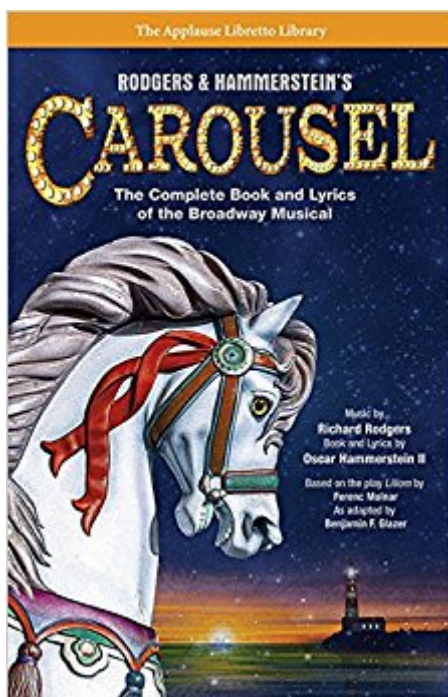


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Rodgers & Hammerstein's Carousel: The Complete Book And Lyrics Of The Broadway Musical (The Applause Libretto Library Series)



Synopsis

(Applause Libretto Library). In a Maine coastal village toward the end of the 19th century, swaggering, carefree carnival barker Billy Bigelow captivates and marries naive millworker Julie Jordan. Billy loses his job just as he learns that Julie is pregnant, and desperately intent upon providing a decent life for his family he is coerced into being an accomplice to a robbery. Caught in the act and facing the certainty of prison, he takes his own life and is sent "up there." Billy is allowed to return to earth for one day 15 years later, and he encounters the daughter he never knew. She is a lonely, friendless teenager, her father's reputation as a thief and bully having haunted her throughout her young life. How Billy instills a sense of hope and dignity in both the child and her mother is a dramatic testimony to the power of love. It's easy to understand why, of all the shows they created, *Carousel* was Rodgers and Hammerstein's personal favorite.

Book Information

Series: The Applause Libretto Library

Paperback: 182 pages

Publisher: Applause Theatre & Cinema Books; Updated edition (December 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1495056589

ISBN-13: 978-1495056581

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #763,418 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #22 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Hammerstein](#) #22 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Composers > Rodgers](#) #111 in [Books > Humor & Entertainment > Sheet Music & Scores > Historical Period > Modern Popular](#)

Customer Reviews

Richard Rodgers (composer 1902-1979) and Oscar Hammerstein II (librettist/lyricist, 1895-1960) joined forces in 1943 to create the most successful partnership in American musical theater. Their first musical, *Oklahoma!*, was also the first of a new genre, the musical play, blending Rodgers' sophisticated style of musical comedy with Hammerstein's innovations in opera. *Oklahoma!* was followed by *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, and *The Sound of Music*, among others. Collectively the Rodgers and Hammerstein musicals earned thirty-four Tony Awards, fifteen

Academy Awards, two Pulitzer Prizes, two Grammy Awards, and an Emmy Award.

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