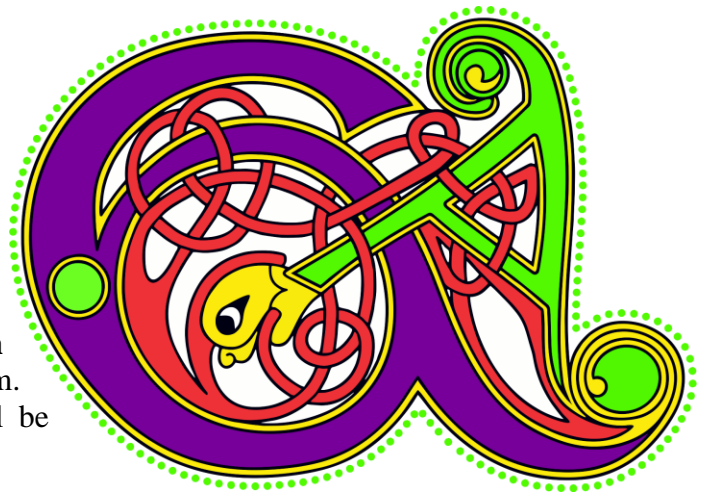


# Achill Academy of Irish Dance

Upcoming Events, Dates, and Other Information.

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## Schedule Changes:

Since we have our first competition coming up, I am making a schedule change for the month of April. **\*\* IMPORTANT: Our Thursday night Level I Class will now start at 6:00pm**  
**\*\* A new Adult only Level II/III class will be added at 7:00pm.**  
 Enrollment is by invitation only. After the competition, I'll be adding classes during the week to give you more options.

## Calendar Information:

| Thursdays @ 6:00pm | Saturdays @ 10:00am                          |
|--------------------|--|
| March 31           | April 2                                      |
| April 7            | April 9                                      |
| April 14           | April 16                                     |
| April 21           | April 23                                     |
| April 28           | April 30                                     |
| <b>May 5</b>       | <b>FEIS DAY. NO CLASS. WE WILL BE AT RCC</b> |
| May 12             | May 14                                       |
| May 19             | May 21                                       |
| May 26             | May 28                                       |

## Upcoming Competitions:

| Competition                     | Location  |
|---------------------------------|---|
| May 7, Land of Lincoln Feis     | Rochester Christian Church, Rochester, IL   |
| May 21, Pride of Erin Feis      | Philadelphia, PA  |
| May 26 & 28, Digital Feis       | Filming will be done during/after classes<br>(NOTE: this will be the final qualifier for Nationals) |
| July 16, NAIDF NATIONALS        | Valley Forge, PA (if there is enough interest, we will book a charter coach for group transport)    |
| August 25 & 27, Digital Feis    | Filming will be done during/after classes   |
| October 8, Mist of Ireland Feis | Smithville, NJ  |

## Call For Help! Our First Competition Needs YOU!

As you know, we have our first competition coming up on May 7<sup>th</sup>. We are receiving interest from schools in WI, MI, TX, OK, IL, NJ, PA, and other locations in the United States. If this competition goes well, it will continue to grow and attract interest to our little slice of heaven. **I will be doing triple duty as organizer, teacher and solo dance adjudicator.** This is why I am actively asking for your support and assistance.



In order for this to be successful, we need help from anyone and everyone willing to lend a hand. All volunteers for the day will receive a free t-shirt and free food and drink throughout the day of the Feis; no volunteer will be asked to work the entire day. We will need help with the registration table, dancer check-in, food/concessions, stage set up, stage tear down, clean up, awards, adjudicator/officials support, and raffle basket & 50/50 table.

If you have a business you'd like to advertise, feel free to assemble a raffle basket, and we will add your ad to our program at double the normal size. Ads will be free to all volunteers, and can be for your business, cheering on your dancer, or offering general well-wishes. This event is intended to be self-funding, so we can continue to grow our dance school and offer more opportunities to our dancers.

### **OH MY GOSH! My dancer has their first live competition! Now what?**

Irish dance competitions have a great deal in common with swim meets and cross country races. There are months of planning and preparation, competitors milling everywhere, parents chasing them with necessities, and a few brief minutes in which to shine. Here are some tips for you as you begin to prepare your dancer.

**Entering the Feis:** All Achill Academy dancers may enter the dance competition if they want to, but they are not required to do so. All entries must be done online at **www.FeisKeeper.com**. This entry system is also the key to the smooth running of the competition. Beginners may dance their choice of Reel, Light Jig, Single Jig, or Slip Jig (all or any combination of these). Advanced Beginners may dance their choice of Reel, Light Jig, Single Jig, or Slip Jig (all or any combination of these). Novices may dance their choice of Reel, Slip Jig, Traditional Treble Jig, Traditional Hornpipe, or Traditional Set Dance (all or any combination of these). There will also be 2-hand, 3-hand, 4-hand, 6-hand, and 8-hand competitions, and a Special Treble Reel competition. I will help you with understand your dancer's current level and best choices for their competitions.

**Before the Feis:** In the weeks leading up to the Feis, I will be helping the dancers learn what is expected of them as they compete. They will not only perfect the dances they will do, they will learn about stage presence, stage usage, how to control their nerves (and use that energy to their advantage), expectations, and performance.

**The Night Before the Feis:** Please make sure your dancer gets a good night's sleep. We may not start until after 9:30am, but this will be a stressful time for them, and they will need the rest.

**The Day of the Feis:** Your dancer will need you to help them get ready. Make sure that you've packed a Feis bag, including (but not limited to) their polished shoes, socks, bobby pins, hair spray, safety pins, tissues, handwipes, spankys (dance trunks to wear under dress), good luck charms, hair ties, headband, glitter (if it makes them happy), and a book or a game system.

**Girl's Dance Costume:** School Dress, Headband, Shawl, Spankys, Poodle Socks (available online from many retailers) or Tights. No pants are allowed. Wigs are optional, but hair must be neat and pulled back from the face. Ghillies and Hardshoes (if required) must be polished.

**Boy's Dance Costume:** Black Slacks, black dress socks, black dress shirt, and School Waistcoat. No shorts are allowed. Hair must be neat. Boy's Irish Soft shoes, Jazz shoes, or black ballet slippers are required and must be polished (we do not yet have any boys in hardshoes).

**As You Walk In:** All people entering will stop at the registration table. There will be a \$5 entrance fee for all non-dancers (this, too, helps pay for the expenses). All dancers must get their registration packet, which will have their competitor number, program and other necessities (please put their number on them after you leave the table). Tables will be spread around the room for you to use. The stage will be at the front of the room (to your left as you enter), and the food/concession will be at the back. When your dancer's group is called to check in, make sure their competitor number is still attached, their shoes are securely tied, and bring them to the stage check in area. Once they are there, please leave the area so that the dancers may ready themselves. There will be a volunteer in charge of making sure they line up correctly on the stage.

**The Feis Website:** All information and updates are available on a subdomain of the school's website.  
<http://www.achillacademy.net/landoflincolnfeis/index.html>

