread* creative team at the 1st Irish Festival

Awards 2013

L-R: Garrett Coleman, Kira Simring, Marianne Driscoll, Jason Oremus





Creator & Producers

Marianne Driscoll

Creator, Writer, Producer

A writer, producer and photographer, Marianne has been captivating audiences around the world with stories, expressed through written and visual forms, her entire life. Marianne began her career in the corporate world as a copywriter for John Blair Marketing, where she developed print and broadcast ads, sales brochures and corporate videos. With a love of the visual arts, she later turned her passion for photography into a profession and built a lucrative career working on assignments in the U.S., internationally and for CBS Radio, where she photographed Martha Stewart and others. She now brings her talents to the stage. As creator, writer and producer of *McGoldrick's Thread*, she adds song writer to her list of accomplishments as she beautifully brings to life stories about family, tradition, struggle and love. Marianne's latest play, *The Biscuit Club*, ran with sold out performances and rave reviews at the cell theatre in 2015, where she is a Resident Artist.

Man behind the Curtain

Executive Producers

Man Behind the Curtain Productions is an twelve-time Emmy Award winning production company with over twenty-five years of experience in broadcast television. Clients include HBO, NBC, CBS, ABC/ESPN, The History Channel and The Food Network. Show credits include HBO's multi-E Emmy and Peabody Award winning Real Sports with Bryant Gumbel, NBC's London Olympics coverage and CBS Sports' 75th Anniversary March Madness series as well as numerous documentary films. As a partner with the marketing team for HBO, Man Behind the Curtain Productions won numerous Promax Awards and is part of two promotional campaigns elected into the CTAM (Cable & Telecommunications Association for Marketing) Hall of Fame for *The Sopranos* and *True Blood*. In 2013 the company made its first foray into live theatrical stage work in the overwhelmingly successful production of *McGoldrick's Thread*.

1st Irish Theatre Festival Awards

BELOW: (L-R)

Tres Driscoll,

Marianne Driscoll (Creator and Executive Producer)





Music & Lyrics

Ronnie D'Addario

Musical Score



Ronnie's credits include TV commercial jingles, six PBS shows with Tommy Makem (where he performed with Judy Collins and Eric Weissberg of "Dueling Banjos" fame) and an appearance on the Rosie O'Donnell Show. He has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Guinness Fleadh at Randall's Island, Lisner Auditorium, Washington DC, and Mechanic's Hall, Worcester, MA. Ronnie also produced the album "Live At the Irish Pavilion," a favorite among Makem fans and has produced several other artists, including Morning Star, Mary O'Dowd, Danny Quinn and The Irish Mist. His song "Falling for Love," was recorded by The Carpenters in 1981. Ronnie has two albums out "Time Will Tell On

You" and "God's Won Me Over." Ronnie plays in the classic rock band "The Rock Club." He is currently working on a new album entitled "A Very Short Dream."

Eliot Riskin

Additional Lyrics

Eliot worked for over thirty years at BBDO New York, as Senior Vice President, Associate Creative Director, creating advertising for, among others, Visa, Snickers, Lowe's and Pizza Hut.

Patrick Mangan

Traditional Irish composition

Fiddler Patrick Mangan is a two-time All-Ireland champion, studied with renowned player and teacher, Brian Conway and mentored by the late Sligo fiddle legends Andy McGann and Paddy Reynolds. At sixteen, Patrick appeared in Riverdance on Broadway, becoming the youngest fiddle player in the show's history. Since then, he has performed with Riverdance at some of the most prestigious venues around the globe, as a featured soloist from 2006 through the present. He has dazzled



audiences across the US, Canada, Mexico, Ireland, Germany, France, Switzerland, Japan, China, Taiwan, South Africa, Israel, Australia, and New Zealand. He has also toured with Celtic music luminaries John Whelan and Cathie Ryan, and has co-written various compositions for the progressive Irish dance group *Hammerstep*.

Dance Direction & Choreography



Garrett Coleman

Choreographer

Co-founder and Artistic Director of The *Hammerstep* Initiative, Garrett toured internationally with *Riverdance* and Trinity Irish Dance Company and performed with various other groups, including Cherish the Ladies, The Chieftans, Eileen Ivers, Gaelic Storm, Marvin Hamlisch and the Pittsburgh Symphony, David Dorfman of NYC, and Pittsburgh's Attack Theatre. In addition to Irish Step, Garrett has trained in hip hop, tap, and contemporary movement. Competitively, Garrett was named the two-time World Champion (2004, 2005) and All Ireland Champion (2004). He is also a nine-time Mid-American Champion and has held the North American title six times. In 2006, he was a silver medalist and scholarship winner with the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts, and was named a Presidential Scholar in the Arts. In June of 2006, he met President Bush at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. and performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.



Jason Oremus

Choreographer

Originally from Sydney, Australia, choreographer and performer Jason is a former lead dancer for *Riverdance* and co-creator of the groundbreaking dance group *Hammerstep*. Winning 5 consecutive State and National Solo Irish dancing titles from 1999-2003, Jason performed in the Opening Ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympics (alongside Tap Dogs) at just 15 years of age. In early 2004, Jason joined the world famous *Riverdance*. He toured as the principle male dancer for over seven years, performing in over 40 countries and for notable leaders including The Empress of Japan and Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard. Jason has choreographed for various institutions, including recent engagements for the American Academy of the Dramatic Arts and the University of Dayton Dance Ensemble. Jason is also the co-creator of '*Hammerstep*', a progressive performance crew that is pushing the boundaries of dance and public presentation. *Hammerstep* is currently in pre-production for an off-Broadway run in NYC.

Visit www.hammerstep.com for further updates.

Director & Dance Captain

Kira Simring

Director

Kira has been the Artistic Director of Nancy Manocherian's the cell-an incubator for new theatrical works in the heart of New York City-since its inception in 2006. Kira has worked closely with playwrights, composers and performance artist to develop and realize their work. Directing credits include the premieres of *Crackskull Row* by Honor Molloy (New York Times Critics' Pick), *Hard Times: An American Musical* by Larry Kirwan (New York Times Critic's Pick), and *The McGowen Trilogy* by Seamus Scanlon (New York and UK Premieres). Kira's work has been seen at he New Theatre Row Theatres, The Skirball Center, The Thalia Theatre in Symphony Space, The Connecticut Grand Opera, CenterStage in Baltimore and The Kino-Theatre outside London. Kira has been granted a Schubert Fellowship and is a three-time Origin Theatre 1st Irish Festival award Winner for Best Director. She received a BA in Anthropology from Smith College and an MFA in Directing at The New School for Drama.



L-R: Kira Simring and Marianne Driscoll

Jessie Driscoll

Dance Captain

A seasoned competitive Irish dancer and performer, Jessie trained with the Hagen School of Irish Dance in Long Beach, NY, consistently placing at National and World Championship levels. Jessie has now turned her attention to performance and dance captaincy. She has performed on various television networks including HBO, as well as live performances at *Lincoln Center*, and various other notable venues. Jessie appeared as a featured soloist with internationally touring dance show *Take The Floor* (in association with *Riverdance*). She performed as a resident dancer at *Raglan Road* (Disney, Orlando) and *Celtic Fry* (Bush Gardens, VA). She has toured the U.S., Europe and Asia with Irish dance troupes *Celtic Legends*, *Gaelforce*, *Rhythm in the Night*, *American Company of Irish Dance*, and also performs with the neo-Irish dance group *Hammerstep*. Jessie is the dance captain and lead dancer for *McGoldrick's Thread*.



"Step dancing routines are interspersed throughout, prompting whoops and cheers from the audience... (and) at least one critic."

- The New York Times



McGoldrick's *Thread*

For further information and inquiries:

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www.mcgoldricksthread.com

McGoldrick's Thread was first incubated at
Nancy Manocherian's
the cell.

www.thecelltheatre.org





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