

Honor Among Thieves

By Lindsey Schneider

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DEDICATION

To my students, who inspire me always.

STORY OF THE PLAY

Headstrong Rosario, leader of a feisty gang of child thieves, has a secret; the young man everyone knows as Rosario is really a teenage girl, climbing the ranks of a clandestine criminal guild. To join the illustrious Council of Convicts, she needs all the help she can get from her friends to steal the Madonna statue off the newest church in the city. But not everyone is thrilled about her risky plan, and Rosario suffers a double betrayal that threatens to destroy her plans and tear the gang apart. Tackling themes of sexism, loyalty, and deceit, *Honor Among Thieves* is the story of one girl's dangerous ambition. Approximately 70 minutes.

ORIGINAL PRODUCTION

First staged at Pier One Theatre, August 11th-13th and 17th-19th, 2017 in Homer, Alaska, as the Pier One Youth Theatre Summer Production. Directed by Lindsey Schneider and Landon Bunting. Stage Managed by Jesse D. Bolt. Sound Design by Emmet Meyer. Lighting Design by Drewy Wimmerstedt. Featuring the following cast:

Rosario.....	Vianne Sarber
Bastián.....	Jack Swanson
Lonzo.....	Zane Wilkinson
Penelope, Isabella.....	Maya Kelly
Katia.....	Aria Hill, Rebecca Trowbridge
Mary.....	Eryn Field, Daisy Walker
Midge.....	Dayus Geysbeek
Slate.....	Emmet Wilkinson
Skeet.....	Poppy Smith
Glitch.....	Indigo Sonneborn
DeVega.....	Julliet Matizwa
Helen.....	Indigo Sonneborn, Julliet Matizwa
Ben, First Guard.....	Jackson Krohn
Tomas, Third Guard.....	Rebecca Trowbridge, Aria Hill
Daniel, Second Guard.....	Daisy Walker, Eryn Field

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(8 m, 7 w, 9 flexible and extras, doubling possible.)

ROSARIO: (W) Arrogant, just, and clever. Dresses as a boy. Only Bastián knows her true identity. 16.

BASTIÁN: (M) Fiercely loyal to Rosario. An older brother to everyone in the gang. 16.

SLATE: (M) Crafty, highly mechanical. Disdains adults. 12.

SKEET: (W) The gang's comedian and Slate's constant companion. 10.

KATIA: (W) Logical, fair, and charismatic. Penelope's confidante. 13.

MARY: (W) Sweet, loud, and always ready with a suggestion to improve the gang's efficiency. Slate's little sister. 7.

MIDGE: (M) The youngest gang member, and Mary's best friend. He is eager to please and loves stealing with the older gang members. 6.

PENELOPE: (W) Pragmatic and just. She dislikes the gang's illegal activities. 17.

LONZO: (M) Well known house robber. 18

ISABELLA: (W) The Council of Convict's scribe. 18.

GLITCH: (M) Shrewd trader and member of the Council of Convicts. Rosario's mentor.

DEVEGA: (M) The leader of the Council of Convicts.

BEN: (M) Brash and boisterous. A high-ranking member of the Council.

HELEN: (W) A social worker with Cariños Servicios. (*Child Services*)

TOMAS: (M) Member of the Council of Convicts.

DANIEL: (M) Another member of the Council of Convicts.

MERCHANT

ANNOUNCER

FIRST GUARD

SECOND GUARD

NON-SPEAKING ROLES: THIRD GUARD, CUSTOMER, TOWNSPEOPLE, COUNCIL MEMBERS

The following may be double cast:

Helen, Glitch

Merchant, Daniel, First Guard

Tomas, Second Guard, Announcer

Ben, Third Guard

The show can staged with an all-youth or mixed-age cast. Gender flexible casting within the gang members is possible.

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TIME AND PLACE

The play takes place in an alternate historical reality. Sénera could easily be mistaken for a Spanish city at the turn of the 19th century.

PRODUCTION NOTES

Honor Among Thieves is well suited to a unit set design motif. An open city street set can accommodate a variety of locations. An upstage center door can act as the entrance to the hideout. Partitioned sections can act as the hideout and Rosario's room, with other set elements brought in for Glitch's stall and the Council of Convicts, as needed.

The image of the Madonna on top of the Chapel should be present and lit throughout the play. Two actors should be able to "scale" the chapel. Ladders or stairs behind the set piece work well.

Scene 5 offers several design opportunities (projections, shadow box puppetry, etc.) especially to productions with large casts. Directors may wish to utilize actors who are currently not on stage (or students with a technical theatre interest) to artistically represent Bastián's story to the audience.

ACT I
Scene 1

(AT RISE: Early morning in a city called Sénera. LIGHTS up on the interior of an abandoned building with scaffolding along the back of the stage. Pots and pans, crates, draped fabrics of many colors help to style this as a home. KATIA and MARY, SKEET and SLATE, BASTIÁN sleep in piles. MIDGE enters banging pots and pans together.)

MIDGE: *(Banging pots and pans.)* Good morning! Look at you all! I've been up since four bells!

KATIA: No you haven't, Midge, you liar.

MIDGE: Wouldn't have to lie if you would just wake up!

MARY: Hey, it was supposed to be my turn to do morning pans!

(MIDGE moves to SKEET and SLATE, waking them by shaking and banging the pans.)

SKEET: Why would you want to?

SLATE: *(Shaking off MIDGE.)* Get off me!

(PENELOPE enters and begins to make breakfast.)

PENELOPE: Where's Rosario?

SKEET: Brooding.

SLATE: Fixing his hair.

SKEET: Brooding while fixing his hair.

KATIA: Don't let him hear you say that.

SLATE: Doesn't matter; we're his favorite thieves anyway.

PENELOPE: Oh, is *that* why he's put you on trade and sales for the last two weeks?

SKEET: Yeah, well. Your eggs are burning.

MARY: Bastián, tell Midge I get to do pans tomorrow!

SLATE: Why do we still do this?

BASTIÁN: Midge, Mary gets to wake up the gang tomorrow, it's her turn.

PENELOPE: *(To SLATE.)* It's tradition.

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SLATE: It's sadism.

KATIA: Didn't she just say that?

(ROSARIO enters.)

ROSARIO: Ave Maria, you lot are loud.

KATIA: The beast wakes!

ROSARIO: Penelope, you wouldn't happen to be making tostadas, would you?

PENELOPE: What's it to you?

ROSARIO: Only my ability to function.

PENELOPE: Sounds like a "please, Penelope."

KATIA: Probably the closest you're going to get to one.

ROSARIO: No need to say it when you already know I mean it.

PENELOPE: He's really so charming.

ROSARIO: I try my best. Now where's my favorite thieves-in-training?

MARY and MIDGE: Here!

MIDGE: Did you bring us something from the theft last night?

ROSARIO: Now what kind of leader would I be if I didn't?

(ROSARIO pulls out two oranges and hands them to MARY and MIDGE.)

MIDGE: Thank you, Rosario! You're the best.

(MIDGE hugs ROSARIO and runs off.)

MARY: Wow! These are really expensive.

PENELOPE: When you buy them, they are. Rosario, can I talk to you for a minute?

BASTIÁN: Good morning boss.

ROSARIO: Actually—

PENELOPE: Later, then?

ROSARIO: *(To PENELOPE.)* Uh, definitely. *(To BASTIÁN.)* You're chipper today.

BASTIÁN: *Me conoces*, nothing like a full day of thieving and dealing in black market objects to brighten the spirits.

End of Freeview

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