

Jennifer's debut on Strictly was the reel deal

Head held high: Jennifer Gibney on Saturday's Strictly



Born to jive? Jennifer and her dance partner Tristan MacManus making their debut

By Kevin Keane

ALL smiles, chin held high, and trying out a flash of Riverdance... it sounds a bit like Mrs Brown after too many sherries.

But no, instead it was her on-screen daughter making her debut on Strictly Come Dancing on Saturday night.

Jennifer Gibney - Brendan

She leaped on to a coffee table

O'Carroll's real-life wife - jived around the stage with her Co. Wicklow-born partner Tristan MacManus.

And not forgetting her roots, Dubliner Ms Gibney, 50, even leaped on to a coffee table mid-routine to show off her Irish dancing skills. However, it didn't quite get the thumbs-up from the judges,



On screen: With Mrs Brown

receiving the second lowest score of the night.

An unimpressed Len Goodman said: 'There was a touch of Riverdance in there but the problem was that your feet were still in the river.'

However, afterwards a breathless Ms Gibney re-

vealed that she was just relieved to get from the start to the finish without falling.

And speaking to RTE's Marian Finucane show on Saturday morning before her debut, the actress who plays Cathy on the hit show spoke of her nerves and exhaustion. She said: 'It sounds like it's a breeze but it feels like it's two hours out here. I get halfway through it and I'm going: "Seriously, I haven't got enough breath to get to the end."'

'I was so nervous this morning,' she revealed, remarking that she had just two weeks to rehearse her routine before facing the stage lights.

'Myself and Brendan went home to Florida just to breathe before it started and then we've been training since we came back but it's been a lot of fun.' She also said her dance partner MacManus 'has been great'.

MacManus, 32, joined Strictly after five series on Dancing With The Stars in the US. He previously partnered Pamela Anderson and Gladys Knight.

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Simon: 'I should have kept Dubliner Janet on'

By Eamon Donoghue

Simon said that he wished he could start this day all over again.

He tweeted during last night's broadcast: 'I should have kept Janet. My mistake.'

This was retweeted by Janet who had earlier written: 'Huge massive thank to every single soul who supported me throughout my @TheXFactor journey! Stick with me & I'll do you proud!'

On Saturday night Janet sang Crazy In Love and Louis thought she had 'nailed it', with Simon awarding her the fifth seat for his final six, that of course before the 'swaps'.

Meanwhile, Cheryl Cole sent Dubliner Orla Keogh home at the last minute.

The decision is said to have sparked a furious reaction from the Wembley audience.

It wasn't all bad news for the Irish though, as 18-year-old barman Chris Leonard was put through to the next round with his seven fellow bandmates.



Sent home: Janet