

DANCING ON DANGEROUS GROUND

25 YEARS ON

WITH JEAN BUTLER AND COLIN DUNNE

CHOREOGRAPHY - DISCUSSIONS - SCREENING

Join us in Berlin for this special event!

February 28 - March 2, 2025

“After years of requests about the show and inquiries about a potential workshop, the time feels right to revisit *Dancing on Dangerous Ground* and to mark its 25th year anniversary. We are very excited to see the show come back to life with today’s Irish dancers. Thank you to everyone who has reached out over the years! We hope to see you all in Berlin. It’s going to be special, for sure.”

Jean and Colin

LOCATIONS

Feb. 28 - Tap Connection Irish Dance Berlin

(Bergstraße 92, 12169 Berlin, Germany)

Mar. 1 - Mar. 2, 2025 - Tanzraum Wedding

(Oudenarder Straße 16-20, 13347 Berlin Germany

Entry from: Carree Seestraße, Staircase A8, 2. Floor)

CONTACT

Gyula Glaser (him/his)

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About the Event

In an unprecedented three-day event in Berlin, Jean Butler and Colin Dunne reunite to teach select choreography from *Dancing on Dangerous Ground* which had its premiere 25 years ago in London's Drury Lane and went on to a sell-out run in NY's Radio City Music Hall. Described in the New York Times as 'channeling Irish dance into genuine artistic expression' *Dancing on Dangerous Ground* achieved cult status amongst Irish dancers worldwide.

This never-before-offered special event will take place from February 28 – March 2. On Saturday and Sunday, Jean and Colin will teach material and sequences from two of the most popular scenes in the show, The Prologue and The Wedding. These scenes, chosen for their distinct and contrasting choreographic elements, demonstrate Jean and Colin's unique and pioneering approach to expanding Irish dance technique beyond the predominant modes of expression of the time. The earthy-rooted aesthetic of the Prologue in addition to the ebullient intricate celebration of the Wedding sequences allow for participants to experience the full choreographic breadth of this dynamic show.

An intimate gathering on the Friday evening includes a showing of the sole recording of the Radio City production of *Dancing on Dangerous Ground* from 2000. This recently digitized archival recording has never been shown publicly. The recording captures the many changes the show went through in preparation for its North American premiere. A discussion with Jean and Colin moderated by Gyula Glaser will follow the showing with time for Q&A with participants. Light refreshments will be provided.

Schedule

Friday, Feb. 28, 2025, in Tap Connection Berlin

18:00 Gathering & Screening of *Dancing on Dangerous Ground*,

Recording from 2000, New York, Radio City Music Hall

20:30 - 21:30 Q/A Session

Saturday, Mar. 1, 2025, in Tanzraum Wedding

12:00 - 15:00 - Choreography Session I

15:00 - 16:30 - Lunch Break

16:30 - 20:00 - Choreography Session II

Sunday, Mar. 2, 2025, in Tanzraum Wedding

10:00 - 13:00 - Choreography Session III

13:00 - 14:30 - Lunch Break and Photo Session

14:30 - 18:00 - Choreography Session IV



The Application Process and Fees

This event is open to both amateur and professional dancers, past and present. We look forward to welcoming a diverse group of participants to Berlin for this immersive weekend of dance.

To ensure all dancers possess a suitable level of skills to fully participate over Saturday and Sunday, an Introduction Video is required as part of the application process. A clear understanding and demonstration of timing and rhythm is required as the show includes complex patterns of movement.

All Introduction Videos should include:

- Your name
- A brief comment about why you would like to participate in the workshop
- 16 bars danced in heavy shoe in either Jig, Hornpipe, or Reel time. Please make sure the video is full body shot and that it captures your ability and spirit!
- Professional dancers with an existing show-reel/performance video where they are clearly featured, can submit this as an alternative to dancing 16 bars.
- Anything else you would like to tell us about yourself!

Upload your video to Youtube and select the privacy setting “unlisted”. Title your video clearly with your name and include the link in the application form.

Here is a [short video guide](#) showing you how to do it.

Alternatively, a Vimeo link will also be accepted.

Due to limited capacity, applications will be assessed on a first come basis.

Application Period

October 15 - December 1, 2024

An online application form will be available on <https://www.tap-connection.de/events/dodg25.html> on 15th October 2024.

Fee: 345 EUR per person



About *Dancing on Dangerous Ground*

Dancing on Dangerous Ground, the spectacle Irish dance show inspired by the Celtic legend Diarmuid and Grainne, was created and choreographed by Jean Butler and Colin Dunne, with music composed by Seamus Egan and performed by Solas. The international cast, featuring Butler and Dunne, included twenty four Irish dancers from Ireland, England, Scotland, US, and Canada. The show premiered in the West End's Drury Lane Theatre in December of 1999 and went on to a sellout run in NY's Radio City Music Hall in March 2000. The New York Times hailed the show as 'channeling Irish dance into genuine artistic expression' and New York Magazine claimed '*Dancing on Dangerous Ground*, blessedly corrected the more extravagant errors of the earlier shows. *Dangerous Ground* lets you see dancing. Marvelous dancing, dancing that comes first and foremost.'

About Jean Butler

Jean Butler is an Irish dance artist and choreographer working across theatre, film, sound, and archival practice. Butler's work uniquely bridges the gap between a culturally specific form and a contemporary ideological approach to performance.

Her critically acclaimed production, *What We Hold*, premiered at the Dublin Theatre Festival in 2022 and recently played the Irish Arts Center for a 3-week sellout run in February 2024. Past works have been commissioned and presented by the Abbey Theatre, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Danspace Project, Dublin Dance Festival, Dublin Theatre Festival, Irish Arts Center, Jacobs Pillow, The Joyce, The Kennedy Center, Project Arts Centre, and Seamus Heaney Homeplace, among others.

As Artistic Director of the non-for-profit organization Our Steps, Butler created *Our Steps, Our Story: An Irish Dance Legacy Archive* with over 200 hours of video and audio resources of never documented solo dances and oral history interviews spanning five countries and seven decades.

Butler has taught extensively at NYU, Princeton University, University of Notre Dame Global Center, and Irish World Academy of Music and Dance at University of Limerick. Butler choreographed and starred in the original productions of *Riverdance* and *Dancing on Dangerous Ground*. She is the recipient of many prestigious awards, including TG4's Gradam Ceoil, lifetime achievement award in May 2024.

Instagram: @jeanbutlerdance



About Colin Dunne

After making *Dancing on Dangerous Ground* with Jean Butler, Colin made a bold move and enrolled as a student on the MA in Contemporary Dance Performance at the University of Limerick. Since then, he has worked as an independent dance artist and teacher, collaborating across dance, music, screen, and theatre performance platforms in Ireland and internationally.

His first solo show, *Out of Time* (2008), was nominated for a 2010 Olivier Award for outstanding achievement in dance, and a UK Critics' Circle Award for Best Male Dancer. It toured internationally until 2016 including performances at Biennale de Lyon, Barbican, London and Baryshnikov Arts Centre, NY. His most recent solo show *CONCERT*, based on the music of Irish fiddle player Tommie Potts, received the TG4 Gradam Ceoil Award for Music Collaboration in 2018, and a New York Bessie Award Nomination in 2020.

Other notable collaborations include: *Session* (2019) with Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, *Whitby* (2017) with Joan Sheehy, *Edges of Light* (2016 commissioned by Music Network), *20 Dancers for the XX Century* (2015 Boris Charmatz, at the Tate Museum London), *The Turn* (2013) composed by Linda Buckley and *The Bull* (2005) by Michael Keegan Dolan.

Recent performances include: *Somewhere In The Body* (2022) by Aine Stapleton, *Alternatively Terrific and Gentle* (2020) by Liz Roche Company, *What We Hold* (2024) with Jean Butler/Our Steps, and with Martin Hayes, Kate Ellis, and Record producer Jackknife Lee (2023) at the Kennedy Center Washington D.C

As a movement director, his work includes *In The Middle of the Fields* by Mary Lavin (2023) directed by Joan Sheehy, *The Risen People* (Abbey Theatre 2013) directed by Jimmy Fay, and *Christ Deliver Us* (Abbey Theatre 2010) directed by Wayne Jordan.

A passionate teacher, Dunne is an independent thinker when it comes to passing on the tradition. He continues to teach workshops globally and for online platforms and provides mentorship to professional Irish dancers who wish to pursue sustainable careers in the arts. Between 2010 and 2021 he devised and taught modules in both solo making and improvisation for students of Traditional dance at the University of Limerick.

Instagram: @colindunnedance



Terms and Conditions

In the following section of the document:

Dancing on Dangerous Ground: 25 Years On
will be referred to as the “Event”.

Jean Butler and Colin Dunne
will be referred to as the “Choreographers”

Gyula Glaser
will be referred to as the “Organizer”

Applications

1. Applications open on the 15th of October 2024. The deadline for applications is the 1st of December 2024. They can be submitted only through the application form.
2. Applicants will receive a confirmation as soon as their Introduction video is evaluated but no later than the 7th of December 2024.
3. Please note that the Event has a maximum capacity of 30 participants. In case of larger interest, a waiting list will be created.

Payment and Cancellation Policy

4. After you received confirmation email of your accepted application, please transfer the full fee of 345,00 EUR to the following 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.
5. Individual Payment Plans can be arranged for partial payments (max. 3 rates). To arrange this, please contact the Organizer on events@tap-connection.de.
6. No other forms of payment will be accepted other than bank transfer.
7. Please note that a confirmed application can be cancelled at no cost only till the 1st of December. After this date, only 50% of your fee can be refunded.

Liability

8. All participants are attending the Event on their own responsibility. The Choreographers, the Organizer and Locations are not taking any responsibility for injuries. Please make sure that your health insurance and/or accident insurance is covering dance related injuries.



9. The Organizer and the Choreographers do not take any responsibility for belongings left in changing rooms or other facilities during the Event.

Age Limit

10. Minimum age for participants is 16. A legal representative must sign a written application form prior to the Event. This document will be provided by the Organizer.

Videos and Photos

11. Video recordings and taking photos during the dance sessions and the screening by participants is strictly prohibited. There will be an opportunity to take personal and group photos with the Choreographers during the Event.

12. The attendees accept that photos and videos could be taken by the Organizer and/or Choreographers of the Event, which may appear in future promotional materials and/or archived materials of the Event.

Archive Release Form

13. Our Steps will be documenting the three day event for the Jerome Robbins Dance Division of the New York Public Library. All participants will be required to sign a release form prior to attending.

Your Personal Data

14. Your personal data is only used by the Organizer 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.

Final Terms

15. This document is part of the Terms and Conditions of the Event. By submitting an application, the applicant acknowledges and agrees to these terms.