

## JOYCE RICHARDSON, IDTA

### Gotta Dance at the Academy of Flamenco



Joyce Richardson

#### | Biography |

Joyce trained at the *Urdang Academy of Ballet and Performing Arts* and has worked with some of the greats of Irish theatre. She found Flamenco in 1997 and began teaching in 2005. She is presently very busy giving workshops, creating new pieces and performing to get Flamenco established in Ireland.

#### | Profile |

Joyce started dance at the age of 2 with *Ita Caldwell School of Irish Dance* and Ballet at age 9 with *Myrtle Lambkin School of Dance*. By age 16 she had completed all major classical exams including IDTA Associate. She worked in many shows with some of the greats of Irish theatre...Maureen Potter, Brendan Grace, Twink, Noel Pearson, Noel Purcell, Ronnie Drew, to mention a few.

Joyce went to train at the *Urdang Academy of Ballet and Performing Arts* where she studied RAD, Russian and Cecchetti classical dance, Limone, Graham and Horton contemporary, as well as jazz, tap, choreography and dance history. Joyce's career embraced many different forms, including: Freddie Mercury video, work with Lionel Blair and European tours with *Westside Story* and *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

In 1988 Joyce returned to Dublin where she danced and choreographed many RTE shows including Sunday night at the Olympia, Jacinta series, Finbars Class, The Late Late Show and many commercials. During this time Joyce enjoyed performing and choreographing many styles of dance.

After a personal tragedy in 1997, Joyce took a holiday in Spain where she discovered Flamenco. She took several courses in Spain and London. In Dublin she was introduced to teacher Esperanza Linares. Joyce has studied with many great flamenco dancers including Mario Maya, Belen Maya, Javier La Torre and Ana Salazar.

In 2005 Joyce started teaching Flamenco and in 2006 was invited to do *St Patricks Festival* for which she created two new pieces "[Tangos Estrella](#)" and "[Bulerias Duet](#)". Her company "[Aires Flamencos](#)" performed at the NCH's *World Routes Day* and at the *World Festival of Cultures* in Dun Laoghaire, the company performed two new pieces: "[Sevillana Romantica](#)" and "[Wedding Guajira](#)."

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*World Festival of Cultures Brochure*

**Saturday 26 August 2006 3:15pm Flamenco**

**Saturday 26 August 2006 3:15pm Harbour Plaza**

*Aires Flamenco dance group, directed by Joyce Richardson, brilliantly ignites the temperament of this stunning dance style; from its signature rhythm to the rigor and elegance inherent in one of the world's most passionate dance styles.*

Recent Article from *Capital Magazine*

### 3. Flamenco

**W**

hy is it a general rule that people from Latin countries are less inhibited and can play football better than the rest of the world? Joyce Richardson, a flamenco teacher who runs her own dance academy, says that we could take a leaf out of their book; it's because dancing is taught at an early age. "When you hit the south of Spain, you

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really see why flamenco is so relaxed and so fluid, because the people themselves are, they have no inhibitions and they're very proud to be extremely musical," she says.

Flamenco is a dance thought to have been brought to Spain from India by gypsies, although it has only gained widespread popularity in the last 200 years. It was traditionally a male dance, but Joyce says that her classes are mostly comprised of women. "For women, it's a very sensual way to stand, and a way of being appreciative of yourself that

**Why? It'll get you in touch with your sensual side**

can be started at any age."

It also works wonders for poise and confidence. "The whole psychology behind my class is that my students go in there and they're to be nice to themselves. They might go past a stranger in the street and smile at them, so I want them to be nicer to themselves than they would be to a stranger in the street; they don't come and look at themselves in the mirror



and pull themselves apart. They come in and they're nice to themselves for an hour or two, there's no conflict, there's no competitiveness, they're there to say hello to themselves through the mirror, which makes a difference in attitude; they start to think 'Hey, look what I can do.'"

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**Recent Performance & Workshops**

- TV3's Baby Max Wings of Love Fund Charity Event at Fitzpatricks Killiney
- Performance at Club Sult, Bull & Castle Inn, Dublin
- Festival of World Cultures, Dun Laoghaire
- National Concert Hall: 'World Routes' Day
- Gypsy King's Concert Performances
- Lucan Griffeen Park, Workshop/Performance
- Tallaght Library Children's Workshop
- Clondalkin Library Adult Workshop
- Deansgrange Library Children's Workshop
- Stillorgan Library Childrens Workshop & Sallynoggin Library
- Felipe de Algeciras Workshops
- *Fused* South County Dublin Arts Festival
- Rathmines Festival 2005
- "Juana" Dance Workshop



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