

Brian Cunningham

Sean-Nós Dance

Brian Cunningham is one of the most exciting *sean-nós* or 'old-style' dancers to have emerged from Ireland in quite some time. At 26 years of age, he has won all the major dance competitions in Ireland, and was honoured with an invitation by the President of Ireland to perform during an Official State visit to Japan and South Korea in 2005. Brian has appeared on Ireland's most popular television show, 'The Late Late Show' and tours frequently with the band Téada.

Brian, through his involvement with shows such as 'Fuaim Chonamara' and now 'Atlantic Steps', is playing a hugely important role in reviving one of Ireland's oldest dance forms and transforming it into a wonderful display of dance style, skill and athleticism. He has recently released a new DVD titled '*In the Blood*', a warm and atmospheric insight into the passing on of the *sean-nós* dance tradition within the Cunningham Family in Connemara.

The Cunningham Family's 'Fuaim Chonamara' show was a headline act at the high profile Volvo Ocean Race spectacular in Galway during 2009, when 20,000 people from many countries danced the night away at Galway's docklands, within striking distance of the Atlantic Ocean. This special night convinced Brian of the worldwide potential of the old-style 'sean-nós' dance, which began as a pastime for the Cunningham siblings, handed down by their grandparents as a tradition from the days of house dances.

'Atlantic Steps' is the inspiring epic story of Ireland's oldest dance form, portrayed through the music, song, dance and Atlantic-Ocean-inspired energy of the Connemara region. Centered around the joyful dance and unbridled enthusiasm of Connemara's Brian Cunningham, the show continues to move festival and theatre audiences to their feet, bringing *sean-nós* dance to its rightful place on the world stage.