

Any Other Dublin - Episode 4 - 'Sean's Alternative'

By

Gareth Stack

Cast of Characters

<u>Andy:</u>	Sean Og
<u>???:</u>	Narrator
<u>Dylan:</u>	Ed
<u>Gordo:</u>	Freddy
<u>Leah:</u>	Brid
<u>Gareth:</u>	Iain (Dub)
<u>Alicja:</u>	Jolita
<u>Gordo:</u>	Peter
<u>Leah:</u>	Emily
<u>Gordo:</u>	Pedro
<u>Gordo:</u>	Guard 1
<u>Gareth:</u>	Guard 2

ANY OTHER DUBLIN - EPISODE 4 - 'SEAN'S ALTERNATIVE'

1 - SAOR SPACE

1 ATMOS: GROUP SITTING DOWN IN A SMALL ROOM, CHAIRS MOVING, COUGHING, ECHO OF THE HARD FLOOR

2 SEAN OG

So myself and some of the other clowns were hoping to put on a show. It'll be a mime version of Les Mis. I'll be playing the part of Javert and also the parts of Fontaine and Sean Og Valjean; and there'll be six other guys playing several roles each. We'll all be shaving our heads and wearing Butoh makeup, and the show will end with an improvised Haka style dance.

2 - Narrator

3 NARRATOR

Sean Og O'Sugru, aged 31, is a volunteer at the consensus based art center 'Saor Space'. A long-time political activist, amateur clown, psychonaut and ethical vegan, Sean Og is a well known member of Dublin's alternative community.

3 - Saor Space

4 ED

Haiku? Is that that Maori warrior thing?

5 SEAN OG

Yeah, sort of, but eh... In a non-violent, multi-culturally respectful way, obviously.

6 FREDDY

OK, so does anyone have an issue with a silent, all male musical featuring clowns? (PAUSE) Go ahead Brid.

7 BRID

With all due respect to Sean Og, this sounds like a steaming pile of cisgender, heteronormative, white male *privilege*.

8 FREDDY

What would you suggest instead darlin'?

9 BRID

(PAUSE) Well, I think *at the very least* there should be one female identified person involved.

10 SEAN OG

Oh sure, no, of course, it's not eh... I mean if you'd like to take part Brid... As long as you don't mind shaving your head and dressing like a clown. It's just I didn't think-

(CONTINUED)

- 11 BRID
-I don't want to sound like negative Nelly, Sean Og, but I think you're just placing roadblocks with the whole shaved clown thing.
- 12 SEAN OG
Right...
- 13 FREDDY
I dunno Sean Og, forcing a woman to shave. It does seem pretty patriarchal dude.
- 14 SEAN OG
Well, I suppose we *could* just use bald caps.
- 15 BRID
Great. In that case I think my friend Cliona would be perfect, I just texted her and she's totally up for it.
- 16 FREDDY
Go ahead, Sean Og.
- 17 SEAN OG
Eh, fantastic, no eh... Cliona's absolutely welcome. Do you know if she has any clowning experience?
- 18 BRID
Actually she's a soprano.
- 19 SEAN OG
Oh, OK. Well... She, she does she know it's a silent thing right, like without any singing?
- 20 BRID
She's pretty big on singing Sean Og. That's what she does. (SARCASTIC) She's an opera singer.
- 21 FREDDY
So there's been a proposal that we go ahead with the all male clown mime of Les Mis, except with the addition of a female Opera singer. Anyone have any issues with that?
- 22 SOUND: IAIN ENTERS, CARRYING SOMETHING NOISY
- 23 IAIN
Howyas lads, I just came in the middle of that, sorry. I wanted to point out that em, you need to pay like a license I think if you want to produce a popular musical.
- 24 FREDDY
That's a good point Iain. Sean Og, have you guys paid the license fee?

- 25 SEAN OG
Well Feddy, em that'd be one of the main reasons we're doing it as a mime.
- 26 FREDDY
So it looks like there's a legal issue since we've added the singer, anyone got a proposal to square the circle?
- 27 IAIN
My mate Danny has a nu-metal band. They're absolutely savage.
- 28 FREDDY
Go ahead, Sean Og.
- 29 SEAN OG
I'm not sure I follow you Iain. What's a nu-metal band got to do with...
- 30 IAIN
Danny and the lads have been looking for a place to play, and I'd say they'd be well up for working with an Opera singer. Just like was er name...
Evanescence.
- 31 BRID
Far out, Cliona will be totes psyched.
- 32 FREDDY
Sean Og?
- 33 SEAN OG
Sorry, I just... I don't see how that'll work.
- 34 FREDDY
Are you blocking Iain and Brid's proposal Sean Og?
- 35 SEAN OG
Well not exactly, it's just that I was suggesting a mime of Les Mis, which has somehow turned into a nu-metal opera.
- 36 FREDDY
Would you prefer to pull out of the project? (PAUSE)
Go ahead, Brid.
- 37 BRID
I agree with Sean Og, I don't see his mimes contributing a lot to the gig, not unless they could do lighting or something. Plus, they sound pretty sexist.
- 38 SEAN OG
But we were only all male because-

- 39 FREDDY
Sorry, Sean Og, please put your hand up if you want to speak. Iain, go ahead.
- 40 IAIN
Yeah, Harfo's got like a 30 piece drum kit, so I don't see it working with that many people on stage.
- 41 FREDDY
Is that OK, Sean Og, I know you were keen on your mimes taking part?
- 42 SEAN OG
Em, no... I actually... That was a completely different idea.
- 43 FREDDY
Grand so. Is that consensed? Cool, so it looks like we're having our first nu-metal feminist opera gig. Congratulations everyone. Let's find a time in the schedule for that. What's next?
- 4 - The Squat
- 44 SOUND: LIVING ROOM SOUNDS, SEAN OG ENTERS, TAKES HIS BAG OFF ETC
- 45 BRID
How was your day, honey?
- 46 SEAN OG
You know how my day was Brid. You were there.
- 47 BRID
You know I can't pay attention to you all the time at the space Sean.
- 48 SEAN OG
Yeah well, you paid attention just long enough to block any chance of my musical going ahead.
- 49 BRID
Poor didums, what would you like for dinner. We have Linda McCartney sausages, Fakin' Bacon, or Cheatin' Chicken?
- 50 SEAN OG
Em, do we have any of that carrot mousse left?
- 51 BRID
No Sean Og, you ate that in your sleep last night.
- 52 SEAN OG
Fake bacon, I guess, em will I get the fire going?
- 53 SOUND: SEAN OG STARTS TO SET THE FIRE

5 - Narrator

54 NARRATOR

Sean Og and his partner Brid live together with seven others in an 'intentional community' or *squat*, on Gardener St. The pair have been romantically involved for over five years, and Sean Og is hoping to take their relationship, to the next level.

6 - The Squat55 SOUND: EATING, KNIVES FORKS

56 SEAN OG (MOUTH FULL)

So I was thinking...

57 BRID

Try not to hurt yourself petal.

58 SEAN OG

I was thinking we could maybe see someone about...

59 BRID

Hmmm? (CHEWING)

60 SEAN OG

About our em... Our problem.

61 BRID

What problem is that, pet?

62 SEAN OG

You know, our... nooh... nookie issue.

63 BRID

Sean Og, we don't have any 'nookie' issue. I just don't want to sleep with you. Can you pass the maple syrup?

64 SEAN OG

Um, uh huh. Right, yeah... And of course, you're quite entitled not to em... I mean the last thing I would want to...

65 BRID

Spit it out Sean Og.

66 SOUND: SEAN OG SPITS OUT HIS FOOD

67 SEAN OG

I guess I was trying to say... The whole not sleeping together business...

68 BRID

What about it?

(CONTINUED)

- 69 SEAN OG
It's become kind of an issue for me.
- 70 BRID
Well, you should probably deal with that then, shouldn't you? This new almond bacon tastes really real, doesn't it?
- 71 BRID (ON MIC)
I think Sean Og didn't really grasp when we got together the realities of dating an asexual person. I suppose the truth is that I was only coming to terms with it myself, and maybe I didn't tell him or whatever. But you know. Sean Og's made his bed now, and I'm sure as hell not going to lie in it.
- 72 SEAN OG
What if we just went to someone once or twice, just to see if there were other possibilities, you know? Like any compromises we could *both* make.
- 73 BRID
Well, I don't know what more you want Sean Og, I bought you that... 'Thing' for Christmas, didn't I? Be a good boy and handle the washing up won't you.
- 74 SOUND: RUNNING WATER, TABLE CLEARING, WASHING-UP
- 75 SEAN OG
It's not that I don't appreciate... *the device*... But I need more intimacy, or even, you know, like a bit of intimacy once in a while.
- 76 BRID
Is this about Michelle? I had another dream you cheated on me with her. I feel like it wasn't just a dream.
- 77 SEAN OG
Of course not. You're being kind of paranoid, love.
- 78 BRID
Don't gaslight me Sean. You guys 'did it', didn't you?
- 79 SEAN OG
Honey, that's not what I'm talking about...
- 80 BRID
I think it is, I think you guys were super compatible. I think maybe you wish you were with her.
- 81 SEAN OG
Of course not, darling. That was a terrible relationship.

- 82 BRID
Terribly physical.
- 83 SEAN OG
Don't be like that, please.
- 84 SEAN OG (ON MIC)
Brid is the most amazingly special person I've ever dated. I know sometimes she comes across as a little eh a little insecure, but she's super political, and so smart, I mean I can't even pronounce her PHD.
- 85 BRID (ON MIC)
Frequency of M287B single nucleotide T57B genetic polymorphism: phenotypic-genotypic correlates.
- 86 SEAN OG (ON MIC)
Thanks, sweetie, where was I?
- 87 BRID (ON MIC)
You were just saying how much you miss your ex.

7 - The Couch 1

- 88 SOUND: THERAPY ROOM - DRONING AIR CONDITIONER
- 89 ATMOS: CARPETED THERAPY ROOM
- 90 SEAN OG
I suppose a lot of people are surprised to find out the goal of therapy isn't to fix them.
- 91 JOLITA
What do you mean, what else would it be?
- 92 SEAN OG
I'm sensing you're upset, can you talk about some of your feelings around that?
- 93 JOLITA
Can you answer the bloody question? What's the point of paying for all this therapy if it's not going to make me feel any better?
- 94 SEAN OG
Well, let's talk about that Jolita. What are some of your goals for treatment?

8 - Narrator

- 95 NARRATOR
Sean Og has almost completed his training as a psychotherapist, and has begun working with clients, whom he sees at his home, in the squat.

9 - The Couch 1

- 96 JOLITA
Goal one, not to be so screwed up. Goal two, be less screwed up. How *exactly* are you going to help me with that?
- 97 SEAN OG
So if I'm understanding you correctly, it's important for you to feel less... Screwed up.
- 98 JOLITA
You're literally just repeating back what I'm saying.
- 99 SEAN OG
You don't feel like I'm listening to you.
- 100 JOLITA
Well, are you?
- 101 SEAN OG (ON MIC)
God you know, I think I've wanted to work in mental health ever since I watched Silence Of The Lambs with my best friend Sorcha. Afterwards, we stayed up all night playing doctor and patient. Course, Sorcha got to be Dr Lector. I had to be Clarisse because it was her VHS. But I guess you could say that at the end of the day... I was the one that got to be Hannibal for real.

10 - The Couch 2

- 102 SEAN OG
And what would you say to your wife if she could hear you now?
- 103 PETER
She can't, she's dead.
- 104 SEAN OG
I think it's important for you to deal with those feelings, to try to talk to Helen.
- 105 PETER
Hello? Helen, is that you?
- 106 SEAN OG
That's it, go on, try to speak to her as if she were right here, in the room.
- 107 PETER
Helen, Helen, can you hear me? Are you there? (PAUSE)
You *stupid* ghost cow. What's that? No, I will not leave chocolate on your grave, you cheating pig.

(CONTINUED)

108 SEAN OG

I sense you feel a little silly talking to Helen.

109 PETER

No sherbet, Sherlock. Good job there crowbarring open my skull. For your next trick, why don't you try actually feeling something. Or don't they teach that in shrink school.

110 SEAN OG (ON MIC)

In a way, the chair is the only part of my life where I feel completely in control. When I sit down, and turn the clock so I can tell when the session's going to be over, and put on my specially wooly jumper, I'm the expert, I'm the boss. I have all the answers.

11 - THE COUCH 3

111 EMILY

So can you explain to me why I keep doing it? Why I keep making the same mistakes over and over, with these terrible men.

112 SEAN OG

You feel like you're repeating a pattern.

113 EMILY

Yeah, I just said that. Why am I doing it?

114 SEAN OG

It's important for you to understand the reasons behind your actions.

115 EMILY

Em yeah, do you?

116 SEAN OG

You'd like to feel like I understand your problems.

117 SOUND: BRID ENTERS

118 BRID

Don't mind me, just grabbing some fair trade ketchup.

119 SEAN OG

No bother eh sweetie.

120 BRID

Go easy on him, his had a rough day.

121 EMILY

Wait, what?

12 - The Conspiracy

122 SOUND: ATMOS - SAOR SPACE

123 FREDDY

Do you really think you could build it?

124 IAIN

I don't see why not, all we'd need is one of those autonomous aerial vehicles, a couple of cameras and an ipad.

125 BRID

I'm pretty sure I could wire it up, we do more complicated stuff in my lab every day.

126 SEAN OG

Guys, I'm not sure that spying on the Troika with a UAV is the best idea.

127 NARRATOR

It's Tuesday and Sean Og is back in Saor Space. The Nu Metal opera has fallen through and the volunteers are enjoying some quiet time.

128 IAIN

What's the matter, Sean Og, you scared?

129 BRID

Sean Og, if this is about our relationship, it's really not the time. OK?

130 SEAN OG

For God's sake, guys, you're openly talking about terrorism. This is not what a community arts space is all about.

131 IAIN

How would you know. Ya bleedin' hipster.

132 SEAN OG

Steady on...

133 IAIN

I'll tell you what's terrorism, selling off forests to a bunch of corrupt bankers.

134 SEAN OG

That's not what I-

135 IAIN

Forty percent youth unemployment-

136 BRID

Thirty.

(CONTINUED)

- 137 IAIN
What, love?
- 138 BRID
Iain, the latest figures from the CRO are thirty percent... Not forty.
- 139 IAIN
Thirty percent youth unemployment. That's terrorism! Secret meetings to cut pension and health care. That's-
- 140 SEAN OG
-Look I really appreciate where you're coming from but this isn't the way.
- 141 ED
Guys, let him talk. Everyone should get a chance to speak at their own trial.
- 142 SEAN OG
Thanks, Ed. Wait, what? (PAUSE) Look, all I'm saying is... This could get us shut down. What are we going to find out that we couldn't just learn in the paper? It's just... Showing off.
- 143 BRID
How about what you're made of Sean Og, maybe we'll find that out.
- 144 FREDDY
From what we hear you're not much of a man anyway.
- 145 ED & BRID & FREDDY
(SNIGGERING)

13 - The Breakup

- 146 ATMOS - THE SQUAT
- 147 SOUND: PLAYING MONOPOLY
- 148 BRID
Oh sweet, O'Connell St, two hundred euro please. You had to know this was coming.
- 149 SEAN OG
(UPSET) I just can't believe you waited until now to tell me this... Is this about my needs? Because I don't 'need' my needs, I was being incredibly selfish. (PAUSE) You've only one hotel on there, that's like fifty euro at the most.
- 150 BRID
Come on, we both know that's not fair to either of us. You have your unreconstructed misogynistic cravings of the flesh, and I have a whole world to
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

- BRID (cont'd)
explore now that I'm finishing my PHD. That's actually one hotel standing in for four hotels. I've more properties there are little plastic buildings.
- 151 SEAN OG
Wait, you've finished your dissertation? I thought you had like another year to go?
- 152 BRID
Eight, sweet, community chest! Well my supervisor says my thesis is good enough already. I just had a paper accepted into Cell on Wednesday. Plus, I've had an offer I can't really refuse.
- 153 JOHN
You've got a post doc? That's great, where is it? Hopefully, I can pull some money together and follow you over once I get my client hours done.
- 154 BRID
'You've won a beauty contest, collect five hundred euro'. Woot! You remember my friend Tara?
- 155 SEAN OG
Sure, the one with the vintage mayonnaise shop in Bushwick.
- 156 SOUND: DICE ROLL
- 157 BRID
It's a vintage *recipe* mayonnaise shop. It's not like she's selling mason jars full of rotting eggs Sean Og. Anyway, when I told her I was finishing up-
- 158 SEAN OG
You told Tara before me?
- 159 BRID
She was super excited for me and she offered to make me her partner like straight away. We used to experiment with mayonnaise all the time when we lived in Chester. (PAUSE) I don't believe it, community chest again.
- 160 SEAN OG
But I love you...
- 161 BRID
'An alimony cheque arrives, collect one thousand euro'. I think you should give Michelle a call, I'm sure she'd be really excited to hear from you.
- 162 SEAN OG
Baby, that was like five years ago, before we even met. That cannot be a real card.

- 163 BRID
Well then, you can see if she still shares your feelings. It'll be incredibly romantic. Two lovers rekindling their affections... Nice, I own Botanical Avenue, you owe me eighty five euro.
- 164 SEAN OG
I can't listen to this.
- 165 PEDRO
You know you guys are really freaking me out.
- 166 SEAN OG & BRID
Shut up, Pedro.
- 167 PEDRO
This is the worst game of Monopoly ever.

14 - The Betrayal

- 168 SEAN OG
(ON MIC)
I never set out to *betray* my friends. It's just that at the end of the day I had to balance my values with my responsibilities. I mean, when all's said and done, I am a healer, not a revolutionary. In a sense, what is betrayal? I felt like... On a deeper level I was betraying myself and my own values.
- 169 SOUND: ATMOS SAOR SPACE
- 170 SOUND: KNOCKING, SHOUTING, DOOR BEING KNOCKED IN, GAS COUGHING
- 171 GUARD 1
Everybody on the ground, this is a raid.
- 172 BRID
What the hell, get out of our art center!
- 173 GUARD 2
Get her down O'Mahony.
- 174 BRID
(SCREAM)
- 175 IAIN
Pigs out!
- 176 GUARD 1
Get down on the ground, son.
- 177 IAIN
Fascists!

- 178 GUARD 1
I won't warn you again.
- 179 IAIN (SINGS)
'Stand up, all victims of oppression, for the tyrants
fear your might!'
- 180 SOUND: TRUNCHEON, BODY FALLING TO THE FLOOR
- 181 IAIN
(COLLAPSES IN PAIN)
- 182 GUARD 2
Anyone else back there?
- 183 ED
Easy, we're coming out. There's just two of us.
- 184 FREDDY
God man, what are you after doing to Iain?
- 185 BRID
They attacked him, Freddy, they attacked with without
provocation. (UGH)
- 186 ED
You're going to regret this, guard. We're all middle
class. We have solicitors. We're part of an
international network of independent-
- 187 GUARD 1
Yeah yeah Occupy, you're a victim of a broken system.
(LOUD) Bring him in O'Riordan.
- 188 SOUND: SEAN OG ENTERS COUGHING
- 189 GUARD 1
Where is it, so?
- 190 SEAN OG
Em, I think it's in the back there.
- 191 BRID
Sean Og, what are you... Look at what they did to
Iain!
- 192 GUARD 1
I don't see it, point it out to us.
- 193 SEAN OG
It's in the box there, under the PLO flag.
- 194 FREDDY
Stay back, Brid, he's working with them.

- 195 BRID
I don't believe it. Say it's not true, Sean Og?
- 196 SOUND: GUARD MOVES STUFF, OPENS A CHEST
- 197 GUARD 2
Looks like what he was talking about alright. Some kind of machine.
- 198 SEAN OG
There should also be a bag of cannibas in the kitchen, inside the kettle that's not plugged in.
- 199 GUARD 1
Lock em and load 'em lads.
- 200 SOUND: HANDCUFFS
- 201 ED
Hey! Hands off the merchandise.
- 202 FREDDY
I don't believe you, man, I just don't believe you.
- 203 IAIN (GROANING)
Judas.
- 204 SOUND: FREDDY, ED AND IAIN CUFFED AND DRAGGED OFF
- 205 BRID
You could have been a man, Sean Og, and now you're just another narc.
- 206 GUARD 2
Quit the fraternizing.
- 207 SEAN OG
Yeah yeah, best of luck with the visa, Brid. Tell me, do they serve any after-dinner mayonnaise in that shop in Bushwick?
- 208 BRID
What?
- 209 SEAN OG
Because I just gave you your just desserts.
- 210 BRID
I'm so glad I never slept with you.

15 - The Couch 4

- 211 SOUND: ATMOS - THERAPY ROOM
- 212 SEAN OG (ON MIC)
I wouldn't say I feel good about what I had to do. But a time comes when you just have to grow up. When
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SEAN OG (ON MIC) (cont'd)
you have to put the greater good before your own
selfish needs. And if they happen to be the same,
well that's even better. And Brid, I mean, I'll
always love Brid, but facts are facts, she was an
absolute-

213 PETER
-Eh, Sean Og, I don't want to interrupt but...

214 SEAN OG
Go ahead, Peter.

215 PETER
Can I talk now?

216 SEAN OG
Absolutely, I'm listening.

217 PETER
Just wanted to ask... How do you fire your therapist?

(END)