



Woking Amateur Operatic Society

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**Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein
Music Richards Rodgers
From Ferenc Molnár's play "Liliom"**

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**Stage Director: Lorraine Landon
Musical Director: Laura Brown
Choreographer: Hannah Dare**

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**31st October - 4th November 2017
The Rhoda McGaw Theatre, Woking**



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Background

Liliom

Ferenc Molnár's Hungarian-language drama, *Liliom*, premiered in Budapest in 1909. The audience was puzzled by the work, and it lasted only thirty-odd performances before being withdrawn, the first shadow on Molnár's successful career as a playwright. *Liliom* was not presented again until after World War I. When it reappeared on the Budapest stage, it was a tremendous hit.

Except for the ending, the plots of *Liliom* and *Carousel* are very similar. Andreas Zavocky, nicknamed *Liliom*, the Hungarian word for "lily", a slang term for "tough guy"), is a carnival barker, falls in love with Julie Zeller, a servant girl.

The Making of Carousel

In the 1920s and 1930s, Rodgers and Hammerstein both became well known for creating Broadway hits with other partners. Rodgers, with Lorenz Hart, had produced a string of over two dozen musicals, including such popular successes as *Babes in Arms* (1937), *The Boys from Syracuse* (1938) and *Pal Joey* (1940). Some of Rodgers' work with Hart broke new ground in musical theatre: *On Your Toes* was the first use of ballet to sustain the plot (in the "Slaughter on Tenth Avenue" scene), while *Pal Joey* flouted Broadway tradition by presenting a knave as its hero. Hammerstein had written or co-written the words for such hits as *Rose-Marie* (1924), *The Desert Song* (1926), *The New Moon* (1927) and *Show Boat* (1927). Though less productive in the 1930s, he wrote material for musicals and films, sharing an Academy Award for his song with Jerome Kern, "The Last Time I Saw Paris", which was included in the 1941 film *Lady Be Good*.

By the early 1940s, Hart had sunk into alcoholism and emotional turmoil, becoming unreliable and prompting Rodgers to approach Hammerstein to ask if he would consider working with him.[11]

A breakthrough came when Rodgers, who owned a house in Connecticut, proposed a New England setting. Hammerstein wrote of this suggestion in 1945 : I began to see an attractive ensemble—sailors, whalers, girls who worked in the mills up the river, clambakes on near-by islands, an amusement park on the seaboard, things people could do in crowds, people who were strong and alive and lusty, people who had always been depicted on the stage as thin-lipped puritans—a libel I was anxious to refute ... as for the two leading characters, Julie with her courage and inner strength and outward simplicity seemed more indigenous to Maine than to Budapest, and Billy the dark and fascinating bad boy wanderer.

Productions

The original Broadway production opened at the Majestic Theatre on April 19, 1945. *Carousel* was revived in 1954 and 1957 at City Center, presented by the New York City Center Light Opera Company. A film version of the musical was made in 1956. Nicholas Hytner directed a new production of *Carousel* in 1992, at London's Royal National Theatre. A revival opened at London's Savoy Theatre on December 2, 2008.



Synopsis

Richard Rodgers once wrote that of all the musicals he wrote, *Carousel* was his personal favourite. This iconic American classic features some of the most powerful music ever written for the stage, including “If I Loved You”, “Mister Snow”, “June is Bustin Out All Over” and the iconic “You’ll Never Walk Alone.” *Carousel* was Rodgers and Hammerstein’s second collaboration, and was adapted from Ferenc Molnar’s 1909 play *Liliom*. They transferred the Budapest setting of *Liliom* to the New England coastline, where *Carousel* takes place.

The story tells of charming, roguish carnival barker, Billy Bigelow, and mill worker Julie Jordan, both loners, who meet and fall in love. Their marriage ends up costing both their jobs, and things go downhill from there. Billy’s desperation makes him violent against those he loves most, and drives him to commit crimes in order to provide for his family. When Billy falls in with con-man Jigger Craigin, he ends up getting caught in the midst of an armed robbery and takes his own life. Billy is allowed to return to earth for one day fifteen years later, and he encounters the daughter he never knew. Louise is a lonely, friendless teenager, her father's reputation having haunted her throughout her young life. How Billy instils in both the child and her mother a sense of hope and dignity is a dramatic testimony to love’s transcendence. Voted the best musical of the 20th century by Time Magazine, Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *Carousel* is the classic American musical, spanning heaven and earth in its exploration of human frailty, resilience, and the power of forgiveness.



Detailed Plot

Act 1

The opening scene is an amusement park on the coast of New England around the year 1873. A feature of the park is Mrs Mullin's carousel with its gaily painted horses and its jack-the-lad barker, Billy Bigelow. Mrs. Mullin likes Billy and she likes the amount of feminine business he brings to the carousel, but she is clearly jealous of the girls whom he picks out for his special attention. She gets sourly steamed up when he pays a little attention to a mill girl called Julie Jordan and she vehemently warns the surprised Julie away from the carousel.

Her timing is bad, for Billy himself catches the end of the warning. He turns on his employer and tells her that she has no control over what girls he sees and, when the quarrel raises itself a tone, Mrs Mullin, not for the first time, sacks the barker. Julie and her friend Carrie are aghast at the scene, and even more worried when it turns out that Billy probably doesn't have the price of a beer to his name, but the man shrugs off such worries. He's going to get his things and then one of them can go and have a drink with him. He doesn't mind which.

Carrie is open-mouthed with amazement at Billy, and the girls are quite fazed at the fact that he is paying attention them. The quiet, introspective Julie has never had a boyfriend ('You're a Queer One, Julie Jordan') and Carrie's experience of men is in a very different field. She's going to marry the respectable and reliable fisherman, 'Mister Snow'. When Billy returns and asks which one of them is going to spend the evening with him, Julie volunteers without hesitation. She faces dismissal from the mill for doing so, for Mr Bascombe, the mill owner, insists that his girls are in their dormitory on time and when the two of them are seen together by Bascombe and a policeman, her fate is settled. She is as much out of a job as Billy is.

Although she is warned of Billy's reputation as a layabout, a sponger and a ladies' man, Julie declares firmly that she will spend the evening with him. She's a strange one: nothing like any of the women Billy has known before. She says she isn't ever going to marry and when he asks her, teasing, if she would marry him, the layabout and sponger, Julie has only one simple response-'If I Loved You'. At the end of the evening they kiss, and the kiss is not the usual kiss Billy gets from his women.

When they are married, Julie and Billy move in with Julie's cousin Nettie Fowler who runs a snack bar on the beach. Billy is unable to get a job, and he becomes more and more snore sombre and difficult as the workless days go by. He takes his frustration out on Julie and, one day, a one-sided row ends with his hitting her. Immediately the tale goes round town that Bigelow beats his wife. But if things are not as happy as they should be with the Bigelows, the rest of the folk are lively enough. 'June Is Bustin' out All Over' and there is to be a big clambake on the beach. As for Carrie, she is still awaiting her wedding day and she and Enoch Snow pass the time in dreaming of their future together in the rosier way ('When the Children Are Asleep').

Billy has taken to hanging around with a known evildoer called jigger Craigin, and jigger is heading him for trouble ('Blow High, Blow Low'). He has a plan to rob the mill owner of the

payroll he brings each week to the captain of Jigger's ship-three thousand dollars. Billy would never have to worry about a job again. He is tempted, but when Mrs Mullin comes to try and woo him back to her employ and the carousel he realises that his old life is better and safer than crime. Only there's a catch: Mrs Mullin insists that he leave Julie. What's the use to her of a barker whom all the girls chase and who goes home to his wife? He'd better talk to Julie and see who she puts first.

When Billy goes to talk to Julie, however, she has something very different to tell him: she's going to have a baby. For Billy, that changes everything. Life has a future (Soliloquy). Now he has to make something of himself, he has to make money. There is no other way he knows of to do it: he will have to take part in Jigger's plan.

Act 2

Anxious to provide for the coming child, Billy has been persuaded by Jigger, a shiftless sailor, to take part in a hold-up. They plan it for the night that the rest of the town is on the beach at "A Real Nice Clambake". Julie is troubled by Billy, who she knows has something on his mind. The other girls sense her unhappiness, but Julie bravely shrugs it off (What's The Use Of Wond'rin).

Billy and Jigger attempt the robbery. They are thwarted; Jigger escapes, but Billy is caught by Mr. Bascombe, the would-be victim, who vows to hand him over to the police with the prospect of a long prison term. Cornered, disgraced and terrified for Julie and their unborn child, Billy kills himself. Julie cradles Billy as he dies in her arms and is comforted by an old saying the students used to recite in school (You'll Never Walk Alone).

Fifteen years pass. Billy, escorted by a Heavenly Friend, arrives in the backyard of Heaven. Here he meets The Starkeeper, who informs him that he will never get into Heaven until he redeems himself. After some argument, Billy is given a chance.

He is allowed to return to Earth for one day, during which he must perform one good deed. Afforded a glimpse of Louise, his lonely and unhappy fifteen-year-old daughter, Billy steals a star to give to her at their first meeting. But back on Earth, he is still the rough blunderer. Louise is shy and won't accept his gift. Unable to reach her in any other way, Billy slaps his daughter - but the sting feels miraculously like a kiss to the girl. Louise explains this to her mother, Julie, who also sees the star that Billy has left behind and, instinctively, Julie understands.

Nevertheless, Billy has not yet performed his good deed, and the slap should have been the last straw. But Billy persuades the Starkeeper to give him one last chance. Unseen, Billy watches Louise and her high school graduation. He observes his daughter's self-doubts, her insecurities.

Invisibly, spiritually, Billy reaches out to her; he urges her to believe in herself, and he is filled with pride as he watches his daughter blossom with confidence. Turning to Julie, Billy says simply, "I loved you, Julie. Know that I loved you." And Julie, somehow, hears him. She joins Louise and the rest of the townsfolk in singing "You'll Never Walk Alone"... as Billy heads towards Heaven.



Scenes and Setting

Time 1873 - 1888

ACT I

- Scene 1: - Prelude - An Amusement Park on the New England Coast in May.
- Scene 2: - A tree-lined path along the shore. A few minutes later
- Scene 3: - Nettie Fowler's Spa on the ocean front. June

ACT II

- Scene 1: - On an island across the bay. That night
- Scene 2: - Mainland waterfront. An hour later
- Scene 3: - Up there
- Scene 4: - Down here. On a beach. Fifteen years later
- Scene 5: - Outside Julie's cottage
- Scene 6: - Outside a schoolhouse. Same day.



List of numbers

Act 1:

1. Prologue
2. Scene change
3. Opening 1
4. Mister Snow
5. If I Loved You
6. Opening 2
7. June Is Busting Out All Over
8. June Is Busting Out All Over Encore
9. June Is Busting Out All Over Dance
10. Julie's entrance
11. Mister Snow Reprise
12. When The Children Are Asleep
13. Blow High, Blow Low
14. Hornpipe
15. Soliloquy
16. Finale Act 1
17. Entra'ct

Act 2

18. Opening Act 2
19. A Real Nice Clambake
20. Geraniums In The Winder
21. What's The Use Of Wond'rin
22. Scene Change
23. You'll Never Walk Alone
24. Entrance Of The Heavenly Friend
25. The Highest Judge Of All
26. Exit Of Billy and the Heavenly Friend
27. Louise Ballet
28. My Little Girl
29. Carrie's incidental
30. Porch Scenes
31. Graduation scene



Characters

Please note that ages, where stated, are approximate character ages, but actor ages may vary quite a bit from the character ages. Do not let these stated ages dissuade you from auditioning for a part. Later in Act 2 most characters have aged 15 years.

<p>Julie Jordan A very shy but head strong young woman. She falls for Billy and recognizes that it will not come to a happy ending. Still she prefers Billy over someone like Mr Snow who would treat her as property. Her infatuation for Billy turns to a love which is proof against his fatal character weaknesses and lives on many years after the tragedy. She has an inner strength and maturity in the second act as the mother of 15 year old Louise.</p>	Female	Soprano	20's	Lead
<p>Billy Bigelow The very successful barker for the Mullin Carousel. Billy's success is based in part on his attractiveness to the young women who visit the Carousel. A bit of a rogue and lady's man, Billy is a tragic figure who is a good person at heart, but who has never learned to deal with anyone, especially those he loves, with anything other than violence. He is a deeply troubled character ultimately redeemed by the love he could not communicate to his wife and unborn child. He commits suicide, having been caught along with Jigger, trying to rob Mr Bascombe. He is given a chance by the Heavenly Friend to clean his soul by returning to earth to see the daughter (Louise) he never saw before his untimely death.</p>	Male	Baritone	30's	Lead
<p>Carrie Pipperridge Lively, funny friend and co-worker of Julie. She offers a light-hearted balance to Julie's seriousness. Her horizon is no further than domestic bliss with Mr Snow, whom she marries. Perky personality. Nice bits of comedy.</p>	Female	Soprano	20's	Lead
<p>Enoch Snow A bumbling, adorable shy fisherman with big plans for the future. Mr Snow has his entire life planned out including with his betrothed Carrie. Carrie is more of the idea of the wife than a real person with ideas and desires of her own. A successful and somewhat pompous business owner in the second act. He changes from light-hearted, bumbling fisherman in Act 1 to successful, somewhat pompous business owner in Act 2.</p>	Male	Tenor	30's	Lead
<p>Nettie Fowler Julie's somewhat older and wiser cousin (maybe even kind of an Aunt). By contrast she is "good & wholesome" to Mrs Mullins "bad". She runs the local "spa" a kind of eating establishment. She takes in Julie and the unemployed Billy after their wedding. She is Julie's strength throughout the show. Must be a strong singer.</p>	Female	Mezzo	35-50's	Lead
<p>Jigger Craigin A dangerous, menacing seaman friend of Billy's who plays on Billy's weaknesses, and deserts him when things go horribly wrong. A con man with a bit of humour and an eye for Carrie. Every year in port he latches on to some unwitting accomplice for his criminal endeavours. This year it is Billy, and he leads Billy to his ruin.</p>	Male	Baritone	20's-40's	Supporting.
<p>Mrs Mullen The carousel owner who believes that Billy is not only her employee, but her property, and is resentful of his attraction to Julie. She is a dark, scheming jealous character who cuts off her nose to spite her face. She fires Billy when he marries Julie but later tries to get Billy to leave Julie and come back. Mrs Mullen is a still-attractive widow. This is a non-singing but nonetheless important strong character role.</p>	Female	Spoken	35-45	Supporting. This role may double with the ensemble
<p>Heavenly Friend An angel sent to bring Billy to the Starkeeper after Billy's death.</p>	Male	Spoken	Any	Cameo. Doubles with the ensemble
<p>Mr Bascombe The very strict, slightly tyrannical wealthy owner of the local textile mill where Julie & Carrie live and work.</p>	Male	Spoken	45-65	Cameo. Doubles with the ensemble

Starkeeper/Dr Seldon A heavenly figure in control of the heavens Billy finds himself in after he dies. The Starkeeper is Billy's guide and mentor, who tell him the home-truths. Dr Seldon is the earthly version of the Starkeeper and speaks at the graduation ceremony.	Male	Spoken	Older	Cameo Doubles with the ensemble
Louise Billy and Julie's 15 year old daughter. Louise is tormented by the rest of the children in the town because of how Billy died. Because she is bullied and ridiculed by others, she is very unhappy, becomes involved in fights and so has no close friends. This is a major dance role for a young (15/20's) woman. Louise stars in a 6 minute ballet sequence. A non-singing role that requires acting ability.	Female	Spoken Dancer	15	Supporting Major Dance Number
Enoch Snow Junior The son of Carrie & Enoch, he appears in the second act. He likes Louise (Julie & Billy's daughter) but thinks of her as being below his station. In short, he is a lot like his father.	Male	Spoken Dancer	15	Supporting. Doubles with ensemble.
Carnival Boy A boy who is a member of a passing carnival. He dances with Julie during the ballet sequence. This is a major dance role only but will be used as other characters in the chorus and dance scenes.	Male	Dancer	15-20	Featured. Double with ensemble. Major Dance Number
Policeman Comes upon Billy & Julie late at night during their courtship and tells Mr Bascombe, the mill owner. Arrests Billy	Male	Spoken	35 up	Featured. Doubles with ensemble.
Captain Comes upon Billy's suicide	Male	Spoken	Any age	Featured Doubles with ensemble
ADULT CHORUS All types of vocal ranges. Ensemble members will play Townspeople, Amusement Park Carnies, Seafaring Men, Youngsters. The men, women and children of a small New England coastal town.				
6 female parts – members of chorus	Female	Spoken	Any age	
June				Featured
Arminy				Featured
Penny				Featured
Jennie				Featured
Virginia				Featured
Susan				Featured
3 Sailors - members of the male chorus	Male	Spoken	Any age	Featured
CHILDREN There are opportunities for boys and girls from 6 to 15-16 to join our adult chorus. There are classmates for Louise and Enoch Snow Junior's graduation class. All children will be members of the chorus when not playing one of the specific characters There will also be dancing opportunities in the Ballet Sequence, the Opening and "Up There" scenes.	Both	Singing	6 - 16	Featured
Hannah – Mr Snow's mean daughter	Female	Spoken	12-15	Featured
Brother Joshua	Male	Non speaking	Any	Featured
Dancers There are various types of dancing required and we wish to include everybody's talents, even if you consider yourself a non-dancer. Three dancers, "Beauties of Europe", are required for the opening scene.				



Audition Pieces

Part	Libretto	Music	Dancing
Julie Jordan	Pg 53 "Billy before I forget" – Pg 55 "Gonna have a baby". Pg 90 "Sleep Billy" – "What am I goin' to do?"	If I loved you – Pg 40 - 42	With chorus
Billy Bigelow	Pg16 "Now we're both out of a job" – Pg18 "Do you know what you remind me of?"	Soliloquy Pg 104-108 (ending at the top line "round") Pg 114 (bottom line "you can have") until end Pg118.	Little with chorus
Carrie Pipperidge	Pg 100 "And so the next day" – Pg 101 "I'm a madcap maiden"	When I Marry Mr Snow Pg 29 - 32	With chorus
Enoch Snow (as young man)	Pg 40 "Oh, Carrie" – "Oh Carrie, I near forget" to "Oh come, Carrie"	When the Children are Asleep Pg 75-78	With chorus
Enoch Snow (15 years older)	Pg 101 "Turn your eyes away junior" – Pg 102 "Come Junior"		
Nettie Fowler	Pg 30 "Here, boys" – "Oh, y' can't blame 'em"	You'll Never Walk Alone Pg 154 (bottom) – 156	
Jigger Craigin	Pg 72 "Ain't nothing' I wouldn't do" – Pg 73 "Good girl!"	Blow High Pg 89 – 90 (including the "mens chorus" refrain)	With chorus
Mrs Mullin	Pg 56 "He in there with her?" - "He won't be no good to you!"	Non Singing	When not playing Mrs Mullin, may double with ensemble
Mr Bascombe	Pg 18 from Policeman "Evenin, Mr Bascombe" – Pg 19 "Come my child"	Non Singing	When not playing Bascombe this role doubles with ensemble
Louise	Pg 103 "Well what's the secret" – Pg 104 "I'll kill you"	Non Singing	Must be lyrical dancer with true ballet style
Heavenly Friend	Pg 91 "Get up Billy" – Pg 92 "What hev you done ..."	Non Singing	This role doubles with ensemble
Policeman	Pg 18 "Evenin, Mr Bascombe" – Pg 19 "Well girl!"	Non Singing	This role doubles with ensemble
Star Keeper/Dr Seldon	Pg 95 "Now, this is a routine question" – Pg 96 "You ken be as sot ..."	Non Singing	This role doubles with ensemble
Enoch Snow Jr	Pg 103 "What are you going to do after you graduate" – Pg 104 "You're a fine one .."	Non Singing	This role doubles with ensemble
Captain	Pg 86 "How about you M Bascombe" – Pg 87 "The folks coming back from ..."	Non Singing	This role doubles with ensemble
Combinations if required	Pg 7 "So that's it" – Pg 8 "All right you devil"		



Audition information

Auditions will take place at:

Old Woking Community Centre
Sundridge Rd, Woking GU22 9AT

<https://www.google.co.uk/maps/place/Old+Woking+%26+District+Community+Association/@51.3061124,-0.5528254,17z/data=!3m1!4m5!3m4!1s0x4875d83274ef2083:0x62480c4d576bb8a!8m2!3d51.3061091!4d-0.5506367>

Adults:

Sunday, 4th June at 1.00 - 5.00 pm

Thursday, 1st June at 8.00 – 10.00 pm (if unable to audition on Sunday 4th June)

Children:

Will be organised at a later date, once the adults' auditions have been done.

The children will be required to sing any short song of their choice, or recite a short poem to showcase themselves.

We will require two casts of younger children who will perform alternate shows. All will join our adult chorus on stage and therefore they will be required to attend singing rehearsals on some Monday nights. Nearer the time to opening they will be required twice a week (Mondays and Thursdays). Initially I will rehearse the Snow children at my house on Saturdays or Sundays.

To be agreed.

This promises to be a GREAT show. Good luck everyone!

Lorraine Landon



Key Dates (including dates for Fund Raiser)

May 17	Monday	15	Introduction Evening		
	Thursday	18	Music		
	Monday	22	Music		
	Thursday	25	Music		
	Monday	29	Bank Holiday		
July 17	Thursday	1	Music and alternative audition date		
	Sunday	4	Auditions		
	Monday	5	Carousel		
	Thursday	8	Carousel		
	Monday	12	Carousel		
	Thursday	15	Carousel		
	Monday	19	Carousel		
	Thursday	22	Carousel		
	Monday	26	Carousel		
	Thursday	29	Carousel		
	July 17	Monday	3	Carousel	
		Thursday	6	Carousel	
		Monday	10	Carousel	
		Thursday	13	Carousel	
Monday		17	Carousel		
Thursday		20	Carousel		
Monday		24	Carousel		
Thursday		27	Carousel/Fund raiser		
Monday		31	Carousel		
August		Thursday	3	Carousel/Fund raiser	
		Monday	7	Carousel	
		Thursday	10	Carousel/Fund raiser	
		Monday	14	Carousel	
		Thursday	17	Carousel/Fund raiser	
	Monday	21	Carousel		
	Thursday	24	Carousel/Fund raiser		
	Monday	28	Bank holiday		
	Thursday	31	Carousel/Fund raiser		
	September	Sunday	3	Fund raiser	
Monday		4	Carousel		
Thursday		7	Carousel		
Sunday		10	Fund raiser		
Monday		11	Carousel		
Thursday		14	Carousel		
Sunday		17	Fund raiser		
Monday		18	Carousel		
Thursday		21	Fund raiser		
Friday		22	Fund raiser show		
Saturday		23	Fund raiser show		
Monday		25	Carousel		
Thursday		28	Carousel		
October		Sunday	1	Carousel	
	Monday	2	Carousel		
	Thursday	5	Carousel		
	Monday	9	Carousel		
	Thursday	12	Carousel		
	Sunday	15	Carousel	Off books	
	Monday	16	Carousel	Rolling run	
	Thursday	19	Carousel	Rolling run	
	Monday	23	Carousel	Rolling run	
	Thursday	26	Carousel	Rolling run	
	Sunday	29	Band call, tech		
	Monday	30	Dress and Show week		