

First ever adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's *Twist of Gold* comes to Polka's stage

Following a series of record-breaking adaptations, Polka Theatre is delighted to be bringing another of Morpurgo's classic children's stories to the stage with the first ever production of ***Twist of Gold***. Acclaimed adaptor of Morpurgo's children's books, **Simon Reade** (*Private Peaceful*, *TORO! TORO!*), and director **Philip Wilson** (*Travesties*, *TORO! TORO!*), have fused traditional Irish music with a talented cast of five actor/musicians in order to bring this story to life for 9 – 13 year olds.

Twist of Gold takes audiences on a journey with brother and sister, Sean and Annie, as they escape an Ireland ravaged by famine to travel to unknown lands in America. They have only a family heirloom; a gold torc that Annie wears as a necklace, and a fiddle given to them on their journey from Ireland, to make their way from Boston to California to find their father. Mysterious characters and hardship follow them along the way, but they have each other, their lucky charm, Sean's music and Annie's dancing to keep them safe from harm.

Recent adaptations of Morpurgo's books have struck a chord with children and adults alike most notably with the National Theatre's *War Horse*; currently taking the West End and Hollywood by storm. Both on page and on stage, Morpurgo's work speaks to all ages; he creates great stories and adventures that ignite the imagination. Combining these narratives with music, dance and the creative team behind many of his previous adaptations, Polka's production of *Twist of Gold* is sure not to disappoint.

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Notes to editors

Cast

Trevor Allan Davies	Mr Blundell, The Boston Chancer, The Bounty Hunter, Seamus Finn
Jo Castleton	Mother, Miss Martha, Card-dealer, French Charlie
Charlie Hamblett	Sean
Ian Harris	Will, Donnelly, Marty, Miss Henry, The Colonel, Red Indian Chief
Clive Llewellyn	Father, Captain Murray, Lil' Luke, Matt Colby
Clare McMahon	Annie

Creative team

Written by **Michael Morpurgo**
Adapted by **Simon Reade**
Directed by **Philip Wilson**
Designed by **Max Jones**
Music composed by **Olly Fox**
Lighting design by **Philip Gladwell**
Sound by **Max Perryment**

Listings information

Venue	Polka Theatre (Main Theatre)
Address	240 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1SB
Dates	16 February – 21 April 2012
Price	£10 - £12, concessions £8, previews £6
Box Office	www.polkatheatre.com / 020 8543 4888

Polka do not hold specified press performances but press are invited to attend any school or public show. For all press enquiries including images and press tickets, please contact Elise on **020 8545 8354** or email elise@polkatheatre.com