

Riverdance at the Irish Cultural Center

Currently on their 20th Anniversary North American tour, the cast of Riverdance has been performing nonstop for months. By the end, they will have performed in 75 cities, often in multiple shows per day. So, what do the Irish dancers do on their rare days off? Last month, they spent one at the Irish Cultural Centre in Canton, Massachusetts.

Eight dancers were the ICC's guests of honor in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of Riverdance. They were invited for a meal, a public meet and greet, a dance showcase, and were given honorary ICC memberships.

The ICC credits the growing popularity of Irish dancing all over the world to the Riverdance phenomenon, and wanted to pay tribute to the performers for being ambassadors of Irish culture. "There are now fantastic roles for Irish dancers because of Riverdance," said Director of Programming and Development Maudy Dooher.

Almost 100 attendees, many of them ICC members, gathered to meet the dancers and watch them perform a brief line. Children from local Irish dance schools were also invited, and they followed the performers with their own treble reel.

Dooher said the children were in awe of the professionals. "It's every young dancer's dream to make it to Riverdance," she said. "To meet them up close and personal was a real privilege and a special honor for them."

Dooher also expressed how special it was for the ICC to bring people together in such a unique acknowledgment and celebration of Irish culture. To provide this experience for the community was a way to give back, she said.

After the event, the Riverdance cast went on to perform eight shows at the Wang Theater in Boston and are currently continuing their North American tour.