

Brian Friel
**COLLECTED
PLAYS**
Volume Three

Edited by Peter Fallon



FABER & FABER



Gallery Books

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THREE SISTERS

after Chekhov

Characters

ANDREY PROZOROV

NATASHA, his fiancée, later his wife

OLGA
MASHA
IRINA } his sisters

FYODOR KULYGIN, a schoolmaster, Masha's husband

ALEXANDER VERSHININ, a lieutenant-colonel

BARON TUSENBACH, a lieutenant

CAPTAIN VASSILY SOLYONY

DOCTOR IVAN CHEBUTYKIN, an army lieutenant

ALEKSEY FEDOTIK, a second lieutenant

VLADIMIR RODDEY, a second lieutenant

FERAPONT, a porter from the county council

ANFISA, an old nurse

Time and Place

The action takes place in the Prozorov home in a provincial town in Russia.

ACT ONE Spring

ACT TWO Winter, a year and a half later

ACT THREE Summer, a year and a half later

ACT FOUR Autumn, two years later

Three Sisters was first produced by Field Day Theatre Company at the Guildhall, Derry, on 8 September 1981, with the following cast:

ANDREY PROZOROV

NATASHA

OLGA

MASHA

IRINA

FYODOR KULYGIN

ALEXANDER VERSHININ

BARON TUSENBACH

CAPTAIN SOLYONY

DOCTOR CHEBUTYKIN

FEDOTIK

RODDEY

FERAPONT

ANFISA

John Quinn

Nuala Hayes

Sorcha Cusack

Eileen Pollock

Olwen Fouéré

Patrick Waldron

James Ellis

Niall Buggy

Colm Meaney

Eamon Kelly

Gary Lilburn

Michael Burlington

Michael Duffy

Máirín D O'Sullivan

Directed by

Designed by

Lighting by

Costumes by

Music by

Artist

Stephen Rea

Eileen Diss

Rory Dempster

Dany Everett

Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin

Basil Blackshaw

**THE
COMMUNICATION
CORD**

Characters

TIM GALLAGHER
JACK McNEILIS
NORA DAN
CLAIRE HARKIN
SENATOR DOCTOR DONOVAN
SUSAN DONOVAN
BARNEY THE BANKS
EVETTE GIROUX

Time and Place

The present, early in October; a sunny, gusty afternoon (Act One) and that evening (Act Two).

A restored thatched cottage close to the sea in the remote town-land of Ballybeg, County Donegal.

The Communication Cord was first produced by Field Day Theatre Company at the Guildhall, Derry, on 21 September 1982, with the following cast:

TIM GALLAGHER	Stephen Rea
JACK McNEILIS	Gerard McSorley
NORA DAN	Pat Leavy
CLAIRE HARKIN	Fidelma Cullen
SENATOR DOCTOR DONOVAN	Kevin Flood
SUSAN DONOVAN	Ann Hasson
BARNEY THE BANKS	Ian McElhinney
EVETTE GIROUX	Ruth Hegarty

Directed by
Designed by
Lighting by
Music by

Joe Dowling
Margo Harkin
Rory Dempster
Keith Donald

FATHERS AND SONS

after Turgenev

Music

ACT ONE

Scene One

Beethoven's Romance (for violin and orchestra) in F-major, Op.50.

Scene Two

Piano duets. In marching, military style.

ACT TWO

Scene One

Beethoven's Romance in G-major, Op.40.

Scene Two

As in Act One Scene One.

Scene Three

Te Deum, Laudamus.

Scene Four

'Drink to me only' (vocal and piano).

'Drink to me only' (played on piano accordion).

Characters

ARKADY NIKOLAYEVICH KIRSANOV (22), student

YEVGENY VASSILYICH BAZAROV (22), student

NIKOLAI PETROVICH KIRSANOV (44), Arkady's father; estate owner

PAVEL PETROVICH KIRSANOV (45), Arkady's uncle; retired
guardsman

VASSILY IVANYICH BAZAROV (60s), Bazarov's father; retired
army doctor

ARINA VLASSYEVNA BAZAROV (50s), Bazarov's mother

FENICHKA FEDOSYA NIKOLAYEVNA (23), Nikolai's mistress

ANNA SERGEYEVNA ODINTSOV (29), estate owner; widow

KATYA SERGEYEVNA (18), Anna's sister

PRINCESS OLGA (70s), Anna's aunt

Servants in Kirsanov home

DUNYASHA (20s)

PROKOFYICH (60s)

PIOTR (19)

Servants in Bazarov home

TIMOFEICH (60s)

FEDKA (16)

Time and Place

Mid-nineteenth century. Rural Russia.

Fathers and Sons was first produced at the Lyttelton Theatre, South Bank, London, on 8 July 1987, with the following cast:

ARKADY NIKOLAYEVICH KIRSANOV
YEVGENY VASSILYICH BAZAROV
NIKOLAI PETROVICH KIRSANOV
PAVEL PETROVICH KIRSANOV
VASSILY IVANYICH BAZAROV
ARINA VLASSYEVNA BAZAROV
FENICHKA FEDOSYA NIKOLAYEVNA
ANNA SERGEYEVNA ODINTSOV
KATYA SERGEYEVNA
PRINCESS OLGA
DUNYASHA
PROKOFYICH
PIOTR
TIMOFEICH
FEDKA

Ralph Fiennes
Robert Glenister
Alec McCowen
Richard Pasco
Robin Bailey
Barbara Jefford
Lesley Sharp
Meg Davies
Robin McCaffrey
Joyce Grant
Hazel Ellerby
Antony Brown
Jay Villiers
Peter Halliday
Jim Millea

Directed by
Designed by
Music by

Michael Rudman
Carl Toms
Matthew Scott

MAKING HISTORY

Characters

HUGH O'NEILL, Earl of Tyrone

HARRY HOVEDEN, O'Neill's private secretary

HUGH O'DONNELL, Earl of Tyrconnell

PETER LOMBARD, Titular Bishop of Armagh and Primate of
All Ireland

MABEL, Countess, O'Neill's wife

MARY BAGENAL, Mabel's sister

Time and Place

Act One: *Before Kinsale*

Scene One: O'Neill's house in Dungannon

Scene Two: The same

Act Two: *After Kinsale*

Scene One: The Sperrin mountains

Scene Two: Penitenzieri Palace, Rome

Making History was first produced by Field Day Theatre Company at the Guildhall, Derry, on 20 September 1988, with the following cast:

HUGH O'NEILL

HARRY HOVEDEN

ARCHBISHOP LOMBARD

HUGH O'DONNELL

MABEL (BAGENAL) O'NEILL

MARY BAGENAL

Stephen Rea

Niall O'Brien

Niall Toibin

Peter Gowen

Clare Holman

Emma Dewhurst

Directed by

Designed by

Lighting by

Simon Curtis

Julian McGowan

Rory Dempster

DANCING
AT LUGHNASA

Characters

MICHAEL, young man, narrator

KATE, forty, schoolteacher

MAGGIE, thirty-eight, housekeeper

AGNES, thirty-five, knitter

ROSE, thirty-two, knitter

CHRIS, twenty-six, Michael's mother

GERRY, thirty-three, Michael's father

JACK, fifty-three, missionary priest

MICHAEL, who narrates the story, also speaks the lines of the Boy, i.e. himself when he was seven.

ROSE is 'simple'. All her sisters are kind to her and protective of her. But Agnes has taken on the role of special protector.

Time and Place

Act One: A warm day in early August 1936.

Act Two: Three weeks later.

The home of the Mundy family, two miles outside the village of Ballybeg, County Donegal, Ireland.

Set

Slightly more than half the area of the stage is taken up by the kitchen on the right (left and right from the point of view of the audience). The rest of the stage — the remaining area stage left — is the garden adjoining the house. The garden is neat but not cultivated. Upstage centre is a garden seat.

The (unseen) Boy has been making two kites in the garden and pieces of wood, paper, cord, etc. are lying on the ground close to the garden seat. One kite is almost complete.

There are two doors leading out of the kitchen. The front door leads to the garden and the front of the house. The second in the top right-hand corner leads to the bedrooms and to the area behind the house.

One kitchen window looks out front. A second window looks on to the garden.

There is a sycamore tree off right. One of its branches reaches over part of the house.

The room has the furnishings of the usual country kitchen of the thirties: a large iron range, large turf box beside it, table and chairs, dresser, oil lamp, buckets with water at the back door, etc., etc. But because this is the home of five women the austerity of the furnishings is relieved by some gracious touches — flowers, pretty curtains, an attractive dresser arrangement, etc.

Dress

Kate, the teacher, is the only wage-earner. Agnes and Rose make a little money knitting gloves at home. Chris and Maggie have no income. So the clothes of all the sisters reflect their lean circumstances. Rose wears wellingtons even though the day is warm. Maggie wears large boots with long, untied laces. Rose, Maggie and Agnes all wear the drab, wrap-around overalls/aprons of the time.

In the opening tableau Father Jack is wearing the uniform of a British Army officer chaplain — a magnificent and immaculate uniform of dazzling white; gold epaulettes and gold buttons, tropical hat, clerical collar, military cane. He stands stiffly to attention. As the text says, he is 'resplendent', 'magnificent'. So resplendent that he looks almost comic opera.

In this tableau, too, Gerry is wearing a spotless white tricorne hat with splendid white plumage. (Soiled and shabby versions of Jack's uniform and Gerry's ceremonial hat are worn at the end of the play, i.e. in the final tableau.)

Dancing at Lughnasa was first performed at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on 24 April 1990, with the following cast:

KATE	Frances Tomelty
MAGGIE	Anita Reeves
ROSE	Bríd Ní Neachtain
AGNES	Bríd Brennan
CHRIS	Catherine Byrne
MICHAEL	Gerard McSorley
GERRY	Paul Herzberg
JACK	Barry McGovern

Directed by	Patrick Mason
Designed by	Joe Vanek
Lighting by	Trevor Dawson

This production transferred to the National Theatre, London, in October 1990, with the following changes of cast:

KATE	Rosaleen Linehan
GERRY	Stephen Dillane
JACK	Alec McCowen