

NEWS

CRANBERRIES' DOLORES O'RIORDAN DOES IT ALL AGAIN

Nui Te Koha, The Sunday Telegraph
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SHE fronted one of the biggest bands of the 1990s, but Dolores O'Riordan quit her rock star ways to give her children the simple life.

"I was at that point where my children needed more than going around the planet in the back of a bus," The Cranberries lead singer says.

"They needed stability, they needed to build their own lives and relationships, and I needed to put my life on hold."

For Dolores O'Riordan, crunch time came in 2003. By then, **The Cranberries**, formed in Limerick, had amassed 10 years of worldwide hits including *Zombie*, *Ode To My Family*, *Linger* and *Dreams*. O'Riordan, married to former Duran Duran stage manager Don Burton, a Canadian, had also found a refuge in their log cabin home in Ontario.

"In Canada, anything that's not in the city is referred to as a cottage. or a log cabin," she laughs.

O'Riordan, Burton and their children _ Taylor, 13, Molly, 10, and Dakota, 5 _ fled to Ontario to escape her fame in Ireland.

"When The Cranberries got really big in Ireland, it became difficult for me to be there with all the photographers and paparazzi," she says.

Most importantly, her children can live, grow and learn in private. Even in the madness of hits and fame, O'Riordan knew her priorities.

"It was great to get so big and have the world by the nuts," she says.

"We were very young and very lucky. But sometimes, too much of a good thing can be bad. I'm blessed to have a second life."

When O'Riordan decided to revive her former life, little did she imagine the band would regain its popularity so easily.

Three years ago, when she was honoured at a Dublin university, O'Riordan invited her former bandmates Noel Hogan, Mike Hogan and Fergal Lawler to the ceremony. The Cranberries had been on an indefinite hiatus since 2003.

"It was the first time I'd seen them in years - and it was a lovely feeling," she says.

"Only we were in The Cranberries. Only we know what it was like being in that crazy whirlwind of fame. We have children, and spouses, and lives, but there is only one Cranberries.

"We went into the studio, and thought: 'You know what? Let's just do this,' " O'Riordan says.

Now aged 40, O'Riordan says they are all wiser. She laughs: "You don't appreciate something until it's gone."

Their new album, *Roses*, is critically acclaimed, ranging from anger (*Conduct Yourself*) to light loops (*Fire And Soul*) to rock (*Astral Projection*).

And The Cranberries are touring again _ with requisite family breaks.

"Room service is nice. Ooh-la-la, a hotel," O'Riordan giggles. "At home, it's laundry and school lunches.

"Now, I go from working with the band to going home to be a full-time mother."

The Cranberries (supporting Lenny Kravitz) play Sydney Entertainment Centre, March 21; Tickets: Ticketmaster 136 100. Solo show at the Enmore Theatre, March 22, Ticketetek.com.au



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