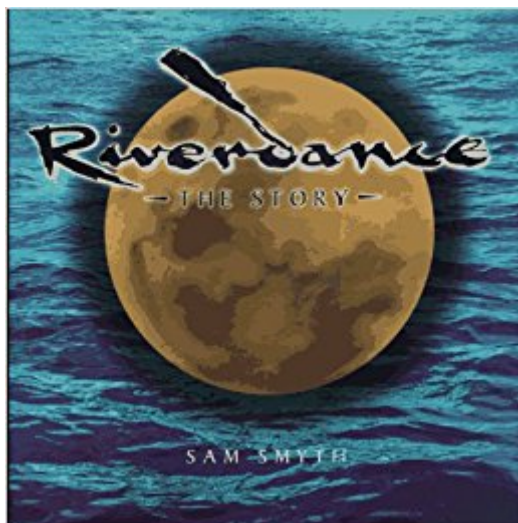


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# Riverdance: The Story



## Synopsis

An illustrated account of the success of Riverdance, which charts how a seven minute Eurovision showpiece, designed to fill an interlude during the TV show, has gone on to become a hugely popular theatrical phenomenon.

## Book Information

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Essays

## Customer Reviews

This terrific book begins with a history of Irish music and dance, which are "celebrated as a metaphor for life." Included in this background was information about the 17th century cake dance (the dancers ate the prize) and the 18th century emergence of the solo or step dance. This was the most important development in Irish dance history. In the late 1700s dance masters traveled around Ireland teaching complex steps. The Gaelic League was formed in 1893 to promote Irish culture. The first ceili (dance event) was held in London in 1897. The second part of the book was about Riverdance (the show)-- the original story is based on the life of a river: small and quiet at its source, then feeding and nourishing the lands it passes, and finally rushing out to sea at the estuary. The show was planned to have a soft choral opening and a big finale. It was designed as a seven-minute interval during a Eurovision song contest and got a standing ovation from a roaring audience. Thus, Riverdance "the phenomenon" was born in a Dublin theater in 1994. From there on, it was expanded and developed into the stage show as we know it today, complete with a premier Spanish flamenco dancer, a six-person troupe from the Moscow Folk Ballet, African American tap dancers, and a choir from Atlanta, Georgia. It also made stars of its first two principal dancers,

Michael Flatly and the beautiful Jean Butler, both Americans. Flatly, in fact, was the first American to win the World Irish Dancing Championships. A "great swell" of national pride resulted from Riverdance's exploration of the internal and outward journeys of the Irish people. Riverdance rescued Irish dancing, reinforcing its sensitivity with simple costumes while utilizing generations of skills and traditions. A lovely and beautiful book.

Riverdance-The Story is a spectacular book. Not only does it delve into the history of Riverdance, it gives you a brief overview of the history of Irish music and dance, and then proceeds to focus on each element of the show, from music to dance to sets. The photographs that accompany the text are spectacular in their own right. Scenes from both on the stage and off complement the book perfectly. The book only receives a 9, because I felt the author should have let the dancers speak, and let us know what it's like for them

I first saw an advertisement when "Riverdance" was showing on PBS, and I wanted a better inside look at this amazing show. I then looked it up in the library. I discovered a real look at how it really began, and how it spread to Canada, the United States, much of Europe, and most recently Japan, among many other places. If you want to discover exactly how much work is involved in putting together a dance show, I recommend this book to you.

It gives wonderful insight of the influences and origins of traditional Irish music and dance. It also tells the story of how Riverdance developed and became a theatrical phenomenon. It is filled with pictures from the stage and behind the scenes. I enjoyed this immensely it helped provide me with inspiration and insight of the works. I would recommend this to any fan.

Riverdance - The Story gives a good look into the show Riverdance and everything that has gone into it and everything that is in it now. It also goes and looks at traditional Irish dance and music, telling you some things you may not have known before. It is a must for all Riverdance fans, Irish musicians, and Irish dancers!

This is a great book for anyone who loves Riverdance and/or Irish dancing. The book tells the whole story of Riverdance and also gives a little history on Irish dance. I think the author should have included more pictures of the dance troupe backstage or rehearsing.

Video = story = excellent!! I don't even need to read this to know it's excellent! IT'S

RIVERDANCE! Ta-ta! BTC

I love Irish dancing and I think there should be a lot more of it. I'm an Irish dancer and I can't tell you how much I enjoy it.

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