



O'Malley Clan Association Monthly Newsletter

This month's highlights

- Happy New Year from The O'Malley Clan Association
- Get in touch and share your stories!
- The life of a Ballet Dancer, Katherine O'Malley.
- About the O'Malley Clan Association
- The Annual O'Malley Clan Rally 2018.

Happy New Year from The O'Malley Clan Association!



Happy New Year from all of us here at the O'Malley Clan Association. We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed the New Year Celebrations. Here's to a fabulous 2018 !!



Get in touch and share your O'Malley Heritage!

Have you got an article or old photographs that you'd like to submit for future editions of "O Maille" The O'Malley Clan Association Newsletter.

We'd love to hear from you wherever you're based around the world. Old photographs and stories to go with them, old letters, family trees or just an arti-

cle that you'd like to share with the rest of the clan. Drop us a line and We'll get right to it!



The life of a Ballet Dancer

Katherine O'Malley

Katherine O'Malley is the first Irish woman to have joined a Russian ballet company since 1923. The 20 year old Dubliner spent three years with the Tartar Ballet Company in Karzan during the 1990s.

Here is her story:

"Even when I was a little girl, I wanted to be a dancer. I didn't say I wanted to be a ballerina because it was a word I didn't know. But as soon as I started ballet classes I knew I wanted to be a ballerina. Then when I saw the Kirov perform, I knew it would have to be with a Russian ballet company. Now I'm in the corps-de-ballet of the Tartar Theatre of Opera and Ballet in Kazan.

Kazan is roughly 500 miles east of Moscow and is the capital of the Tartar Republic. Being the first Irish person to join the ballet company, I suppose I was something of a novelty – I was asked why didn't I have red hair and freckles a few times! Naturally, people are curious about Ireland – the thing they most often want to know is what people get paid, which is a hard question to answer, especially when I try to explain the tax system. When I get through that, I sometimes think they're sorry they asked.

I've already spent three winters in Russia and it gets very, very cold. By December, everywhere is covered in snow. Nobody here dreams of a white Christmas – they just know it will happen. I loved Kazan the moment I arrived. It's a city of old buildings, most of which need renovating and it's very atmospheric. To be honest though, I liked it anyway because the dance company is here.

On a typical day I get up around 8am and I am in school and warmed up by 10. We have class for an hour and then rehearsal until 2.30pm. Then it's home to my apartment for lunch and back again at 6.15pm for three more hours. We do that six days a week. Our repertoire includes Giselle, Coppella, Les Sylphides, The Nutcracker Suite, Swan Lake and Don Quixote.

I know my day sounds strict and stern but I don't find it too disciplined. If you came in with a hangover you'd be told "that's tough" and you'd just have to get on with it – nobody would give you ice for your head and ask you if you'd like to lie down. Anyway, it's not wise to miss classes unless you're really sick – you can get out of shape unbelievably quickly. We can go out in the evening whenever we want – having enough energy is the only restriction. There are cafes and night clubs to go to but they are often dangerous places.

I could only just about say hello in Russian when I arrived but I'm fairly fluent now, though I still have



awful grammar. It's a very musical language, very poetic. I have a Russian friend in the company who speaks very good English – it's a great relief not to have to speak Russian all the time – and I'm teaching her some Irish. You should hear her!

We will be going to Ireland on tour in November (1996), taking in Derry, Galway and Dublin with Swan Lake and Don Quixote, and I'm hoping people will come and see us, because the dancing is so beautiful. People at home sometimes ask me if I teach ballet in Russia – they seem to find it strange that I simply dance – and I'd really love for them to come and see what I do. I'd be so proud. After the tour we will return to Kazan in mid-December and probably work through Christmas.

I honestly can't tell you what drives me, or what keeps me going. I wouldn't have left home for any reason other than ballet, so I suppose the fact that there is nothing else I would rather do explains my dedication. My contract is by the year and I'll stay as long as they'll have me. Yes, I get lonely, but everything – being away from home, the cold, the hours – can be endured. As long as I can dance."

(Reproduced from an article written in the O'Malley Clan Newsletter, 1996)

At the beginning of 2015 Katherine qualified as an Anma Amatsu Practitioner with the Amatsu Therapy Association Ltd. Currently she is working with Liz Roche Company on their new creation "[Bastard Amber](#)" a co-production by the Abbey Theatre and Dublin Dance Festival. You can find more information on Katharine by visiting her website, www.katherineomalley.com





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The O'Malley Clan Association aims to reach out to O'Malleys from all around the world and foster links between the O'Malleys around the globe and the clan at home here in Ireland.

The Clan Association formed in 1953 has been connecting O'Malleys around the world in The US and Canada, Britain, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand, South America, and anywhere else you can think of for over 60 years now.

We hope with our new website, and newsletter, that We can go from strength to strength in our aim to connect all the O'Malleys around the world.

The O'Malley Clan Rally 22nd to 24th June 2018



The Annual O'Malley Clan Rally for 2018 takes place in beautiful **Westport**, County Mayo on the weekend of the **22nd to 24th June 2018**. It'll be a fabulous weekend for O'Malleys from all over the globe. There'll be plenty of music, dancing, ceol agus craic!

It's time to begin planning your trip, there's only just over 5 months to go!!!

The full programme of

events will be up on the website in the coming months, and you'll be able to book online there too!, We hope to see you all there.

If you need any help with planning your trip, Or with further information on the Annual Rally, drop us a line by email (the address is at the top of this page), and We'll get back to you right away!