

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Critically acclaimed Irish dance and rock concert
Rockin' Road to Dublin comes to Worcester**



WORCESTER, Mass. (January 23, 2018) The new generation of Irish rock and dance continues when *Rockin' Road to Dublin* comes to The Hanover Theatre for the Performing Arts on Saturday, May 5 at 8 p.m. Tickets are now on sale to theatre members and will go on sale to the general public on Friday, January 26.

Rockin' Road to Dublin is the new sensation changing the Irish dance world. A fusion of rock and Irish, this stylish, can't-miss spectacle is the perfect balance between concert and stage show.

"This isn't your typical Irish dance show," co-creator and executive producer Chris Smith said. "It combines the magic of Broadway and the energy of a rock show with the excitement of Irish dance. We've taken traditional Irish tunes and updated them to make the entire evening more dynamic and powerful. It has enough of the tradition people love, but it's different enough that they will never look back!"

Smith has gathered an elite class of musicians to perform in the *Rockin' Road to Dublin* band: Marc Malsegna (award-winning guitarist), Kelly Mills (five-time winner of the Drum Corps and Percussion World Championships), Mike Moore (Busch Gardens and Kings Dominion), Joe Schermann ("Guys and Dolls," "White Christmas," "Grease," "Smokey Joe's Café" and "Shout"), and Corey Walden (The American Rogues, and founder of The Suzuki School of Milford).

“It’s truly the music that gets the audience on their feet,” said co-creator and executive producer Scott Doherty (“Riverdance” and “Lord of the Dance”), who has worked his own magic choreographing the critically acclaimed show.

The 2009 Men’s World Champion of Irish Dance, Doherty made his professional debut in 2005 with the North American tour of “Riverdance,” and since has toured the world with that show, as well as Michael Flatley’s “Lord of the Dance.”

For *Rockin’ Road to Dublin*, Doherty chose three-time international Irish dance champion Ashley Smith to be his lead female dancer. On stage since the age of three, Ashley was crowned the World Irish Step Dancing Champion in Belfast in 2004, making her the youngest American female to win the world title at that time. A top-30 female finalist on the hit TV show “So You Think You Can Dance,” Ashley was also a featured dancer on the Oscar-nominated film “Silver Linings Playbook.”

Additional well-known dancers joining Doherty and Smith include Declan Crowley (“West Side Story: Mashup”), Bernadette Devereaux (“Lord of the Dance”), Billy Kanaly (“Riverdance”), Erika Nielsen (“Lord of the Dance: Dangerous Games”), world champion Tyler Schwartz (“Celtic Fyre”), Samantha Merritt (“Christmas with the Celts”), Annie Profeta (“Danceperados of Ireland”), Brea Reed McCaffey Dorosz (“Lord of the Dance”), Zack Klingenberg (“Riverdance,” “Wunderlust”) and Kelsey Micko.

“The lyrics of the songs tell a love story that weaves together the music and dance,” said director Jeff Whiting. “Our goal is to have the audience walk away having had an experience that is entertaining, uplifting, and inspirational.”

Music supervision, arrangements, and orchestrations are by Brent Frederick; original costume design is by Sarah Coffey and Ashley Wilson; lighting is by Carolyn Wong; scenic designs are by Brian Barker and Jason Ardizzone-West; and sound consultation is by Trey Smith.

Tickets to *Rockin’ Road to Dublin* start at \$29. Discounts are available to members of The Hanover Theatre and groups of 10 or more. Tickets are available online at TheHanoverTheatre.org, by phone at 877.571.SHOW (7469) or at The Hanover Theatre box office located at 2 Southbridge Street in downtown Worcester.

About The Hanover Theatre

The Hanover Theatre continues to draw over 197,000 patrons annually with world-class performances and headlining acts including Broadway hits (“Les Misérables,” “Kinky Boots”), comedians (Dave Chappelle, Jay Leno, Jerry Seinfeld), musical acts (Neil Young, Aretha Franklin, John Legend, Tony Bennett) and everything in between (“A Christmas Carol,” Alvin Ailey American Dance Theatre, Alton Brown, Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson). POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the Top

Theatres in the World. After nine seasons, the award-winning, historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class performing arts venue, acting as a catalyst for the economic development of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre's recently acquired 551 Main Street houses new function space, offices, rental space for a restaurant on the ground floor and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory for the Performing Arts on the lower level.

Worcester Center for Performing Arts, a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts. All donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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