



BSL Signed Performance Synopsis Pack

Twist of Gold

Page 1

Polka Theatre
240 Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1SB
+44 (0)20 8543 4888 www.polkatheatre.com

There are six actors in Twist of Gold. They will each take on 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

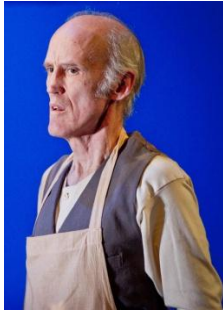


Mr. Blundell



Fiddler Donnelly

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



The Chancer



Lil Luke



Miss Martha

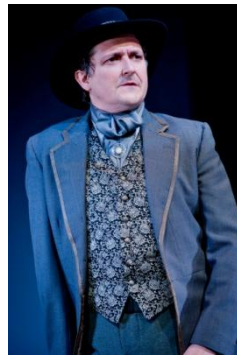


Miss Henry

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



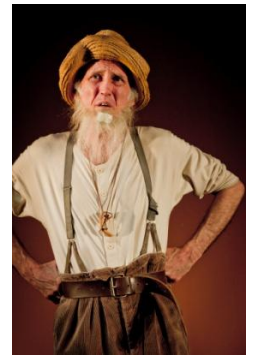
Bounty Hunter



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 his sister Annie are outside their run down house with their Mother, they lay flowers on three new graves. Three of their brothers and sisters have died.



Sean and Annie are out fishing in a brook when they meet an English Dragoon called Will. They are scared at first but accept his help fishing and a little of his food.

They take some food back to their sick mother, and Sean asks why he has taken their father so long to return from America, where he is setting up a new life for them.

The Dragoon bursts in. They think he is there to break up their home but he warns them that a plague is coming.



Their mother asks them to wait outside while she talks to Will alone, she asks the Will to help Sean and Annie get to America. She will not be going with them.

Page 4

Will tells Sean and Annie that they will be going to America to look for their father and that their mother will be staying in Ireland as she is too sick.

Their Mother gives Annie the Golden Torc which has been passed down through generations of their family.



They leave for the Docks in Cork.

In Cork Will pays the Captain for the children's passage to America. But the Captain makes Sean work and takes the Torc from Annie when Will has gone.



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



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



Sean spies Land, and then a storm brewing on the Horizon.

Donnelly gives Sean the fiddle case to keep safe below deck.

The ship is destroyed and 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 but they help them on their way to Boston.



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

Lil' Luke advises 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 called Miss Henry and Miss Martha. He brings them to see the children and they feel so sorry for them they bring them back to live with them.



Annie and Sean are well looked after but decide on night they must leave to find their father.

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

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 golden Torc in exchange but the bounty hunter takes the Torc and Luke and the children are alone once more.



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 and go to look for the Colonel.

The Colonel takes them to his boat. It is called the Henry Martha. It has a casino on board.



While exploring the ship, Annie see's the bounty hunter, The Colonel forms a play to get it back.

The Colonel gambles with the Bounty hunter and tricks him but 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 and the Colonel leads them.



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

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 panning for Gold and hunting bears. While they are exchanging stories an Indian Chief approaches.



He is Seamus' friend. The Chief has the Torc which he found after the caravan trail of farmers was attacked by someone who the children 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!



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 who journeyed back to Ireland to find them, a woman comes out of the house, and it is their Mother!



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