

THE CROCK OF GOLD : IRISH TRAVELING TOUR

FOOTSBARN THEATRE, GLEN HANSARD & BRENDAN BEGLEY

This Footsbarn Theatre production stems from a love and desire to celebrate James Stephens' unique novel, *The Crock of Gold*.

The essence of the idea was to create a piece of theatre with multi-national artists, which reaches way out beyond the boundaries of language, class and culture. Glen Hansard and Brendan Begley, who share the same respect for the novel as Footsbarn, came on board to write and play the original music that accompanies the performance live.



THE NOVEL

The Crock of Gold, written in 1912 by James Stephens, is a modern, dense and delectable fable.

With a comic and intricate web of philosophers, leprechauns, pagan gods and policemen, this tale leads us from darkness to light whilst asking some of life's fundamental questions:

Should one apprehend the world through thought at the expense of the heart and the senses? Can we be happy living alongside another's misery? Can we hold our heads up high while being unemployed? How can the balance of power between men and women lead to harmony?

The main character, the philosopher, leaves his family and his dark den in the forest in search of a girl kidnapped by the God Pan. On the way he meets a

multitude of characters and incredible situations that illustrate the on-going problems of our society. His journey becomes an odyssey that will change him forever.

This unique, comic novel is a fertile mixture of Irish folklore, modern fable and mythology. Extremely funny and full of wisdom and magic, it and its author have been somewhat forgotten in the canon of Irish literature - however this sad fact has given us a terrific opportunity to restore it to the place where it should still be – a vital part of Ireland's rich cultural heritage which can only deepen the connection between people, place and the past.

The play is woven together with original music by both songwriter Glen Hansard and man of many musical talents, Brendan Begley who both appear live on stage throughout the performance. Together with the superb creative expertise of Footsbarn Theatre, it is a powerful collection of souls who are very well suited to bringing the magic of this piece to life on the stage and onwards to villages, towns and festivals of Ireland.

This show is not just aimed to all the ages of the family, but is a wordless gift to every human heart and imagination.

[Click here to see a short film on The Crock of Gold by Myles O'Reilly](#)



ABOUT FOOTSBARN

Footsbarn Travelling Theatre is one of the world's leading touring companies performing for the most part in one of its circus big tops but also in theatres throughout the world. Footsbarn was born from a dream to create a form of theatre that is popular, generous, professional yet accessible to all. To take theatre out of the limitations of established buildings and bring it closer to the local population, to farms, beaches, streets and village squares.



The company is renowned for its exciting adaptations of classics such as Shakespeare & Moliere transcending the barrier of language with its unique blend of visual theatre, music and magic.

In their 50 years, Footsbarn has created over 60 productions and travelled to the six continents. It loves to get close to the heart of rural communities. It has a long history with Ireland – indeed the tent was pitched in Fisheries Field Galway in an event with Ollie Jennings that led to the creation of the Galway Festival.



"Footsbarn is a theatre festival unto itself, a wonderfully eclectic mixture of styles and influences, of nationalities and cultures, all melded into a seamlessly fluid torrent of pure theatre...." Irish Times, Fintan O'Toole

"Footsbarn's arrival in any town is an event in itself as they create a colourful circus atmosphere and buzz everywhere they go." Graeme Farrow, Artistic Director, Wales Millennium Centre

"Footsbarn's influence can be detected in a subsequent generation of companies. Without Footsbarn, we may never have had Complicite, Kneehigh and Told by an Idiot: companies which reach out across the footlights and embrace the audience, recognising that circus and clowning are not dirty words." The Guardian, Lyn Gardner

"What these people have is a kind of essence, a distillation of theatre that they can reproduce to stunning effect. There is a kind of magic to it all that is enhanced by the vagabond gypsy mystique of the travelling theatre." The Australian

GLEN HANSARD

Glen Hansard is the lead singer and a founding member of The Frames. Under his own name he has released 4 critically acclaimed albums to date. He is also one half of The Swell Season, which features pianist Marketa Irglova. Together in 2007 they wrote the music for and starred in the movie *Once*. The song "Falling Slowly" from the film was awarded the Academy Award for *Best Original Song*. In 2013 the film was adapted for Broadway as *Once, The Musical*, winning eight Tony Awards including the top musical prize itself and an Olivier Award in London for *Outstanding Achievement in Music*. Up until the world shut down, Glen had been touring the world in support of his most recent album "This Wild Willing". He is proud to say that he has collaborated on more than one artistic adventure with the Footsbarn Theatre including live shows and video making the fruits of which can be seen on his website www.glenhansard.com

BRENDAN BEGLEY

The youngest member of the influential Begley family from Corca Dhuibhne, West Kerry, Brendan Begley is really very much a master of traditional Irish accordion playing. He showcased his skills within the albums *Seana Choirce*, released in 1987, and *We Won't GO BACK HOME 'Til Morning hours*, released in 1997, carrying out traditional Irish dance music solo along with accompaniment by piper Liam O'Flynn, pianist Brid Cranitch, or guitarists Stephen Cooney and Frankie Street. Begley has guested on albums from the Chieftains as well as the Boys from the Lough. Alongside flutist Paul McGrattan, fiddler Paul O'Shaughnessy, and bouzouki participant Noel O'Grady, Begley is definitely an associate of Beginish, an Irish superband shaped in 1996. In overview of a efficiency by Beginish, the Belfast Telegram had written, "The peerless performing of Brendan Begley actually breathed new lease of life into that well-worn Donegal regular, "The Rose of Arranmore." Irish music doesn't get beter than this!"

Footsbarn Theatre



Since 1971