

Carousel Production/Audition Pack

Message from the Director.

Hello! My name is Suanne, and I will be directing this production of Carousel with Richmond Operatic Society. Welcome to all our members, old and new!

Richmond Operatic Society are proud to present this production of 'Carousel'. 'Carousel' is one of Roger and Hammerstein's most successful productions. It brings an exalted score with a libretto that can touch the hearts of all that witness the show.

Production Team

Director - Suanne Harding
Musical Director - Adrian Bramley
Creative Director - Lara Vinsen
Stage Manager - Alex Caffery
Choreographers - Caitlin Smith & Tori Bennett

Synopsis

This multi-Tony Award Winning show brings the story of Billy, a charismatic carousel barker who falls in love with Julie, a young, innocent woman with little experience in the world of men. Billy has a criminal past and is often violent to Julie. He struggles with inner turmoil when he learns that Julie is pregnant and tries to gain money to support his newly formed family but does so in a criminal way. When he is caught, the shame overwhelms him, and he kills himself. This leaves Julie, a lone parent, to bring up a child by herself. Billy gets to have a chance at redemption in the afterlife but struggles to cope with the consequences of his actions. Ultimately, he does his best to resolve his actions, but does he truly repent his past?

Carousel can be viewed as a controversial show in a 21st century world. The show focusses upon difficult themes of romance, domestic violence, family, and redemption. When the show was released in the 1940s, it was set to show the changing role of women in society in a post-war world. With the complex themes of abuse, it is argued that this show should not work. Yet, Carousel, and particularly its problematic ending that may or may not ask us to forgive Billy of his crimes, remains among the most moving experiences in all of musical theatre. The image of a young Louise looking to her future as a woman in this new world and all the possibilities it possesses, as the company sing, 'You'll Never Walk Alone' is guaranteed to move audiences to tears.

Production Pack Details

Throughout this pack, you will find all the information you require to find out more about this show and all the details required for the auditions, including information about the characters and their vocal ranges. In this production we will be utilising Sunday rehearsals as well as Tuesdays and Thursdays. This will allow more time to make this production the best that it can be although it should be noted that not everyone will be required at very rehearsal until we get closer to show week.

You can expect rehearsals to be challenging and completely rewarding. Our rehearsal may be filmed and shared in a Members Only section of our website. This will be to allow you to continue rehearsing at home. If you do not wish to be involved with filming, please let me know ASAP. I will also be looking to set a show WhatsApp group. If you do not wish to be part of this, please let me know.

I am looking for a cast of 20 which includes a mixture of men and women and 4 children. There are many roles within this production. This means that everybody will be able to have a role including ensemble.

I hope that you find this information pack useful and that it gives you everything that you need to know about Carousel.

If you require any further support or want to talk about the production, you can call or text me on 07854 324086 or we can chat during rehearsals.

Workshop and Audition Information.

Here is some information about the upcoming workshops and rehearsals to prepare you for the auditions. Carousel is a big show and requires a heavy amount of singing and dancing. For this production, I will be looking for dancers of all abilities to take part.

Dates for your diary:

14/12/21 – Act 1 lib Read/Sing through of all ensemble songs.

16/12/21 – Act 2 lib Read/Sing through of all ensemble songs.

04/01/22 – Music Rehearsal – Chorus songs (audition numbers).

06/01/22 – Music Rehearsal – Principal songs (audition numbers).

11/01/22 – Dance audition preparation

13/01/22 – Recap audition music.

16/01/22 – Auditions from 10:00 TBC. Casting will be approved by the ROS Committee before sharing on the same day.

During auditions, everybody will be provided with an audition form. On this form you will have the opportunity to disclose any dates that you are not available for rehearsal. It is important that this is completed as accurately as possible to ensure a complete rehearsal schedule.

Scripts may be taken home if you are auditioning for a part in the show, however this should be arranged with the Stage Manager prior to taking a script home. All scripts require a £10 deposit which is returned upon receiving the script back after the production.

Audition Process

All auditions are open and will be in front of your fellow members. This ensures you have plenty of support during your auditions. Where a number of people are auditioning for the same part, the other individuals will be asked to step out. The auditions will consist of Dance, singing and libretto. The dance auditions will be in groups and take place at the beginning. Once all complete, the singing and libretto auditions will begin.

If you have any questions about the audition process, please do not hesitate to speak to any member of the production team, we are only too happy to help in any way that we can.

Rehearsals

Rehearsals start at 19:30 promptly, so please make sure that you arrive no later than 19:20. We break for 10 minutes around 20:30 and we finish rehearsals around 21:30. As rehearsals progress you will notice that rehearsal time may start earlier and may finish later (no earlier than 19:00 and 22:00).

You will also notice that during this production Sunday rehearsals will be utilised more often. This is due to the scale of the show.

We will spend the first 4 weeks of rehearsals focussing only on music. This will give everybody the chance to really embed the music before moving to floor work. It is imperative that you use some of your free time to embed your lines as there is little chance to go through these again.

After this period, we will then begin our floor rehearsals focusing firstly on the dance numbers and then amalgamating the libretto and staging later in the process. A full rehearsal schedule will be created after the auditions have been completed. This will be shared with you in rehearsal, on the Information Board in the ROS rehearsal hall, via email and on our ROS Family Facebook page.

Character Breakdown

Julie Jordan: Julie is a quiet young woman who works and lives at Bascombe Cotton Mill with her friend Carrie Pipperidge. “Deeper than a well,” Julie is more complex than she might first appear, a daydreamer in her own world. She sees something in Billy Bigelow and falls for him. They marry, and despite warnings from others, Julie devotes herself to him. Though Billy treats her poorly, Julie cannot help but empathise with him. After his fatal misfortune, she courageously carries and raises their child without him.

(Playing age under 30. Soprano Range C4 – Gb5)

Billy Bigelow: The skilled barker for Mullin's Carousel at a coastal carnival, Billy is strong and attractive, but he's also a troubled man known by local police as a sly charmer who deceives women for their money. After a spat with his boss, he spitefully quits his job in defence of Julie Jordan. When he finds himself unemployed with a baby on the way, Billy accepts an illicit opportunity to provide for his family. It doesn't work, and he kills himself. Once in heaven – through the backdoor – he gets a second chance to go back to earth and right his wrongs.

(Playing age 20-40. Baritone Range Bb2 – G4)

Carrie Pipperidge: Carrie Pipperidge is a spirited and complacent young woman. She is sweet and direct, if a bit naïve, and makes all the acceptable choices to live a proper life with a husband and many children. She works at the Bascombe Cotton Mill in town and lives at their boarding house with her close friend Julie Jordan. She is smitten by the ambitious but single-minded Enoch Snow, and they marry.

(Playing age under 30. Soprano Range D4 – G5)

Nettie Fowler: A respected proprietor of a seaside business, Nettie Fowler is Julie's cousin and trusted confidant. When Billy can't find work, Nettie gives them a place to stay. When tragedy befalls Julie and her unborn baby, Nettie promises to support her, assuring Julie that she will never be alone.

(Playing age 30+. Mezzo Soprano Range C4 – G5)

Enoch Snow: A warm-hearted, simple-minded fisherman who loves Carrie, Mr. Snow enjoys simple things like tending a garden and taking care of flowers when he

is not working. He dreams of growing a sardine-canning business, being married and having many children. His dreams come true.

(Playing age 30+. Tenor Range B2 – A4)

Jigger Craigin: A seaman friend of Billy's with an eye for danger. Often conning to get by Jigger is a man with little patience and a quick temper – always with a scheme. He prefers life at sea, where he is free from the laws of the land and makes no bones about being attracted to Carrie at the clambake.

(Playing age 30+. Range Baritone Bb2 – G4)

Mrs. Mullin: The proprietor of Mullin's Carousel, which was left to her by her late husband. She likes to keep an eye – and perhaps more – on Billy, not trusting his relationships with anyone else.

(Playing Age 40+)

David Bascombe: A dignified man of earned wealth, Mr. Bascombe is the owner of the Bascombe Cotton Mill factory, where both Julie and Carrie work.

(Playing age 50+ Will also be part of ensemble)

Starkeeper (Principal): In the afterlife, the Starkeeper greets Billy and shows him the way it works “up there.” Though he’s not the big man, just the one in charge of the “backyard of heaven,” the Starkeeper grants Billy the chance to return to earth one more time to repair the damage he has done to his wife and daughter. Also plays the Principal.

(Playing age 50+ Will also be part of ensemble)

Louise: Billy and Julie’s inquisitive 15-year-old daughter, on the verge of becoming a woman.

(Playing age <20, competent dancer. Will also be part of ensemble.)

Carnival Boy - Flirts with Louise through dancing on the beach.

(Playing age early 20s, competent dancer. Will also be part of ensemble)

Enoch Snow, Jr: Enoch and Carrie Snow’s son. Pompous and snotty.

(Playing age <20. Will also be part of ensemble)

Ensemble - variety of roles across whole show including townspeople, park carnies, youngsters and seafaring men, police, Captain, Arminy, Dr Seldon, Heavenly Friends

(All ages, Men, Woman & Children)

**PLEASE NOTE THAT CHARACTER AGES ARE APPROXIMATE
AND ARE FOR A GUIDE ONLY.**

Audition Pieces

Dance - June is busting out all over

Julie Jordan -

Music - If I loved you Bar 93 to 128 & What's the use of Wonderin? Bar 7 to 44

Libretto - Top of Page I-2-16 to Bottom of page I-2-17 & Top of Page I-3-34 to Top of Page I-3-36

Billy Bigelow -

Music - If I loved you Bar 233 to 273 & Soliloquy Bar 6 to 78

Libretto - Top of Page I-2-16 to Bottom of page I-2-17 & Top of Page II-2-81 to Middle of Page II-2-85

Carrie Pipperidge -

Music - Mister Snow bar 66 to 164

Libretto - Top of Page I-3-34 to Top of Page I-3-36

Nettie Fowler -

Music - You'll never walk alone Bar 1 to 46 (i.e. ALL)

Libretto - Page I-3-30 & Middle Page II-1-69 to Top of page II-1-70

Enoch Snow -

Music - When the Children are asleep Bar 1 to 51

Libretto - Top of Page I-3-39 to Bottom of Page I-3-41 & Bottom of Page II-1-74 to Bottom of Page II-1-75

Jigger Craigin -

Music - Stonecutter Bar 41 to 77

Libretto - Middle of Page I-3-48 to Bottom of page I-3-49

Mrs Mullen -

Music - June is Bustin out all over Nettie's part - Bar 116 to 159

Libretto - Top of Page I-3-51 to Bottom of Page I-3-52

David Bascombe -

Music - June is Bustin out all over Nettie's part - Bar 116 to 159

Libretto - Middle of Page II-2-85 to Bottom of Page II-2-86

Starkeeper -

Music - June is Bustin out all over Nettie's part - Bar 116 to 159

Libretto - Middle of page II-3-94 to Bottom of Page II-3-97

Louise -

Music - June is Bustin out all over Nettie's part - Bar 116 to 159

Libretto - Bottom of Page II-5-103 to Bottom of Page II-5-105

Enoch Snow Jnr -

Music - June is Bustin out all over Nettie's part - Bar 116 to 159

Libretto - Middle of page II-5-103 to Middle of Page II-5-104

Carnival Boy -

Music - June is Bustin out all over Nettie's part - Bar 116 to 159

Ensemble -

Music - June is Bustin out all over Nettie's part - Bar 116 to 159