Tradfather Hosts Irish Fest

EARLIER this year The New York Times surveyed some New York City Irish trad music haunts and publicly declared Brooklyn fiddler Tony Demarco “The Tradfather,” an endearing term drawn from his Italian/Irish heritage and his long dominance in the world of Irish dance as a dominant exponent of tradition versus innovation, or interpretation of the iconic Riverdance. The complexity and mischievous nature he exhibited had twists and turns deemed unworthy and undanceable according to the norms placed on it.

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The seeds of this creative production were laid 18 years ago when the brilliant dancer Dunne from the Irish diaspora in Birmingham sought to reinvent himself in 2001 by going for a master’s degree in modern dance at the Baryshnikov Arts Center in Manhattan in a co-presentation with the Irish Arts Center. The term has been on the street for a long time, but when the newspaper of record says so it gives added weight to the argument.

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Dunne, who went to the University of Limerick to recreate himself as a modern dancer and climb out of the straitjacket of traditional Irish dance, wasn’t ready to tie in with another project that still had strong ties to traditional music. So he parked the notion of exploring the world and mind of a similar artist like Potts, who was also resisting pressures to stick to the traditional way of performing his craft.

Dunne would pull the album off the shelf occasionally though as he continued to hone his solo work as a dancer in today’s scene with a new impressive body of work as a performer and master instructor at the university.

Tradfather has a couple of Cajun musicians, Joel Savoy and Kelli Jones, on the bill. This concert is likely sold out but you never know so call and see.

The big concert at Connolly’s Pub in Times Square (121 West 43rd Street) is on Saturday, November 23 at 7:30 p.m. For tickets call 888-811-4111 or via email to info@irishartscenter.org or info@bacnyc.org.