



ARTS



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Award winning step-dancer traces his success back to Castlerea mother

THE SON of a Roscommon emigrant has been awarded the highest honour in the folk and traditional arts in the United States. Irish step dancer Kevin Doyle was a recipient of a 2014 National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship Award. Kevin Doyle's mother, Margaret Taylor, was born in Boho, Castlerea, County Roscommon and she has a sister still living in Roscommon, Annie Taylor.

Mr Doyle was born in and currently resides in Rhode Island. He was first introduced to Irish step dancing at the age of eight from his mother, who had learned from her own mother in County Roscommon.

In his youth, Doyle competed

successfully in many East Coast feis, earning US Irish Dance Champion honours. Over the course of his career, Doyle has performed across the country and abroad and currently performs and teaches in the New England area of the United States. He is a grandson of a County Longford man through his father John, whose Irish parents came to live in Providence, Rhode Island's Fox Point in the early 1900's.

The athleticism of his steps brought early acclaim to Kevin. He twice won the votes of America's audience for his performances on Ted Mack and the Original Amateur Hour, a precursor to today's American Idol and Ameri-

ca's Got Talent. Numerous awards have followed, including ensemble honors shared with Rhode Island Celtic music performers Pendragon (revival) and folk performers Atwater-Donnelly (revival). His regional and national work in choreography, direction, and dance includes Brian O'Donovan's Christmas Celtic Sojourn, his collaboration with Boston-based dancer/choreographer Kieran Jordan, and his performances with international Irish dance ensemble Atlantic Steps.

Kevin Doyle (right) whose mother was from Castlerea

