

# I hope viewers understand me!

## NEW TELLY HOST CIARA SPEAKS HER MIND

**CIARA DOHERTY** has revealed how she found love in the corridors of TV3 — as she gets set to 'go live' as Ireland AM's newest reporter.

The 33-year-old from Donegal replaces Anna Daly from today as she joins Mark Cagney, Sinead Desmond, Alan Hughes and Aidan Cooney on the popular breakfast

**FAB FOUR:** The Ireland AM team (left to right) Ciara, Sinead Desmond, Mark Cagney and Alan Hughes



show.

Anna has been moved to the weekends as part of the station's autumn schedule shake-up; from next month she'll co-host Saturday AM with Simon Delaney and Sunday AM with

Ivan Yates. "I hope viewers can understand my country accent OK!" Ciara joked to *The Star* last night.

**She joined TV3 in 2010, making her on-camera debut with prime-time public affairs programme *Midweek*.**

Ciara also began working in the fast turnaround documentary department, presenting and producing a series of peak-time programmes.

Viewers will know her from fronting *At Home With the Healy Raes* and the IFTA-nominated *Midweek: Rural Ireland Fights Back*.

Ciara also presented TV3's *Graham Dwyer: The Trial*, and *Money to Burn: What the Government Wants You to Know*.

And let's not forget *At Home With Country Music* — a homage to her love of all things Nashville.

**But that wasn't the only bonus that came with working in the documentary department: Ciara fell for a colleague!**

The feeling was mutual and the pair have been in a relationship for the past two years.

"I know a lot of people imagine it would be intense to share your workplace with your other half,

■ Rachael KANE

but we were always working on separate teams in the documentary unit," explains Ciara.

**"And now I'm in a different area altogether — so it's actually lovely.**

Richard used to work on Ireland AM as a producer so it's been great to have his support and advice," she added.

**Glaze**

"We both have a genuine interest in each other's work so our eyes don't automatically glaze over at the dinner table when we talk about our day at work."

Ciara started out as a researcher in ITV's Factual Entertainment Department.

She then became news and current affairs producer on *Newstalk's Breakfast Show*, presented at the time by Claire Byrne and Ivan Yates.

**But if a solid career in journalism wasn't enough, the Donegal woman also recently qualified as a barrister!**

So the latest Ireland AM recruit has a wealth of useful public-affairs and legal experience to bring to Ireland's number-one breakfast show.

"It's definitely going to be a big change," she explained.

"Outside of presenting I will also be working on special reports on topics such as the difficulties faced by mothers returning to work and the risks involved with buying beauty products online."

Asked how she felt about going live for the first time this morning, Ciara admitted: "Yes, I'm a little nervous but I'm looking forward to getting the first day over and done with.

**Pressure**

"Three hours, five mornings a week is a lot of pressure.

"But they say the best way to learn is to do, so I'm just going to have to get out there and do it. "I'm going to fake it until I make it!" she laughed.

The experienced journalist has spent the past few weeks sitting in behind the Ireland AM scenes in order to acclimatise.

"There's a lovely atmosphere amongst the gang," she revealed.

**"I've been on as a guest to speak about documentaries I'd worked on before so I knew the crew well enough to chat to in the corridors."**

From now on her days will begin at 4.30am

My working day begins at 4.30am from now on at TV3

instead of 9am — and so Ireland AM decided to see what Ciara Doherty is made of by letting viewers first see her doing the intense physical challenge of zorbing.

This involves hurtling down a hill in a human-sized sphere called a zorb.

As you'd expect, Ciara passed their introductory filming with flying colours.

Next stop, the Ireland AM set full-time.

"The level of opportunities available in Ireland are very limited so I know how lucky I am to get this chance."

● Ireland AM airs weekdays from 7am to 10am.

**RISING STAR:** Ciara before her zorbing challenge and (far left) getting ready for the cameras to roll



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