

## CAROUSEL

Music by Richard Rodgers  
Book and Lyrics by Oscar Hammerstein II  
Based on Ferenc Molnár's play "Liliom"  
as adapted by Benjamin F. Glazer  
Original dances by Agnes de Mille  
Directed by Susan H. Schulman

### GRADE RECOMMENDATION

Suitable for Grade 5 and up.

### STUDENT MATINÉE DATES

May 5, 7, 11, 15, 19, 22; June 5, 11, 16, 19, 25;  
September 4, 11, 17, 23, 25; October 2, 7.

### ABOUT THE MUSICAL

Named Best Musical of the 20th Century by *Time* magazine, *Carousel* is based on a 1909 play by Hungarian writer Ferenc Molnár titled *Liliom*.

In 1921 *Liliom* was produced on Broadway in an English translation. The play has been produced several times since including a 2014 New York production by Beautiful Soup Theater.

New York's Theater Guild had produced both *Liliom*, and Rodgers and Hammerstein's first musical, *Oklahoma!* and suggested that the team consider a musical adaptation of the play. They were encouraged by the Theater Guild to consider setting the production in the United States, and Oscar Hammerstein wrote that, as soon as Richard Rodgers suggested setting it in New England, he became more enthusiastic about the project.

*Carousel* received its Broadway opening on April 19, 1945, just a few weeks before VE Day, marking the end of World War II in Europe.

A film starring Gordon MacRae and Shirley Jones opened in 1956. A shortened version of the musical was made for television in 1967 featuring Robert Goulet.

### SYNOPSIS

In a New England seaside town, carnival barker Billy Bigelow and millworker Julie Jordan fall into a romance that is troublesome from the start, when their relationship costs both of them their jobs. It is soon the talk of the town that Billy hits Julie during their frequent arguments.



Jonathan Winsby,  
Alexis Gordon

Unable to find work, Billy spends his idle time with a good-for-nothing sailor, Jigger Craigin. When Jigger proposes that they rob Mr. Bascombe, the owner of Jigger's whaling ship as well as the cotton mill where Julie used to work, Billy turns him down – until Julie breaks the news to him that she is pregnant. Desperate to provide for the daughter he now fantasizes about, Billy agrees to go along with Jigger's plan.

Under cover of a community clambake, Billy and Jigger slip away to wait for Mr. Bascombe. The mugging is thwarted: Mr. Bascombe, unharmed, calls for help, and Jigger gets away. As the police close in and he is threatened with jail, Billy stabs himself, crying Julie's name. She arrives as he is dying and, after he draws his last breath, confesses that she loves him and understands why he was violent.

Billy arrives outside the back gates of heaven and learns he can't get in unless he does some more good for people on earth. He returns to earth and sees his daughter, Louise, who is now 15 and an outcast because of the stories people tell about him. He introduces himself as someone who knew her father, and tries to make her feel better about herself by telling her what was good about her dad. When he gets too close, she pulls away and he hits her – a ghostly blow that she later tells Julie felt like a kiss. Julie, having glimpsed Billy for an instant before he made himself invisible, understands.

Invisible, Billy attends Louise's graduation, where, as his last act of reparation, he gives messages of encouragement and love – which he couldn't express in life – to his wife and daughter.

## CONTENT ADVISORY FOR STUDENTS

Contains some scenes of physical abuse, death and violence.

## THEMES

- Love, Marriage & Relationships
- Abuse & Domestic Violence vs Understanding & Compassion
- Duty vs Irresponsibility
- Pride vs Humility
- Ill-fated Choices, Repentance & Reconciliation
- Transformation
- Death & Afterlife
- Hope & Dignity
- Resilience
- Forgiveness

## CURRICULUM CONNECTIONS

- All Grades: Language/English (Listening to Understand, Speaking to Communicate, Reading for Meaning & Critical Literacy)
- All Grades: Drama, Music, Visual Art
- Gr. 5 Health & PE (Healthy Living: Bullying, Violence; Strategies; Emotional, Interpersonal Stresses)
- Gr. 6 Health and PE (Healthy Living: Safe & Positive Social Interaction and Conflict Management; Decision-Making in Relationships)
- Gr. 7 Health & PE (Healthy Living: Bullying / Harassment; Healthy Sexuality; Relationship Changes)
- Gr. 8 Health & PE (Healthy Living: Warning Signs; Consequences; Assessing Situations for Potential Danger; Impact of Violent Behaviour; Relationships & Intimacy)
- Gr. 9 – 10 Social Sciences & Humanities (Family Studies: Exercising Responsibility)
- Gr. 11 Social Sciences & Humanities (Gender Studies: Power, Relations, Sex & Gender / Introduction to Anthropology, Psychology, and Sociology / World Religions & Belief Traditions)
- Gr. 12 Social Sciences & Humanities (Dynamics of Human Relationships: Healthy Relationships /

Challenge & Change in Society: Causes & Effects of Social Change / Human Development throughout the Lifespan / Philosophy: Ethics)

- Gr. 11 – 12 Interdisciplinary Studies (Faith, Belief & Imagery / Music & Society)

## ENRICHMENT

Private workshops and post-show chats may be arranged by calling the Education Department at 519.271.4040, ext. 2354.

Festival Theatre and Costume Warehouse tours may be arranged by calling the Box Office at 1.800.567.1600.

Additional classroom activities and ideas for engagement with the text can be found at [stratfordfestival.ca/teachingmaterials](http://stratfordfestival.ca/teachingmaterials).

## LET US TAKE CARE OF LUNCH!

Picnic lunches are available anytime (must be ordered two weeks in advance) and Student Deli Lunch Buffets are another option (subject to availability). For more information, see page 11 of the Schools Guide (available online) or ask the Groups and Schools Department when placing your ticket order.

## THEATRE ETIQUETTE

Respect the actors and your fellow patrons. When the lights dim, it is time to be quiet and engage with the actors on stage. Be sure to turn off cell phones and refrain from texting, talking or eating, as this is disrespectful to the actors who are telling the story.

Respond to what you see through laughter, tears, smiles, giggles or captivated silence. The actors feed off your presence and response to their work on stage. Don't respond by talking to your neighbour; please wait until after the performance to discuss your thoughts.

## BOOKING INFORMATION

### *Online*

Order at any time and select your seats! Visit [stratfordfestival.ca/festivaltrip](http://stratfordfestival.ca/festivaltrip).

### *Phone*

1.800.567.1600 or 519.273.1600

### *Fax*

519.273.3731

### *Email*

[groups@stratfordfestival.ca](mailto:groups@stratfordfestival.ca)

Download an order form at

[stratfordfestival.ca/orderform](http://stratfordfestival.ca/orderform)

### *Mail*

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