

SOLIHULL

Presents

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S

CAROUSEL

15TH TO 19TH MARCH 2016 ★ BUSHELL HALL

Music by RICHARD RODGERS. Book and Lyrics by OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II

Based on Ferenc Molnar's Play "Liliom". As adapted by Benjamin F. Glazer. Original Dances by Agnes de Mille.

An amateur production by arrangement with R&H Theatricals Europe www.rnh.com

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SYNOPSIS

ACT I

The population of a coastal fishing village are attending a travelling funfair. All are present: fishermen and their wives, wailers and their girls, the local mill girls, and the more refined society including the mill owner, Mr Basscombe. Mullin's carousel is famous and the owner Mrs Mullin is more than a little interested in her carousel barker, Billy Bigelow – a real ladies' man. He has, though, already noticed Julie Jordan, one of the mill girls, and helps her on to the carousel horses for a ride. Julie's friend Carrie is afraid of Mrs Mullin and urges escape! Carrie shows her mettle and stands firm. Billy is dismissed from his job by Mrs Mullin – not for the first time. Carrie notices that Julie has fallen in love with Billy – and Carrie confesses that she, too, is in love; with Enoch Snow, a hardworking local fisherman.

Mr Basscombe is concerned to find Julie out so late but he treats her in a kindly way. The local police sergeant, Timony, warns that Billy is a good for nothing travelling fairground man, who deceives innocent girls and breaks their hearts. Julie is not interested in such warnings and as she and Billy talk, protesting that they do not love each other, the inevitable happens.

Julie and Billy are now married and the year has moved on to June. The couple are living with Julie's cousin, Nettie Fowler, at "Nettie's Spa" on the ocean front. To celebrate spring, the sailors and their wives and girls, prepare to go on a clambake, a kind of great outdoor picnic. The men are eager to get going, and eventually, after rebuking the men for their impatience, Nettie and the girls bring food. All celebrate in dance and song. Julie is warned that Billy is restless and seems to be involved with Jigger, a rather dubious sailor from a whaling ship. She confesses to Carrie that Billy still has no job and has turned violent, beating his wife. Yet Carrie is preoccupied with her coming wedding; she has just become engaged to Mr Snow - much to the interest and delight of the girls. Enoch Snow makes his appearance, a rather diffident though solid and sensible man. Enoch and Carrie think of their happy and successful married life to come.

Jigger urges Billy to join in a robbery: Billy needs money and what could be easier than attacking Mr Basscombe as he passes to take money to his ships. They can easily, explains Jigger, go to the clambake, then slip back in the fog, commit the robbery and then return unseen. Billy is reluctant to agree as he is afraid that Mr Basscombe may be killed. Julie reveals that she is to have a baby and, in need of the money, Billy agrees to Jigger's plan. Mrs Mullin comes looking for Billy, offering him money and his job back. Billy refuses, determined to "go straight". Billy is thrilled at the idea of becoming a father and he reveals many conflicting emotions in a soliloquy. As all the company are about to depart for the clambake, Billy steals a kitchen knife from Nettie's Spa.



ACT II

The clambake has been a great success. The men and women relax after their feast then prepare for the traditional treasure hunt to be arranged by Enoch, winner the previous year. Jigger is fascinated by the naive and innocent Carrie and he makes a play for her. He puts her into a very embarrassing position and Enoch catches her seemingly being unfaithful to him. He is devastated and sings of what might have been such a happy life; Jigger has nothing but cynical comments to make. Julie sees Jigger lead Billy away: she is only too aware that her marriage is faltering because of Billy's weakness. Philosophically, Julie gently tells the girls that success in marriage just cannot be predicted.

A little while later on the waterfront, Billy and Jigger confront Mr Basscombe; he proves more than a match for Jigger and Billy, twisting the knife out of Jigger's hand and threatening Billy with his gun. The police arrive as Jigger escapes. Billy has no intention of spending years in prison so he stabs himself. Julie is heartbroken but as he dies in her arms, Billy explains that he was going to steal the money so that they could start a new life together. Billy dies and Nettie tries to console Julie by reminding her of the words on a sampler - words of a school song: "You'll Never Walk Alone".

As she bends over Billy's dead body, two "Heavenly Friends" come to fetch Billy to "up there". Billy is just as arrogant as he used to be - he is determined to be judged by God himself. The star keeper tells Billy that he is only in the backyard of heaven - he has no chance of the pearly gates unless he can gain access by committing a good deed "down below". Billy finds it hard to believe that fifteen years have passed: time passes so quickly in heaven. He is thrilled that he has a little girl, but when the star keeper shows her to him, the vision he sees is of an unhappy and tortured girl. Billy yearns to help her, and the Heavenly Friends guide him back to earth as he steals a golden star.

Carrie and Julie, the former with many children of her own and the wife of Enoch (now the wealthy owner of a large fishing fleet) are drinking coffee. Billy approaches his daughter, Louise, unseen by all except the Heavenly Friends. He tries to introduce himself to Louise but she is afraid. In desperation, he strikes her. The Heavenly Friends warn him of his new failure to do good deeds. When Julie comes to look for the stranger she sees the star, and, picking it up she has a strong sense of the presence of... who? Can it be Billy?

The last scene takes place at school graduation. Louise is awarded a prize and she seems to radiate happiness, as the unseen Billy urges her to be strong and resolute in life. He declares his love for Julie as he returns with the Heavenly Friends to "up there".

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

PROLOGUE

The Carousel Waltz (orchestra)

MISTER SNOW

Carrie & Julie

IF I LOVED YOU

Julie & Billy

JUNE IS BUSTIN' OUT ALL OVER

Nettie, Carrie & Chorus

DANCE

Girls

REPRISE: MISTER SNOW

Carrie, Enoch & Girls

WHEN THE CHILDREN ARE ASLEEP

Enoch & Carrie

BLOW HIGH, BLOW LOW

Jigger, Billy & Chorus

HORNPIPE

Fishermen, Whalers & Sailors

SOLILOQUY

Billy

FINALE ACT ONE

Nettie & Company

ACT II

A REAL NICE CLAMBAKE

Nettie, Julie, Carrie, Enoch & Chorus

GERANIUMS IN THE WINDER

Enoch

STONECUTTERS CUT IT ON STONE

Jigger & Chorus

WHAT'S THE USE OF WOND'RIN

Julie & Girls

YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE

Julie & Nettie

THE HIGHEST JUDGE OF ALL

Billy

BALLET

Louise, Enoch, Enoch Jnr & Children

REPRISE: IF I LOVED YOU

Billy

FINALE

The Company



CAST

(in order of appearance)

Carrie Pipperidge	Eloise Burchell
Julie Jordan	Maddie Browse
Mrs Mullin	Izzy Serle
Billy Bigelow	Joe Chamberlain
1st Policeman	Alex Sasse
David Bascombe	Alex Lavery
Nettie Fowler	Emma Hadley
Enoch Snow	Tom Carson
Jigger Craigin	Chris Fowler
Arminy	Eve Colyer
2nd Policeman	James Spence
1st Heavenly Friend	Megan Perry
2nd Heavenly Friend	Nicola Frankland
Starkeeper	Benjamin Northam
Louise	Georgie Dalby
Principal	Jack Edge
Dr Seldon	Oliver Daniels

CHORUS:

Chrissie Bate, Eleanor Berrow, Georgina Brownsword, Morven Cameron, Tarran Dhillon, Amelia Diccio, Saskia Freshwater, Meredith Hanson, Charis Holland, Annie Johnson, Ben Levett-Dunn, Jessie Lloyd, Isabel Lury, Ciara Mahoney, Emily Moise, Benjamin Osborne, Maxine Perroni-Scharf, Katie Phillips, Sophie Shakeshaft, Ned Tennet, Evie Townend, Ewan Waddell, Emily Watson, Megan Woolley, Benny Wu

THE SNOW CHILDREN:

Sophie Borman, Megan Davies, Alex Duckworth, Saul Greenburgh, Harrison Jones, Hiba Sandhu, Aymbujan Srijothy



ORCHESTRA

Flute: D Whatley
Oboe/Cor Anglais: L Morson, A Whatley (Thursday)
Clarinets: Emily Dekker, D Clarke
Bassoon: R Cotton
Trumpet: Bethan Bown
Horn: C Butler
Trombone: S Troth
Percussion: Simon Clarke, Lukas Moment, S Phillips

Violins: H Dolby, Ellie Ajao, Hannah Shakeshaft, Aviva Sandler, Mrs G Kirby, Lydia Roll, David Hass, K Robinson
Violas: Charlotte Sasse, J Lawley, Dominic Martens, Charlie Tucki
Cellos: Ben Lyons
Double Bass: T Likova
Harp: O Walker
Piano: O Walker

Vocal coaches: C Bovill, P Davies



PRODUCTION TEAM

CREW:

Director: J C Hammond
Musical Director: A T Kermode
Choreographer: S Mabon
Production Manager: P Jukes
Stage Manager: Frank Fogarty
Deputy Stage Manager: Freya Harding
Crown Designer: K Hunton
Make-up Supervisor: S Thomas
Lighting Operator: Thomas Smith
Sound Operator: Cormac McLean
Sound Manager: Matt Walker
Follow Spot Operators: Liam Mingo

BACKSTAGE CREW:

Harriet Woolley, Millie Dixey, Ciara Mahoney, Harris Khan, Oscar Harrison, P Green, P Hadley, J Johnson

THEATRE DESIGN TEAM:

Eden Lupoli, A Rudd, Charlotte Hope, Alyssa Morrison, Maisey Horsburgh, Beth Embley, Gemma Radburn-Todd, Eden Capewell, Courtney Holland, Emily Watson, Olivia Gordon, Charis Holland, Morven Cameron, Malika Tank, Manu Malu, Charlotte Williams, Agathe Le Blevac

THANKS:

Mounting a theatrical production in such a busy school requires the help and goodwill of a great number of people, we would like to thank: the Headmaster and Governors for their support, the maintenance team for their tireless work in assembling the set, Jayne Round and the catering team for their food during show week and for organising interval refreshments, Tracey Duggan for managing the Box Office, the art department for helping with some of the signs that you've seen around the Bushell Hall, Jan Pitts for painting the horses and hanging the bunting, the PE department for surrendering some of their players for key rehearsals, and the cleaning staff for cleaning up after long rehearsals.

Programme design & print: Alan Hill - Hill Shorter
Photography: Dave Warren - Picture Team



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Standley & Co are pleased to support the Solihull School production of **CAROUSEL** and wish the cast every success!



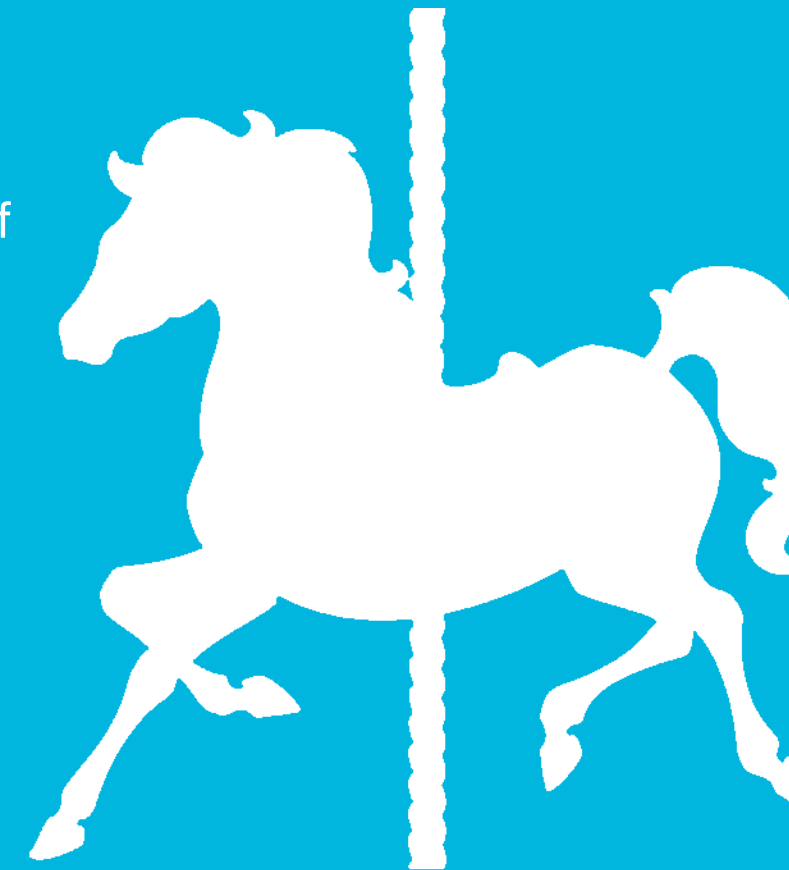
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CAST * MAIN CHARACTERS

ELOISE BURCHILL * CARRIE PIPPERIDGE

Eloise was a member of the CBSO youth chorus for three years and has been in the Chapel Choir since Junior School. She is now in the Chamber Choir and also enjoys hockey and the debating society. Eloise has performed at the Royal Albert Hall and the London Palladium in various musical productions, although this is the first time she has been involved in a school musical.

MADDIE BROWSE * JULIE JORDAN

Maddie has loved the performing arts for as long as she can remember. She has studied Flute, Piano, Singing and Ballet to Grade 8, been involved in numerous productions including 'The Wizard of Oz' (Dorothy), 'HONK!', 'West Side Story' and 'Les Misérables' twice (Young Cosette and Fantine). As well as teaching ballet, she has performed with two ballet companies and also enjoyed playing First Flute for the Birmingham Academy Chamber Orchestra. She fully intends to continue performing whilst studying Physics at university.

IZZY SERLE * MRS MULLIN

Ten years ago, Izzy appeared on this stage dressed as a yoghurt pot. Now, she's been a cannibal, a beggar, a horse, 'them' in 'Us and Them', an ugly stepsister, and performed at the Royal Albert Hall with a local theatre group. She's loved Mrs M; aggressive but damaged, her bark is bigger than her bite! Looking back, Izzy has made many brilliant memories in this theatre, and will carry them forward, leaving to study Classics in September.

JOE CHAMBERLAIN * BILLY BIGELOW

This is Joe's second Solihull Musical. Having enjoyed taking part in 'Les Misérables' as Inspector Javert last year, Joe leapt at the opportunity to play Billy Bigelow in 'Carousel'. Handsome, charming and charismatic, it is almost as if Joe was destined to play this character, and he has not let little things such as vocal range or dramatic talent stand in the way of it. Joe has very much enjoyed this year's musical, and feels very privileged to have played such a role in what has been a fantastic experience for everyone involved.



EMMA HADLEY * NETTIE FOWLER

Emma has been involved in both drama and music at every opportunity at Solihull School. Participating in all available productions since joining the school, aged seven, she has developed a passion for performing and is ecstatic to have the opportunity to play the role of the feisty yet soft-hearted Nettie Fowler. Emma has thrived alongside the energetic cast during rehearsals and is delighted to have been part of such a wonderful and exciting experience.

TOM CARSON * ENOCH SNOW

Tom has been involved in several of the drama performances since joining Solihull in the Third Form. In his first year at the school, he played Jerome in 'South Pacific', and most recently had the opportunity to play Valjean in an EHS production of 'Les Misérables' at the Octagon theatre in Birmingham. This role came following his earlier performance as the heartthrob Marius in the this school's production of the same musical. He now looks forward to playing the equally alluring Mr Snow in his last production at school, and hopes it will not be the end of his involvement in musical theatre.

CHRIS FOWLER * JIGGER CRAIGIN

Chris performed in four shows at his previous school, ranging from 'The Wizard of Oz' to 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. His first show at Solihull School was in its adaptation of 'Bugsy Malone' in 2010. After a five year hiatus, he returned to the stage in last year's 'Les Misérables' as Montparnasse, a constable and the Major D'Omo. This year, he has relished playing the villain of 'Carousel', Jigger, and hopes to continue stage performances in the future.

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BREWIN DOLPHIN

DIRECTOR ★ JAMES HAMMOND

We are very lucky at Solihull to have a Dramatic event as one of the cornerstones of our academic year; the proud and inclusive tradition of the school musical is one that has been embraced by successive generations of Silhillians and so it was both exciting and nerve-wracking to be found responsible for the latest edition in September.

There is something special about a production which combines the talents of the school's older years so successfully; our dynamic cast contains actors, musicians, rugby players, debaters and physicists, every type and temperament, all brought together by the shared experience of performance.

And coming together is one of the major themes of 'Carousel', as encapsulated by its most famous song, but at its heart 'Carousel' is an intimate story of an ordinary man, and this intimacy leads to an emotional depth that isn't found in every musical, perhaps it is significant that 'Carousel' is based on the play 'Liliom' by Hungarian Playwright and Novelist Ferenc Molnár. Billy is a complex character who struggles to understand

how to achieve the happiness that is under his nose; it is his journey, and sympathy for those that he harms, that is the emotional core of 'Carousel'.

Directing my first musical here at Solihull has been great fun from start to finish, I have worked with brilliant colleagues in Mr Kermode, Dr Jukes and Mrs Thomas and I have been privileged to direct passionate and talented students. Most of all I have had great fun working on the show, I think everyone involved can be really proud of it and I hope that you enjoy your time on the 'Carousel'.



MUSICAL DIRECTOR ★ TIM KERMODE

This is my first musical here at Solihull. My predecessor, Stephen Perrins, directed no fewer than twenty-three musicals during his tenure as Director of Music and so it is with a certain amount of trepidation that I have taken over his mighty mantle. The project has also been the first musical here for director Mr Hammond, and it has been a delight to be making our directing debut of the musical together. Our first challenge was to find a show that Stephen and his dramatic colleagues had not previously staged! The famous partnership of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II had already featured in the school repertoire list – 'Oklahoma', 'South Pacific' and 'The Sound of Music' – but not (luckily) the glorious 'Carousel'.

'Carousel' (1945) was Rodgers & Hammerstein's second collaboration, following their great success with 'Oklahoma' (1943). As with all their shows, Richard Rodgers' musical score is full of wonderful, tuneful melodies and great orchestrations, and I am confident that the cast and band will together have you entranced with songs such as the energetic 'June is Bustin' Out All Over' and 'Blow High, Blow Low', the lyrical 'When I Marry Mister Snow' and 'If I Loved You', Billy's powerful 'Soliloquy', and the contemplative 'What's the Use Of Wonderin' and 'You'll Never Walk Alone'.

CHOREOGRAPHER ★ SAMANTHA MABON

This is my eighth consecutive year choreographing the school musical and as always it is a great privilege to be invited back, especially to work with James and Tim for the first time. The cast this year has been one of the best to work with, and they have been enthusiastic and passionate about learning the routines even though for some of them it has meant being pushed out of their comfort zone. The "June Is Bustin' Out All Over" routine is where I have been especially impressed with the dedication and hard work of the pupils. As it is primarily a partner routine, not only did they have to learn the choreography, but also learn how to be in sync with their partner and trust them at all times. This was particularly important as we attempted to include some lifts in this routine - we did succeed so watch out for one or two in this song! I hope you will be as impressed as I have been by the cast's dancing abilities and their dedication to making this musical a success. I do hope you enjoy the show.

Richard Rodgers wrote that 'Carousel' was his favourite musical, and it is certainly one of mine. Another major figure in musical theatre – Stephen Sondheim, who became almost a surrogate son of Oscar Hammerstein – said of the show "whilst Oklahoma is about a picnic, Carousel is about life". Indeed, attending the opening night of 'Carousel' so moved him that it became seminal in Sondheim's own future career in writing musicals.

Putting on a big musical in a school is only possible with the involvement of so many from within the school community. It has been a real pleasure working with, and getting to know better, so many pupils and staff and I would like to thank them all for their unstinting commitment – whether they be on the stage, back stage, in the orchestra pit, front of house, box office, catering or maintenance. I can only hope that they have all enjoyed the experience and end result as much as I have.





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SOLIHULL SCHOOL PAST MUSICALS

- 1976 H.M.S.Pinafore
- 1978 The Beggars Opera
- 1979 Salad Days
- 1980 Orpheus in the Underworld
- 1981 La Belle Helene
- 1982 Free as Air
- 1983 The Magic Flute
- 1984 Pink Champagne
- 1985 Orpheus in the Underworld
- 1986 Kiss Me Kate
- 1987 The Mikado
- 1988 The Merry Widow
- 1989 La Belle Helene
- 1990 The Pirates of Penzance
- 1991 Pink Champagne
- 1992 Fiddler on the Roof
- 1993 My Fair Lady
- 1994 Annie get your Gun
- 1995 South Pacific
- 1996 Kiss Me Kate
- 1997 Oklahoma
- 1998 Guys and Dolls
- 1999 Crazy For You
- 2000 West Side Story
- 2001 Cabaret
- 2003 Oliver
- 2004 Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
- 2005 Les Misérables
- 2006 Barnum
- 2007 The Sound of Music
- 2008 The Scarlet Pimpernel
- 2009 My Fair Lady
- 2010 South Pacific
- 2011 Grease
- 2012 Fiddler on the Roof
- 2013 Phantom of the Opera
- 2014 Spamalot
- 2015 Les Misérables

