



Coram Boy (NHB Modern Plays) (Nick Hern Books)

Jamila Gavin

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A heartbreaking tale of orphans, angels, murder and music - dramatised from the Whitbread Award-winning novel set in 18th-century England.

Winner of the Time Out Live Award for Best Play

In 18th-century Gloucestershire, the evil Otis Gardner preys on unmarried mothers, promising to take their babies (and their money) to Thomas Coram's hospital for foundling children. Instead, he buries the babies and pockets the loot.

But Otis's downfall is set in train when his half-witted son Meshak falls in love with a young girl, Melissa, and rescues the unwanted son she has had with a disgraced aristocrat. The child is brought up in Coram's hospital, and proves to have inherited the startling musical gifts of his father - gifts that ultimately bring about his father's redemption and a heartbreaking family reunion.

'a rich and almost Gothic drama' - *Philip Pullman*

'a triumph... can still make your heart soar' - *The Times*

'the story has a gripping intensity... there is a tremendous sense of momentum' - *Independent*

'Family shows don't come much more harrowing than this - but nor do they come any finer... as gripping, terrifying, beautiful and moving as anything you will see in the theatre this year... Helen Edmundson's adaptation does full justice to the dark power of the original, while also transforming it into a thrilling piece of theatre' - *Daily Telegraph*

'a highly superior show that should appeal to adults and children alike' - *Guardian*

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