Glenn Douglas Packard went from cruising the tiny streets of Clare to cruising the streets of New York City, Hollywood, and most recently, Miami.

The co-star on the VH1 reality show "Brooke Knows Best" has been dubbed by The New York Times a "dancing entrepreneur" and was even honored with an Emmy Nomination for his work on Michael Jackson's 30th Anniversary Celebration at Madison Square Garden.

Although he now works with stars like Pink, Destiny's Child, Usher, Liza Minelli and Whitney Houston he will never forget his roots in his hometown of Clare.

Packard shouldn't even be walking right now, let alone choreographing dance moves that will later show up in MTV music videos.

His story is one of devastation, realization, and persistence.

Growing up on a dairy farm Packard assumed he would one day take over the family farm with his brother. He was used to getting up at 3 a.m. to milk the cows and tend to the farm. He was also used to hiding from his family and friends that he was gay.

"I was engaged to be married, living on the farm and probably going to take it over with my brother," he said in a telephone interview.

"I didn't come out until I was in college."

At 19-years-old, he was in a terrible tractor accident that almost cost him his life. He broke his back and fractured his right leg. As he lay in the hospital, his doctor told him that his leg might have to be amputated.

"It almost cost me my right leg, they wanted to take it off," he said.

"A doctor was able to save it," he said. Although his leg was not amputated, Packard would now have to fight the ugly infection that was coursing throughout his entire body.

And he did.

"It took a year of my life," he said. "Spending months and months in a hospital fighting the infection."

"It wasn't just a broken leg, it was a compound fracture where the bone shattered."

While Packard laid in bed recuperating, he made a decision that would change his life forever.

"I had laid there saying if God got me through this I would do the one thing I wanted to do. And that was really to be myself and go for the things that I wanted out of life," he said of dancing.

"I had a new perspective and I thought it was time to stay true to who I am, and I did just that," he said.

At the time of the accident, Packard was attending Michigan State University. He was majoring in dairy farm management. But after his leg healed, he followed through with his promise.

"My leg healed, I could walk normal," he said. "I went back to college and switched my major from dairy management to the
arts," he said.

He was 21-years-old the first time he walked into a dance class. But it didn't take too long for Packard to catch up and even surpass his classmates who had years of training on him.

As Packard sat in the infamous penthouse in Miami where the reality show is filmed, he talked about cruising the streets of Clare, going to football games and trips to McDonald's.

"We didn't really have a hang out we just cruised town, every now and then we would go parking," he said laughing.

Packard said when he was in high school, he couldn't wait for his parents to leave for their cottage in Houghton Lake so he could have a house party.

Packard said he still comes to town to visit his family and has never missed a Christmas. When he goes now he makes it a point to stop at "Cool Beans," his favorite coffee shop.

"Brooke Knows Best" started filming in February and runs on VH1. Brooke Hogan is the daughter of Terry "Hulk" Hogan. Brooke, Packard and another roommate named Ashley live together in a penthouse in Miami. They are filmed during the day doing whatever it is that they do.

Packard said there are no scripts for the show, but the roommates are given a scenario when the camera crew is filming.

"There's cameras all the time, but they go away at night," Packard said. "We get a weekly schedule. The cameras will be here at a certain time in the morning and leave at a certain time at night," he said.

Although Packard looks like he is in his 20s, he is really 39.

"I'm 39. Nobody knows that. But, I can't lie to the people in Clare," he said laughing.

When the show first started filming he was asked if he would say he was in his 20s, but Packard wasn't comfortable with that number so compromised with the age of 32.

"In entertainment years I'm 32," he said. "When the show started they wanted me to go down to my 20s. I couldn't do it."

Packard hopes to take his career to the next level with filmmaking and has created two music groups.

"I love my work, so I don't stop. When you find something that you are passionate about, you just don't stop because you love every moment," he said.

Packard had one more thing he wanted to say - "I love my family in Clare and miss them."

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