

Host of celebrities line up for Jigs and Reels

As the countdown for one of the most anticipated events of this year's social diary draws nearer, both contestants and supporters are gearing up for what promises to be a wonderful night's entertainment. Although a closely guarded secret, the Roscommon People has learned that the contestants will be joined by a host of national and local celebrities on an evening which will have Eurovision theme.

The Roscommon People can exclusively reveal that the co-hosts for the evening are well-known RTE celebrity, Neville Knott of Showhouse fame

and recent Roscommon Rose of Tralee contestant, sportswoman and journalist, Roisín Ni Dhonncha. Also making up the judging panel will be Eurovision winner Charlie McGettigan and former Eurovision contestant, Donna McCaul, both of whom will be performing on the night.

Throw in the talents of Messrs. John Crean and Liam Sherringham and one might say it lends itself for a "hair-raising experience".

The set and stage design will also reflect that very Eurovision theme, described by one source as something of technical

marvel, one of the most accomplished ever seen in Roscommon.

The audience will also be able to enjoy close ups of the dancing, through the aid of high quality screens, which will be erected on the night.

The proceeds of this year's event go towards the Rosfm Disability Training Fund with €1000 being donated to a nominated charity by the winning contestant.

Manager of RosFm, Matt Rogers expressed his appreciation for the overwhelming effort being made by all involved. "It certainly demonstrates the community spirit of

the people of Roscommon, when so many have been so generous in supporting such a worthy cause. It promises to be a visually spectacular show of talent by all performing on the night and I only hope I get a chance to sit down and enjoy it".

RosFm is the only radio service in the country which has a disability ethos written into its broadcasting licence with the Broadcasting Association of Ireland, and the proceeds will assist in the further development of its award winning training programme for people with disabilities, at the station.

Jigs & Reels ticket shop opens

A dedicated Roscommon Celebrity Jigs and Reels 2010 ticket shop has opened to deal with the overwhelming demand for tickets for this year's event.

The shop is located at the corner of The Square, at the top of Castle Street. People wishing to purchase tickets can do so at the venue while tickets can also be reserved by calling RosFm at 087 790 8904. Those also wishing to vote for their respective candidates can do so at this location by pledging support for their nominated charities.

Six direct questions the Roscommon People asked six of the contestants in Celebrity Jigs & Reels...next week, we ask the remaining six!

DR ALEX ROBINSON

Why did you agree to take part in Celebrity Jigs & Reels?

I like to be involved in the community and I see it as an opportunity to support a worthwhile event and indeed support a charity or cause. I am raising funds for the Sacred Heart Hospital Patients Comfort Fund.

Are you an experienced dancer?

No, but I suppose you could say that I can 'make shapes' on the dancefloor!

Who is your dance idol?

Justin Timberlake.

How are you finding the rehearsals?

I find they are stretching parts of me that haven't been stretched in a long time!

Who is your dance partner and how would you describe his dancing skills?

Patrick Lambert...he's a proficient and dedicated Irish dancer.

Can you win? Oh definitely!



Alex Robinson
Sacred Heart Home
Comfort Fund

NORBERT FERGUSON

Why did you agree to take part in Celebrity Jigs & Reels? You could say I was ambushed into doing it by my daughter, Tania. My charity is Calcutta Hope.

Are you an experienced dancer?

Absolutely not. No experience - what-soever.

Who is your dance idol? I'm modelling myself on Michael Flatley. You might say that's ambitious, but if he can do it, so can I. Can't I?

How are you finding the rehearsals? It's awful hard going. It's tough, physical exercise and with everyone moving on stage at the one time, you really have to be tuned in. You have to move at the right time. It's very demanding physically, very hard on the calves of your legs.

Who is your dance partner and how would you describe her dancing skills? My dance partner is my daughter, Tania. She's fantastic, an extremely talented dancer and very demanding!

Can you win? Oh yeah, not a bother - we expect to win!



Norbert Ferguson
Calcutta Hope

ANNETTE McGEENEY

Why did you agree to take part in Celebrity Jigs & Reels? It's for a good cause and in my case it's in aid of an area that I actually work in, people with disabilities. I am raising money for Roscommon Special Olympics. The Special Olympics are coming up in June.

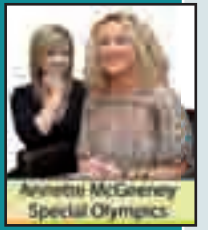
Are you an experienced dancer? I did a bit of Irish dancing from when I was in baby infants up to first class - after that I think Rockford's took over!

Who is your dance idol? That would have to be Ivan Connaughton. Better than Flatley!

How are you finding the rehearsals? Good, although it is a big commitment...every Thursday night. But it's good craic and everyone seems to be enjoying it.

Who is your dance partner and how would you describe her dancing skills? Amy Hoare. She's fantastic and you wonder how they can do it so quickly. I'm a little slow on the dancefloor. Amy is very good at encouraging me.

Can you win? To be honest I'm just doing it for the fun. I'm enjoying it. If I win it will be a bonus.



Annette McGeeney
Special Olympics

REGINA KELLY

Why did you agree to take part in Celebrity Jigs & Reels? I was asked! But also, my charity is Crumlin's Children Hospital. My own son was a patient there at one stage. It's a great cause.

Are you an experienced dancer? No! No experience worth talking about.

Who is your dance idol? I'd have to say Michael Flatley.

How are you finding the rehearsals? Great, I love the rehearsals, they're good fun, very enjoyable.

Who is your dance partner and how would you describe her dancing skills? Michelle O'Donnell. She's a great girl, very talented and very nice.

Can you win? Of course! We have as good a chance as anyone else!



Regina Kelly
St. Lady's Hospital Crumlin

MARK MOLLOY

Why did you agree to take part in Celebrity Jigs & Reels? It's a bit of craic. And when I was 'collared' by Collette and Sinead, I had no choice, I was backed into a corner. My charity is the Diabetes Federation of Ireland.

Are you an experienced dancer? No. I wouldn't even dance in Rockford's after a few drinks...!

Who is your dance idol? Michael Jackson or Justin Timberlake.

How are you finding the rehearsals? It's good fun, there's never a dull moment.

Who is your dance partner and how would you describe her dancing skills? My dance partner is Jacinta Reilly. She's great fun, very easy-going and a very good dancer.

Can you win? I'm in it to win it!



Mark Molloy
Diabetes Fed. of Ireland

PADRAIG HEALY

Why did you agree to take part in Celebrity Jigs & Reels? Sinead Glynn asked me to do it and I agreed. My charity is 'Open Doors', part of The Brothers of Charity.

Are you an experienced dancer? No...and I'm still not, even now after all the rehearsing and despite Sinead's best efforts.

Who is your dance idol? Sure I suppose it has to be Michael Flatley.

How are you finding the rehearsals? Brilliant, really good craic.

Who is your dance partner and how would you describe her dancing skills? Sinead Glynn is my dance partner and she's brilliant. I'm learning a lot as I go along.

Can you win? Well, Sinead won it last year, so I keep saying to her that we are going to win it. As far as I'm concerned we have it won already!



Padraig Healy
Open Doors