



## **MICHAEL FLATLEY**

*Founder & President, Going Global Ventures*

Michael's name and his show Lord of the Dance brand have become synonymous with spectacular artistry and grand scale productions that have mesmerized audiences around the globe since 1996. He has created, directed and produced several other successful shows including Feet of Flames, Celtic Tiger and Lord of the Dance Dangerous Games. His shows have broken box office records all over the world. In 1998, Lord of the Dance set a record-breaking run of 24 consecutive shows at London's legendary Wembley Arena. It is a record that still stands to this day. A cast of his famous feet was officially unveiled at the arena's iconic Square of Fame in 2015.

He has been recognized by many establishments and received countless awards for his contribution to the entertainment industry and the promotion and enrichment of Ireland, Irish dance and music. These include the prestigious Ellis Island Medal of Honor, Irish America Magazine's Lifetime Achievement Award and a National Heritage Fellowship. He received an honorary Doctorate from University College Dublin and the University of Limerick and was inducted into the Irish America Hall of Fame to name a few. As a former amateur boxing champion, Michael was awarded the title Titan of Chicago Golden Gloves Boxing at the 100th anniversary celebration.

For almost three decades, his personal support of many causes and in collaboration with the Ireland Funds, he has aided and encouraged countless people to embrace his motto "nothing is impossible...follow your dreams". Michael is also a master Irish flautist and has performed around the world as a soloist and as part of his stage shows with his band.

After retiring from live performances, Michael focused his creative talents on his art. He donated one of his pieces "The Walking Dead" to the people of Ireland, which now hangs in the offices of Leinster House, in Dublin.

Michael has written, directed, produced and starred in 2 short films and a feature length movie, Blackbird. In 2023 he introduced the Michael Flatley Freestyle competition at the World Irish Dancing Championships in Montreal, a category that aims to continue the development and evolution of the traditional dance style. That same year, at his personal invitation, the first ever Young Lords, aged between 7 and 12, performed at the opening of the 25 Year Anniversary show in Dublin.