



AARON POWER

The Musical
(Intro & Promo Features/10-30-2021)

By Michael Callahan and Daniel Haughey

CAST OF CHARACTERS

AARON POWER! can be performed with this combination of 8-10 in cast, utilizing a preference of “Economy Dual-Role Casting”, Two Characters for some Performers.

Performer 1. AARON RONAN THORN, 21, half-Navajo-Irish, energetic, hopeful, guitarist/flautist.

Performer 2. SHARON YAZZI THORN, 38, Character of Navajo, Aaron’s mother, Methodist, Missionary, loyal. **WIFE OF CHARLES** (Irish-Anglo), in Act II.

Performer 3. KATE KEANE, 19, Irish Catholic, free-spirit, smart, perky, plays ocarina or concertina, and/or “the bones”/ ”the sticks”; singer.

Performer 4. MOYA MC COURT, 27, fiddle or mandolin, /singer/pianist or flute, Celtic neo-Pagan/Catholic. (**AGENT OF IRISH REPUBLIC GARDA**, Act II, if needed).

Performer 5. THOMAS KELLY, 47, Irish Protestant; history professor, spiritual, father to DANIEL. **CHARLES POWER**, 72, “Taoiseach”, Chief, Republic of Ireland in Act II.

Performer 6. DANIEL KELLY, 22, Irish, punk-rocker, cynical at times, trouble finds him; drummer. **LIAM AHERN**, 31, Irish Catholic nurse, Killarney Hospital, in Act II.

Performer 7. AGNES (“NESSIE”) KELLY, 21, Irish, KATE’s musically competitive friend, assertive, singer, plays keyboard or mandolin, DANIEL’s sister. Tolerates the Celtic punk-rock style. The KELLY’s are a Belfast family.

Performer 8. SEAMUS O’SULLIVAN, 28, bass-player, “techy”, Irish Catholic, political, edgy, smart. **AGENT #1 OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC GARDA** in Act II.

Performer 9. M/F, AGENT #2 OF THE IRISH REPUBLIC GARDA in Act II.

Performer 10. M/F, ACT II WAITER or A CHILD OF CHARLES; as desired.

CAST NOTE: BAND MEMBERS are always an “onstage” band, the only band for the musical; they aim for “Celtic punk-rock moments”. 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 9 men and 7 women, OR 5 men, 5 women or one less, for a grand total of 9-10 performers. The role of KATE can be played by any ethnicity. (Casting of grandchildren can be optional.)

AARON POWER! can be performed with eight men and seven women. The role of KATE can be played by any ethnicity. (Double-casting possible. Casting of Grandchildren can be optional.)

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES AND SONGS

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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 Navajo-Irish 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 grandfather is 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.

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.

AARON POWER!, The Musical: Songs, Transition Music, Titles

1. “Overture” (and Shiprock Ode/ “Shiprock Riff”), PROLOGUE

ACT I.

2. “What Have You Done?” / **3. Breeze Transition**
4. “Ireland’s Plenty!”
5. “Wake Up Today!”
6. “Moya’s Tribute”
7. “The Writing on the Wall” / **8. Seat of Our Pants Transition, in minor**
9. “Song Against Change”
10. “The Love Song” / **11. Seat of Our Pants Transition, in major**
12. “Blackthorn Tree”
13. “I Can See the Ride”
14. “Our Time”

ACT II.

15. “Death Punk Ballad” / **16. Breeze Transition** (“mellow”)
17. “Fly Fearless Eagle”
18. “Skyclad”
19. “Storm in the Distance”
20. “Irish Washerwoman”
21. “Storm in the. Distance--Reprise”
22. “I’m Not”
23. “When I’m Lost”
24. Finalè: Dance-- Reel Music! — “Seat of Our Pants”



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