For booking, USA:

Tom Gallant
President
General Arts Touring Inc., NY
Office: (917) 645-5383
Cell: (845) 546-3092
www.generalartstouring.com
info@genartstouring.com

For booking, Canada:

Laurelle Favreau
Director, Manager
GAMI/Simonds, LLC
42 County Rd
Morris, CT 06763 US
Office: (860) 567-2500
www.gamisimonds.com
laurellefavreau@gmail.com

For artist management:

Tomáseen Foley
Producer, Artistic Director
P.O. Box 1356
Ashland, Oregon 97520
Office: (707) 487-2181
Cell: (541) 261-1176
tom@tomaseenfoley.com
www.acelticchristmas.com
www.tomaseenfoley.com
For the past 20 years, with a world-class ensemble of musicians, dancers and singers from both sides of the Atlantic, Tomáseen Foley’s *A Celtic Christmas* has played to packed concert halls and critical acclaim nationwide, recreating on stage the now-famous *Rambling House*, that remote cottage in the West of Ireland where the neighbors gather every year for a communal night before Christmas.

There, the rafters ring with fiery traditional music, Irish Christmas songs, riveting traditional dance and, of course, stories of life in the remote parish of *Teampall an Ghleanntáin*, Tomáseen’s birthplace. The show invites its audience to come into that cottage, into that world, into that era, with us, and be our neighbors for the night.

“When I was a child it was around the fireplaces of my neighbors’ thatched cottages that I experienced the last remnants of the old communal way of life. The family was the center of the community then, and the community was the center of life itself, the shining axle around which the great wheel of the universe revolved. Stories, music, song and dance were the spokes of that slowly turning wheel. “ Tomáseen

Storytelling was once the most admired of all the Celtic arts, and *A Celtic Christmas* is unique in that it is the only nationally touring show that has storytelling at its center: around that center revolve the more-immediately recognized traditional Celtic arts of music, song and dance.
Meet the Neighbors:
the Celtic Christmas cast

Eimear Arkins
Fiddle

Tomáseen Foley
Native Irish storyteller
Producer, Artistic Director

Brian Bigley
Uilleann Pipes, Whistles,
Flute, Vocals

William Coulter
Musical Director
guitar, vocals

Brid O’Donnell
Accordion & Irish Dance

Marcus Donnelly
Irish Dance

Alyssa Reichert
Irish Dance
Meet the Neighbors:
cast information

Tomáseen Foley: Storyteller/Director
Tomáseen was born on a small farm in the remote parish of Teampall an Ghleanntáin in the West of Ireland. Tomáseen Foley's A Celtic Christmas and Tomáseen Foley's Irish Times play to critical acclaim and packed concert halls around the US. year. The Oregon Cabaret has developed a hit musical from his story Parcel From America. He has released two CDs: Parcel From America, and a live recording, The Priest and the Acrobat.

William Coulter: Musical Director, guitar
William is an internationally acclaimed master of the steel-string guitar. In 2005, he won a Grammy for a track he contributed to a solo guitar compilation of Henry Mancini tunes, called Pink Guitar. He has been performing and recording traditional Celtic and American folk music for 30 years. The most recent of his eight CDs on the Gourd Music label are the acclaimed solo album, The Road Home and Be Happy with guitarist Ben Verdery.

Brian Bigley: Uilleann Pipes, Irish flute, Whistles & Traditional Irish Dance
Brian Bigley comes from a musical family on the west side of Cleveland, Ohio. Studying with Achill Island piper Michael Kilbane from the age of eight, Brian's sensitivity to the art of uilleann piping has developed into a high level of understanding and virtuosity. He is currently making pipes in the style of the late Dave Williams and is an accomplished reed maker. Brian is also a world-class Irish step dancer, having competed at the World Championships in Glasgow and Killarney. He has toured extensively throughout North America and Europe as a pipe, flute, and whistle player, and dancer.

Brid O’Donnell: Accordion and Irish dance
Brid O’Donnell, from County Mayo in the west of Ireland, began playing tin whistle and button accordion at the age of five and later took up singing. She graduated with honors in Irish Music and Dance from the University of Limerick and has competed with great distinction at All-Ireland level fleadh competitions. She is a member of the Irish band Billow Wood and has spent the past four years performing nationally, and internationally in Europe, Northern American and Africa.
Meet the Neighbors:
cast information

**Eimear Arkins:** Fiddle
Eimear Arkins is a multi-instrumentalist, singer and dancer from County Clare, in the west of Ireland. She holds eleven solo All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil titles and has competed in all Ireland, European and World Dance Championships. She has toured with Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann throughout Ireland, Britain, North America and Canada, and represented Ireland in France at Rennes Expo; in Spain in La Noche Negra, in Shanghai, China at World Expo 2010, and in Milan, Italy at World Expo 2015. Her new solo album is entitled *What’s Next?*
www.EimearArkins.com

**Marcus Donnelly:** Irish Dance
From Ireland to Luxemburg and from Moscow to Paris, France and Paris, Texas, his leading performances with shows such as Ragús, Rhythm of the Dance, Celtic Legends, and most recently in the U.S. with Celtic Crossroads have created one of the most exhilarating, truly creative Irish dancers performing today.

“Mesmerizing... living traditions of song, story, music and dance woven together as skillfully as the most intricate Celtic knot...”

**Alyssa Reichart:** Irish Dance
Alyssa has been dancing since the age of five. She competed with great distinction in North American Irish Dance Championships and in the World Irish Dance Championships in Scotland in 2015.

As well as touring with A Celtic Christmas and Women of Ireland, last year she toured China with Riverdance.
Program

Act 1, 55 minutes; Act 2, 55 minutes; 15-minute intermission.

The Rambling House - the traditional meeting place for the neighbors at Christmas; a place and time where almost anything can happen, and some of what follows surely will . . .

*Seacht nDolas Na Maighdine Muire* - Traditional, Gaelic
(The Seven Sorrows of Mary) Vocalist - Eimear Arkins

*In the West of Ireland* . . . Tomáseen Foley

*The Green Mountain* - Traditional, Irish
The Rambling House Band and traditional Irish dancers

*Céad Mile Fáilte* - One hundred thousand welcomes . . .
Tomáseen Foley

*The Kerry Christmas Carol* - Traditional, Irish
Vocalist - Eimear Arkins

*Abbey Reel/Over the Moor to Maggie* - Traditional, Irish
The Rambling House Band and traditional Irish dancers

*Marbhna Luimni (Lament for Limerick)* - Traditional, Irish
Riverdance
Brian Bigley, *uilleann* pipes - The Rambling House Band and traditional Irish dancers

*Slán le Máighe* - Traditional, Gaelic
(Farewell to the Maigue) - Vocalist - Eimear Arkins

*Parcel From America* - Tomáseen Foley

*Quarter Inch Wick/Don Oíche úd I mBeithil* (That Night in Bethlehem) *Cregg’s Pipes* - The Rambling House Band and traditional Irish dancers

*I-N-T-E-R-M-I-S-S-I-O-N*

*Come West Along the Road* - Traditional, Irish
The Rambling House Band and traditional Irish dancers

*Traditional Irish Toast/Parcel from America* (continued)
Tomáseen Foley

*The Wexford Carol/Slip Jig* - Traditional, Irish
Vocalist - Eimear Arkins - with The Rambling House Band and traditional Irish dancers

*Irish Fiddle/Guitar Duet* - Eimear Arkins and William Coulter

*The Wren Song* - Traditional, Irish
Vocalist - Eimear Arkins - with The Rambling House Band

*Traditional Irish Christmas Rambling House Deadly Dance Duel* - The Rambling House Dancers


*Oíche Chiúin/Silent Night* - Vocalist - Eimear Arkins - and all the neighbors

*Sláinte na bfear agus go mara na mná go deo.*
(Good health to the men and may the women live forever)

CRÍOCH - (END)
Reviews

“Tomáseen Foley’s A Celtic Christmas has captured the charm of the wit and wisdom inherent in a locality where people lived within the shelter of their neighbors.” — The Irish Voice, New York City, NY

“We had to move the performance to a venue with twice as many seats... the mix of stories, music and dance was perfect.” — Rockport Opera House, Rockport, ME

“Tomáseen is the Irish equivalent of Garrison Keillor, and in fact the entire troupe puts on programs that are much like Prairie Home Companion - storytelling, music, audience interaction, dance and song that delighted our audiences every night. All six concerts were sold out!” — Jeannette Sorrell, Music Director, Apollo’s Fire Baroque Orchestra, Cleveland, OH

“1,800 patrons joined the stage musicians for “Silent Night” to close Foley’s warm, intimate and personal look at Irish history and culture.” — Lincoln Journal Star, Lincoln NE

“2,000 seats sold out!” — Weidner Center for the Performing Arts, Green Bay, WI

“... a genuine seanchai in the person of Tomáseen Foley – his presence alone is worth the price of admission.” — The Irish Herald, San Francisco, CA

“One of the great charms of the evening was Tomáseen’s skill in relating a story... a gentle and easy humor made his tales fascinating and eminently human.” — Palm Beach Daily News, Palm Beach, FL

"The Celtic Christmas concert here was so well received - people told me that they LOVED it, that it was just what a Christmas show should be, that it fit in beautifully with our Arts Series and that we should have you back every year!" — Arlene Shaw, Olin Fine Arts Center, Washington and Jefferson College, Washington PA

“Tomáseen Foley is a master of the Irish narrative and a keeper of the flame for a priceless piece of Irish culture.” — Tom Horan, Rego Irish Records

“... like a cup of Irish coffee in a neighbor’s kitchen on a dark night, (the show) was warm, comforting and full of cheer.”
Tomáseen Foley’s A Celtic Christmas Tour 2018

Now in its 23rd successive year, Tomáseen Foley’s A Celtic Christmas hits the road immediately after Thanksgiving. This year’s show features some of the finest and most authentic exponents of the Celtic arts performing anywhere today, on either side of the Atlantic. At its center is native Irish storyteller, Tomáseen Foley.

A Celtic Christmas is a re-creation of a night before Christmas in the West of Ireland in the 1940s, before the motorcar, the television, and the telephone. In the remote parish of Teampall an Ghleanáin - Tomáseen Foley’s birthplace--the neighbors gathered at each others farmhouses and brought with them their fiddles, uilleann pipes, flutes, whistles, bodhráns, for a night of traditional Irish music, traditional carols, traditional Irish dancing, and, of course, storytelling. A Celtic Christmas brings to life just such a night – a wholesome, cultural, family feast directly from the rich table of communal life in the west of Ireland.

“Long, long before Riverdance, Tomáseen says, “ordinary country people knocked sparks off the bare flagstone of their neighbor’s floor as they danced jigs, reels, and hornpipes with their hob-nailed boots, and the rafter rang with the fiery music of the fiddle and the pipes.”

The show’s Music Director is Grammy Award winner William Coulter - an internationally recognized master of the steel-string guitar. He has been performing and recording traditional Celtic and American folk music for more than 20 years - www.williamcoulterguitar.com

Tomáseen Foley is a master of the Irish narrative, and a keeper of the flame for a priceless piece of Irish culture.

TOM HORAN, REGO IRISH RECORDS