



Irish Dance Masterclasses
with
Breandán de Gallaí & Sarah Fennell
of Ériu Dance Company

This event is part of Zeitgeist Irland 24, an initiative of Culture Ireland and the Embassy of Ireland in Germany.

19-20. October 2024

Tap Connection Irish Dance Berlin
Bergstrasse 92, 12169 Berlin, Germany

Following the German premier of Ériu Dance Company at the UfaFabrik in Berlin, dancers will have the opportunity to take masterclasses with company member Sarah Fennell and choreographer Breandán de Gallaí on three levels.

Advanced dancers will have the opportunity to explore innovative choreographies of the Ériu Dance Company repertoire. Please read the class description for this opportunity carefully.

About Breandán



Breandán is an enthusiast of many dance genres and in 1988 he graduated from the Gus Giordano Dance Academy, Chicago, having been awarded a scholarship to study Ballet, Modern, Jazz and Tap dance.

As a dancer, Breandán toured with *Riverdance* from 1994 - 2003, 7 of which in the position of principal dancer. He also acted as Dance Director for the company from 2007-2013. He returned to the stage after a 13-year hiatus to perform in his own production *Linger* and has continued to dance in his company work ever since.

As a dance scholar Breandán's interest lies in the contemporisation of Irish dance. He completed a performance-based doctorate in 2013, the first of its

kind in the world. He earned an MA in Ethnochoreology in 2009 and was external examiner for the MA in Traditional Irish Dance Performance at the University of Limerick from 2004 - 2008. Breandán has held the positions of Course Director of the Arts Practice PhD programme and the MA Irish Dance Performance at the University of Limerick. He is currently Course Director of the BA and MA in Irish Dance Performance at the university. Breandán also holds a B.Sc. (Hons) in Physics.

About Sarah Fennell



Sarah is a dance artist and teacher based in Limerick. Her exploration lies within the parameters of Traditional Irish step dance through the lens of contemporary dance. Sarah is primarily interested in the processes involved when making dance. She has worked as a professional dance artist with various Irish based dance companies and choreographers over the past ten years. These artists include, Kristyn Fontanella, Breandán de Galláí (Ériu dance company), Liz Roche Company (as an intern), Phillipa Donellan and Mary Nunan. She had also made a number of solo and collaborative works as

an independent artist. Having graduated from an MA in Traditional Dance and Contemporary Dance at The University of Limerick, she is delighted to be a tutor of Creative Practice on the BA in Traditional Dance at The Irish World Academy in UL.

About Ériu Dance Company

In his capacity as artist director and choreographer of dance company Ériu, Breandán explores the poetic potential of the Irish dance form and presents work that is explorative and innovative in a contemporary context. He has created several works, most notably The Village, Walls Talk, Salómae, Aon, Linger, Rite of Spring and Noctú. The work has been nominated for several major awards including The Drama Desks (NY), Business to Arts (Ire), and Total Theatre Awards (UK).

Ériu's all male interpretation of Lorca's The House of Bernarda Alba premiered at the Galway Theatre Festival in early May 2023, and this year, Countless Cathleens, an original dance-comedy, also premiered at the same festival

In development are 3 projects:

Decland, a solo project about loss, grieving, and finding meaning. Manly Men, due to be completed in mid-2025. Every Silver Lining, which is a duet including Sarah Fennell and Breandán. Balor which is being created for the youth branch of the company – Na Mic Ua gCorra – and will have its première at the Earagail Arts Festival in 2025.

www.eiru.co

Here are some excerpts from Ériu Dance Company's dance works:

10 Year Anniversary of Ériu Dance Company

[\(8\) ÉRIU \(CELEBRATING 10 YEARS\) - SRUTHÁIN - EARAGAIL ARTS FESTIVAL 2020 - YouTube](#)

Salómae

[\(8\) Salómae Excerpt 1 - YouTube](#)

Rite of Spring

[\(8\) 22/11/19 Rite of Spring Final \(Eriu Dance Company\) - YouTube](#)

Noctú

[\(8\) Noctú New York Sept 2011 - Firebird - YouTube](#)

THE VILLAGE

AN ÉRIU DANCE COMPANY PRODUCTION FROM IRELAND

TRADISIÚN
DANCE
THEATER

UFAFABRIK BERLIN

18. OKTOBER 2024, 19.00

TICKET HOTLINE: 030 75 55 35

WWW.RESERVIX.DE

CREATED BY
BREANDÁN DE GALLAI

PRESENTED BY
GYULA GLASER

Class and Level Description

There are three levels of classes to choose from. Below is a guide:

Level I - Beginner to Easy Primary

This level is suitable for dancers who have gained some experience in both soft- and hard shoe dancing. They have already familiarised themselves with the beginner reel, light jig and beginner heavy jig or hornpipe and maybe have already started to explore some more advanced dances, such as the primary reel. The class will focus on strengthening and further developing the dancers fundamental skills and technique with challenging but suitable material for further progress.

Level II - Advanced Primary to Intermediate

This level is suitable for the more advanced dancers with experience with primary and intermediate standard dances. The dancers have a good understanding of timing and rhythm structures and are able to grasp more complex material. The class will focus on advancing the dancer's set of skills to further engage with challenging and more advanced materials.

Level III – Advanced

Advanced dancers are required to have a very good standard in terms of timing, rhythm, and technique and are comfortable dancing open standard, advanced dances both soft and hard shoe. The dancers are able to understand complex and challenging rhythms and footwork. Following on last year's success, advanced dancers will be only learning Ériu Dance Company material over the course of the weekend. This is to allow dancers a deep engagement with the company's material and artistic vision. This is an opportunity for aspiring dancers who wish to pursue Irish dance as a profession or would like to explore a more contemporarised vision of Irish step dance performance.

Dancers wishing to take part in these classes on Level 3 are required to send a video of their dancing – 16 bars (Right & Left) of a step in Hornpipe/Jig timing in traditional style to traditional Irish music. The dancers will be assessed in terms of their ability, as well as their suitability to engage with the material, and offers extended to candidates in advance of the Masterclass series.

Dancers who participated in the Ériu Dance Company classes in October 2023 in Berlin are automatically accepted into the class this year.

Please note! Dancers should consider which level they are best suited to, to gain the most benefit from the workshop. If after the first class, Breandán feels that a dancer should change level for the second day, he will advise.

Schedule

Saturday – 19th October 2024

With Sarah Fennell

10:00 – 11:30 – Level I

11:45 – 13:15 – Level II

14:45 – 16:45 – Ériu Class for Level III dancers

17:30 – 19:30 – Ériu Class for Level III dancers

19:30 – 20:00 Video Presentation from Ériu 's Repertoire

Sunday – 20th October 2024

With Breandán de Gallaí

10:00 – 11:30 - Level I

11:45 – 13:15 - Level II

14:45 – 16:45 – Ériu Class for Level III dancers

17:30 – 19:30 – Ériu Class for Level III dancers

Pricelist

<i>Package</i>	<i>Early Bird</i> <i>(booking till 2nd Sept 2024)</i>	<i>Normal Fee</i>
<i>1 level – 2 classes</i> <i>3 hours of dancing</i> Level I or Level II	100 €	120 €
<i>2 levels – 4 classes</i> <i>6 hours of dancing</i> Level I and Level II	190 €	220 €
<i>Ériu Dance</i> <i>Company Class</i> <i>8 hours of dancing</i>	190 €	220 €
<i>1 class</i> <i>1,5 hours of dancing</i> <i>Only available on Level I + II</i>	60 €	70 €

You can access the [APPLICATION FORM here!](#)

Terms & Conditions for the Masterclasses

1. The deadline for applications is the 1st of October 2024.
2. Deadline for Early Bird Discount is the 2nd of September 2024.
3. After we received your application form, we will inform you about your Fee that is to be paid within 5 days via bank transfer into our account (Gyula Glaser-Ohnesorge; IBAN: DE67 1001 1001 2626 9528 02; BIC: NTSBDEB1XXX). After we received your Fee, you will receive a Confirmation Email about your successful application.
4. Please note that a confirmed application **can be cancelled at no cost only till the 1st of September 2024**. After this date, only 50% of your fee can be refunded.
5. Please note that classes have a maximum capacity of 15 participants. In case of larger interest, we will create a waiting list, or look for a larger venue, but we cannot guarantee.
6. Single Class Admissions (for example you only would like to apply for 1 class on Saturday) will only be confirmed upon availability after the 30th of September 2024.
7. Everyone is attending the Masterclasses on their own responsibility. The Teachers and Organizers are not taking any responsibility for injuries. For attendees under age 18, a legal representative of the child also must sign the printed application form.
8. Minimum age for participants is 12.
9. Video recordings and taking photos during classes is strictly prohibited. There will be an opportunity to take personal and group photos with the tutor after class.
10. The organizers of the Masterclass are not taking any responsibility for the attendee's personal belongings left in the studio area.
11. The attendees accept that photos and videos could be taken by the organizers, which may appear in future promotional materials.
12. Your personal data is only used by the organizers to co-ordinate the workshop. Your data will not be given to any third parties. However, they are stored on servers of Google and Microsoft as we are using the cloud solutions of these companies.
13. The Masterclass is open for dancers from all organisations and levels. Everybody is welcome.