

AARON POWER

A Musical
(Draft/Intro Features/11-11-18)

By Michael Callahan and Daniel Haughey

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

AARON RONAN THORN, 21, half-Anglo-Navajo, energetic, hopeful, guitarist/flautist.

SHARON YAZZI THORN, 38, Navajo, Aaron's mother, Methodist, Missionary, loyal.

EDGAR "BULL" BEGAY. 74, Navajo Medicine Man; respects "Great Spirit" and God.

ANDREW "SKY" YAZZI, 48, Navajo, Shiprock Reservation Sheriff, Sharon's brother.

KATE KEANE, 19, Irish Catholic, free-spirit, smart, perky, plays ocarina, bones; singer.

MOYA MC COURT, 27, fiddler, flautist/singer/pianist, Celtic neo-Pagan/Catholic.

THOMAS KELLY, 47, Irish Protestant; history professor, spiritual, father to DANIEL.

DANIEL KELLY, 22, Irish, party guy, cynical at times, trouble finds him; drummer.

AGNES ("NESSIE") KELLY, 21, Irish, KATE's musically competitive friend, assertive, singer, plays keyboard, mandolin, DANIEL's sister. The KELLY's are a Belfast family.

SEAMUS O'SULLIVAN, 28, bass-player, "techy", Irish Catholic, political, edgy, smart.

CHARLES POWER, 70-80, Ex- "Taoiseach", Chief, Republic of Ireland.

THE FAMILY OF CHARLES POWER (Wife, Three Children, and a few Grandchildren.)

WAITER OR WAITRESS FOR POWER FAMILY DINNER (One or Two)

TWO AGENTS OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC GARDA

LIAM AHERN, 31, Irish Catholic nurse in the Killarney Hospital.

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

(Continued.)

NOTE: The six BAND MEMBERS are always an “onstage” band, the only live band for the musical. For small companies and/or lower budgets, the music can be performed as a pantomimed, “air band” with mp3 backup, but with live vocals. When not directly involved in the action, nor playing music, the BAND MEMBERS may discretely move to a pit, side-stage, or deemphasized area, or even take an end-seat in the auditorium.

AARON POWER can be performed with nine men and seven women. The role of KATE can be played by any ethnicity.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND SONGS

SETTING: The time is the present. The setting begins on a Navajo reservation in the Four Corners area of America and rapidly moves to Ireland. The action then moves through several counties of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, from the east coast to the far west coast, to include the Blasket Islands. All locations are represented with simple props, benches, chairs, black boxes, on an open stage, with one or two platforms for levels. U. S. we can see a scrim, pale cyclorama or neutral backdrop, suitable for projections of representations suggesting the New Mexico desert and various Irish landscapes in the background. Perhaps a “pit” and/or side-stage areas offer a home-base area for the BAND MEMBERS as they move in-and-out of scenes.

SYNOPSIS

AARON POWER is an exciting, new, full-length musical about a talented but troubled young Anglo-Navajo man. Aaron is sent by a medicine man on an epic quest to Ireland to escape a possible crime. The young man is to discover the mystery of his Irish roots. A gifted musician, Aaron “Thorn” meets up with a cutting-edge Celtic Rock band that is running from the suspicion that one of its members may have committed an act of terrorism in Belfast. Aaron is quickly assimilated into the band, its culture and its Irish tour--a journey for its own musical identity. Aaron falls in love with the lead singer, Kate, who helps him find his place in Irish music, traditions, and the discovery of his haunting heritage: that Aaron’s mysterious and late grandfather was a “*Taoiseach*” (pronounced *teé-sheck*): one of Ireland’s most loved yet hated political chiefs of modern times.

With the pressures of a new culture and challenges of relationships converging on him, Aaron—in a flurry of emotions—follows the band to the Great Blasket Island, and birthday celebration at the home of the Taoiseach there, his grandfather. Aaron aims to resort to violence, to “blow up” and deface the controversial, ill-fated family legacy that is now his own. In his struggle, he slips on a rock during a terrible island storm, and falls unconscious into a dream-like, nightmarish state. He is confronted in a dream sequence by an apparition of his infamous grandfather, Charles Power, as he confronts Aaron with his Irish identity, family and troubled values, and even the meaning of love.

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SYNOPSIS

(Continued.)

Aaron is rescued, and in the denouement, begins a healing process as he reconciles issues that have haunted him. He pledges a new-found understanding of his heritage, his love of family, and his love for Kate. He sees himself now as a man and a musician with a meaningful message, who has much to express about the world and who he really is. He vows to return to the States with Kate, reunite with his Navajo family, and resolve his tempestuous life. This is a musical of cultural discovery, family fusion, and **a quest for peace**. It is a right-of-passage story about personal challenge and growth, set to distinctive, uplifting sounds of contemporary Irish American and Native American music.

Synopsis of Songs and Dance Music Titles

Overture

ACT I.

“What have you done, my son?”

“Ireland’s Enough!”

“Wake Up Today!”

“Moya’s Song”

“Family Ceili” (Dance)

“The Writing on the Wall”

“The Love Song”

“Song Against Change”

“The Love Song” (Reprise)

“Death Punk Ballad”

ACT II.

“Blackthorn Tree”

“Skyclad”

“Shiprock Ode”

“I’m Not”

“Finale”

“Curtain Call”

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