



# Autism Friendly Synopsis Pack

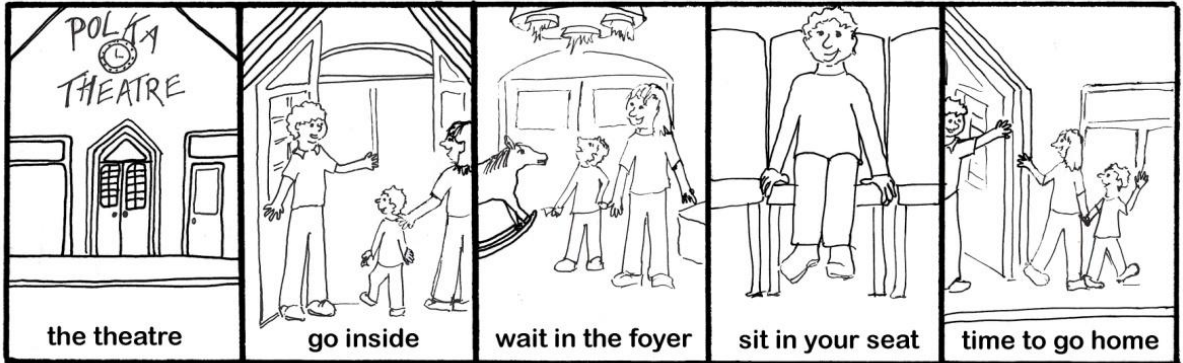
## Twist of Gold

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**Polka Theatre**  
240 Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1SB  
+44 (0)20 8543 4888 [www.polkatheatre.com](http://www.polkatheatre.com)

Picture information strip:

**your visit to the polka theatre**



To prepare you for your visit to Polka we have put together a Picture information strip and a synopsis, this is to help you understand the story that you are about to see and to know what to expect during the performance.

We have adapted the show slightly by having fewer people watching and you can also choose which seat you sit in. We have lowered the sound levels and throughout the performance the auditorium will have the main lights dimmed instead of being in complete darkness.

There is also a designated 'chill out area' outside the auditorium that can be used at any time throughout the show.

During this play there are moments that are noisy and have bright lights. Sometimes children don't like noises. If you don't like noises we can help you. There is a symbol in the pack telling you when there will be a noise so you can put your fingers in your ears and still enjoy the fun!



**There are six actors in Twist of Gold. They will pretend to be different characters in the play. These are the main characters:**

**The O'Brien's:**



**Sean O'Brien**



**Annie O'Brien**



**Mother**



**Father**

Sean and Annie O'Brien are brother and sister. They live in Ireland with their Mother.

During the 1800's many people had to leave Ireland as they were very poor and sick. Many people went to America.

Their Sean and Annie's father has gone to America to make a better life for them. He said he would come back to get them when he had a farm they can all live on. Sean and Annie, leave Ireland to look for their father.

**The Dragoon helps them get on a ship to go to America. On the Ship they meet:**



**The Dragoon/Will**



**Captain Murray**

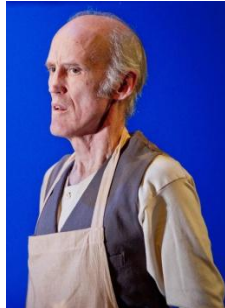


**Mr. Blundell**



**Fiddler Donnelly**

When they get to America they go to Boston. In Boston they meet:



**The Chancer**



**Lil Luke**



**Miss Martha**

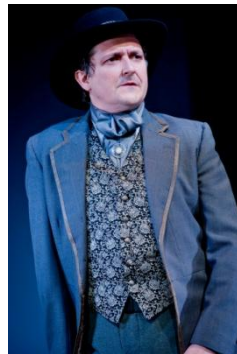


**Miss Henry**

When they leave Boston to find their father they travel across America. Along the way they meet:



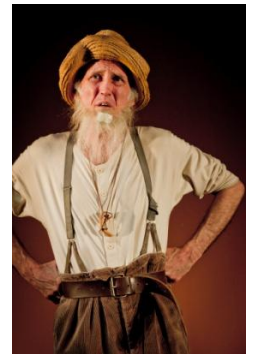
**Bounty Hunter**



**The Colonel**



**French Charlie**



**Seamus Finn**



**Card Dealer**



**Indian Chief**



**Indian**

They will also take on smaller roles throughout the play.

**Act 1**

**Ireland. Autumn 1847.**

Sean and Annie are brother and Sister. They are outside their old house with their Mother. There are three new graves. They put flowers down. Three of their brothers and sisters have died.



\*\*\*

Sean and Annie are out fishing. They meet an English Dragoon or Solider. His name is Will. He gives them some food.

They take the food back to their mother. Their mother is sick and dying. Sean asks why is has taken their father so long to return home. He has gone to America where he is setting up a new life for them.

Will bursts in to their house. They are scared of him. He warns them that a plague is coming.



*Will the Dragoon, in Sean Annie and Their Mother Home*

Their mother tells Sean and Annie to wait outside. She talks to Will. She asks Will to help Sean and Annie get to America. She will not be going with them.

\*\*\*

Will tells Sean and Annie that they will be going to America to look for their father. He tells them that their mother will be staying in Ireland.

Their Mother gives Annie a Golden Torc. This is a necklace. It has been passed down through generations in their family.



*Sean Annie and Their Mother*



*The Golden Torc*

They are going to travel by ship to America.

\*\*\*

On the ship Will pays the Captain for Sean and Annie to travel to America. But the Captain makes Sean work and takes the Torc from Annie.



*Sean and Annie on the ship*

They meet a fiddle player named Donnelly. A fiddle is a violin. Donnelly teaches Sean how to play the fiddle and teaches Annie to dance. He looks after the children and they plan how to get the Torc back.



*Donnelly, Sean and Annie*

The Captain discovers the Torc is missing. He thinks Sean has taken it. Mr Blundell is the ships first officer. He saves Sean from a flogging and sends him up to the crowns nest for the night.



*Sean spies Land, and then a storm on the horizon.*

*At this point there is a bright flash of light, this is representing lightening. There is also sound of thunder*

Sean is given the fiddle case to keep safe. Sean and Annie go below deck. The ship is destroyed in the storm. Sean and Annie are washed up on shore, alone.  
\*\*\*

Inside the case they find their missing Torc.

They walk to a village. The Villagers are afraid the children have the Plague. This is a bad illness. They help them on their way to Boston.



*Sean and Annie on a cart. They are traveling to Boston*

In Boston they meet a man who tries to trick them out of their violin. Lil' Luke helps them.

Lil' Luke tells them to play the violin and dance for some money, which they do.

After a time, Annie collapses in the cold. Lil' Luke works for two sisters. Their names are Miss Martha and Miss Henry. He brings the sisters to see Sean and Annie. They take the children back to live with them.



*Lil' Luke, Miss Martha, Miss Henry and shop keeper*

Annie and Sean are well looked and happy, but they decide one night they must leave to find their father.

Miss Martha and Miss Henry give them food and provisions. Lil' Luke goes with them part of the way to keep them safe. They are heading to Miss Martha and Miss Henrys Brother called The Colonel.

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**Interval**

**There is now a 15 minute interval. During this time you can:  
the interval**



**Act 2**

**America. Spring 1848**

Sean Annie and Lil' Luke are heading to The Colonels boat on the Ohio River.

A bounty hunter finds them and takes Lil' Luke. Sean tries to give the bounty hunter the Torc in exchange but the bounty hunter takes the Torc and Luke. The children are alone again.



*The Bounty Hunter, Lil'Luke, Sean and Annie*

They follow the bounty hunter and Lil' Luke. Sean plays an eerie sound on the violin and scares the bounty hunter away.

They have made it to the Ohio River. They look for the Colonel.

The Colonel takes them to his boat. It is called the Henry Martha. Lil' Luke returns home to Miss Henry and Miss Martha.



*The boat is shown by a small model boat. This represents the whole boat*

While exploring the ship, Annie see's the bounty hunter. The Colonel forms a plan to get the golden Torc back.

The Colonel gambles with the Bounty hunter. He tricks him and wins the Torc back for the Children.

\*\*\*

The Colonel agrees to take Sean and Annie across the wilderness to California. They join a group of farmers on a caravan. The Colonel leads them across the desert.



*This is shown by small wagons and horses*

On the journey, one farmer, named French Charlie, and the Bounty Hunter take over. They leave Sean, Annie and the Colonel in the desert, alone. French Charlie and the Bounty hunter take the Golden Torc.

In the night the Colonel leaves the children with the last of the water to help them survive.

In the desert they are seen by an Irish man named Seamus Finn. Seamus has been living in the desert looking for gold and hunting bears. They all help look for gold in the stream. An Indian Chief approaches.



*Seamus Finn, Annie and Sean*

He is Seamus' friend. The Chief has the Torc. He found it after the caravan trail of farmers was attacked by someone. Sean and Annie think is the Colonel.

The Chief bargains with Seamus for all of his bear skins. Sean and Annie have got their Golden Torc back.

On their way to California they pan for gold in a stream and they find lots!



*Annie Sean and Seamus find lots of Gold*

They walk into a town where they ask if anyone has seen their father, they are directed further on to a house with a tall chimney.

They find their father. He traveled back to Ireland to find them. A woman comes out of the house, and it is their Mother!



*Mother Father Annie and Sean are together again*

Sean and Annie tell their parents about their journey across America.

The End