

## **MAYO ROSE**

### **SANDRA GANLEY**

My name is Sandra Ganley, I am 24 and from Ballaghaderreen, Co Mayo. I am a primary school teacher, and also have a focus on my dance career at the moment. In 2016, I set up my own dance school called 'Jiving Juniors'. The school has had 600 pupils to date and children and teens learn how to jive, waltz and line dance in a country music environment. I travel around the country each week visiting schools, teaching classes and working in Autistic Units and special need settings, and also teach Social Dancing for adults. I thoroughly enjoy all the behind the scenes work of running a business and working for myself.

Due to my interest in Irish country music, I wrote a thesis based on the social dance scene. I also have a huge grá for the Irish language, traditional music and dance, and I'm heavily involved with Kilmovee Comhaltas where I am the Irish Language Officer. I pursued this love and completed a bachelor's degree in Irish Music and Dance from the Irish World Academy in the University of Limerick to develop my learning and performance skills.

After competing in the world Irish Dance championships for many years, I hung up my competitive shoes and now perform alongside my sister for shows and events all over the country and further afield. The Ganley Sisters have been fortunate to travel to the USA for the past three years showcasing and promoting the Irish language and culture and heritage. I have also been involved with various RTÉ and TG4 documentaries and regularly present programmes on Sky Channel 'Showcase TV'. I am honoured to be representing Mayo in the 2017 Rose of Tralee festival and thank everyone for their support.