

OKLAHOMA

Inverness Opera Company

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Presents

Oklahoma

Music by

Richard Rodgers

Book and Lyrics

by

Oscar Hammerstein II

Empire Theatre, Inverness

Monday to Saturday, 23rd to 28th January, 1961

Nightly at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday Matinee at 2.30 p.m.

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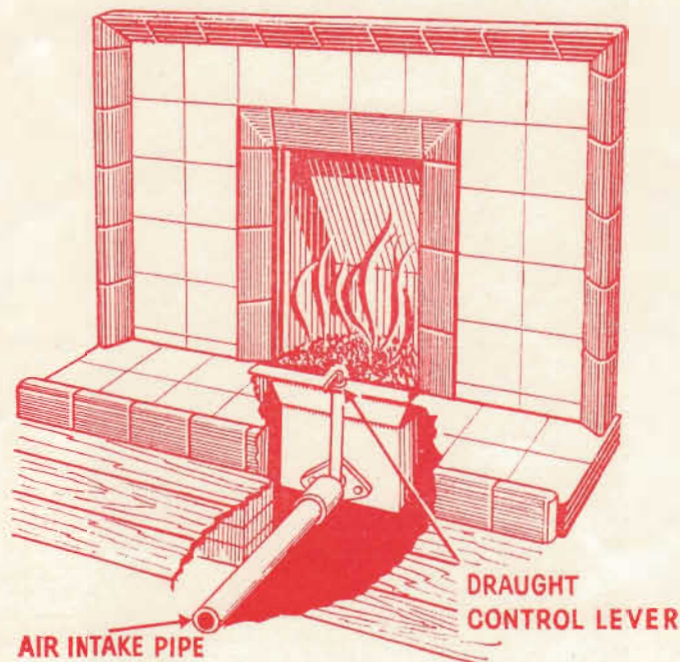
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Inverness Opera Company



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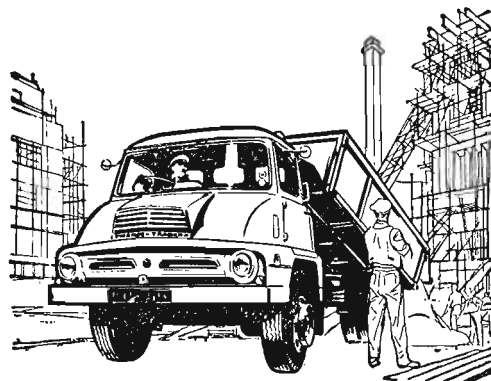
H. MacVinish, D. Proudfoot, A. Russell, Mary Mison, Lizbeth Davis,
Johanna Riach. Ex-officio—James McAdam, Alan Nicol.

The Producer:	The Musical Director:
ALAN NICOL, LL.C.M. (T.D.), A.L.C.M., A.D.B.	JAMES McADAM, B.Mus., F.R.C.O.

Dancing:	Assistant Musical Director:
Mrs J. F. GRANT	MARGARET McKENZIE, L.T.C.L.

Accompanist: RENA THOMSON

Stage Manager—Marshall Taylor
Costume Designer and Wardrobe Supervision—Mary Mison
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Hon. President's Remarks

AFTER THE phenomenal success of "The Merry Widow," last year's production, I am sure you are looking forward to "Oklahoma." I know you will not be disappointed with the Company's first presentation of a more modern musical. You must admire the enthusiasm and energy of this flourishing Company which never rests on its laurels.

As in the past, the Company is responsible for making the costumes and scenery, which, together with the tremendous volume of administrative work, make this enterprise possible.

The Company already has the support of an ever increasing number of Associate Members and the main worry is the prospect of the loss of the Empire Theatre, the only suitable building in Inverness for shows of this magnitude. Despite this worry, the Company, with supreme optimism, has plans made for the next production.

I appeal to you more strongly than ever before to support us in the future by becoming an Associate Member and by backing any efforts by the Company and other local organisations to preserve a Theatre in Inverness.

KAY GRIGOR,
Honorary President.

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The Story of "Oklahoma"

"Oklahoma," which was presented at Drury Lane just after the war, created a revolution in the World of Musical Comedy. It brought a new virility into musicals with its dancing, colour, and hit songs that is as yet unsurpassed.

It is the story of a territory at the turn of the century that is just about to be made into one of the States of the United States of America. Its people are either farmers or cowhands, and each bitterly resents the other. As the farmer prospers and makes use of the rich farming land so he cuts down the prairies, and this is the cause of ill feeling between the two occupations. Our heroine is Laurey, who owns a farm and runs it with her Aunt Eller, and the aid of a hired hand, Jud Fry. Jud is a morose man who is fiercely in love with Laurey, and he lives in a bunk house on the farm, the walls of which are covered with erotic photographs of dancing girls. The story opens on the day of a box social, at which all the girls provide hampers to be auctioned in aid of the new school. Our hero Curley arrives at the farm to ask Laurey to go with him to the box social. Unfortunately he does this in a brash manner, which annoys Laurey, and out of pique she decides to go with Jud instead.

One of the cowhands, Will Parker, is just back from Kansas City, where he has won a steer roping competition, and he regales his friends with stories of city life. He is in love with Ado Annie Carnes, who is always in love with the man she happens to be with at the moment, and she has temporarily become attracted to the Persian Pedlar, Ali Hakim, whom her father prefers as a suitor. Carnes has promised that should Will ever have fifty dollars he will allow him to marry Annie. As this is the amount Will has won he has come to claim Annie as his bride. Unfortunately Will has spent all the money on presents for Annie, so Carnes insists that Ali Hakim should marry Annie.

This leads Ali to try and incite the boys to revolution against the tyranny of the girls and their parents but, as usual, the ladies manage to win the day.

To try and make Laurey jealous, Curley makes up to Gertie Cummings, a girl with a terrible laugh, but this only strengthens Laurey to show that she doesn't care. In desperation Curley goes down to the bunk house and sees Jud. At the bunk house he discovers what a thoroughly unpleasant character Jud is, and tries in a dirge to get Jud to commit suicide. Jud, left alone, decides that his post card girls are a thing of the past, for he wants a real live girl.

Laurey has bought a bottle of smelling salts, which Ali Hakim assures her have magic properties, and in spite of being teased by the girls, she falls asleep smelling the bottle of "The Elixir of Egypt." In her dream we see everybody in a gay mood for Laurey and Curley's wedding. Encouraged by the Girl with a Curl, the cowboys, Curley's friends, and Laurey's friends dance lightheartedly, whilst Laurey and Curley show their love for one another in their waltz. Curley and the cowboys dance a mime of riding to the wedding, and as all their friends form an aisle Laurey enters, a bride.

As she gets to the bottom of the aisle Jud pushes Curley out of the way and takes his place and lifts the veil off Laurey. In desperation she runs up and down the aisle, but all her friends remain frozen in position and finally Jud leads her off. As he does so his attention is attracted by the post card girls, who have now come to life. The cowboys are also attracted by these girls and try to dance with them. The girls will have nothing to do with them and go into an abandoned dance of their own. Finally, the boys lift the girls and carry them off. Jud and Laurey are left alone.

Curley enters with an imaginary gun and tries to shoot Jud, but it has no effect. Jud and Curley fight and Jud soon gets the upper hand. Laurey appeals to all their friends, in vain, and finally surrenders to Jud. Curley is left for dead and the boys carry him out. Jud finally sends everyone away. Laurey is awakened from her dream by Jud, for it is time for the social. As he leads her off Curley appears and offers his hand to Laurey, but she, remembering her dream, shakes her head and goes off with Jud, leaving him dejectedly alone.

The second half opens with the box social and very soon tempers run high, and a fight ensues, but Aunt Eller is master of every situation. The auction for the hampers starts and Ali Hakim, who is frantic to get out of marrying Annie, has bought all Will's presents from him for fifty dollars. This scheme is nearly ruined by Will bidding all his money for Annie's hamper, but in the nick of time Ali bids higher and gets the hamper, and allows Will to get Annie. Finally, Laurey's hamper is auctioned and it becomes a

The Cast

Aunt Eller Janet McInnes
 Curley James Pringle
 Laurey Marjorie Ness
 Ike Skidmore Duncan Clisholm
 Fred Andrew Newlands
 Slim James Gordon
 Will Parker Ian McNab
 Jud Fry Evan Cattanach
 Ado Annie Carnes Maureen Pringle
 Ali Hakim David Proudfoot

Gertie Cummings Patricia Coyle
 Andrew Carnes Hector MacVinish
 Cord Elam Tony Biernat
 Laurey's Friends Lizbeth Davis, Rachel
 Elliott, Pearl Fraser,
 Constance Watt, Sandra
 Paterson, Sheila Tuach
 Curley's Friends Walter Fraser, Charles
 Lewis, Robert Osborne,
 Robert Watt

DANCERS

Aggie Pigtales Pat Pringle
 The Girl with the Curl Rose Mackintosh
 The Post Card Girls Fiona Macdonald, Mary
 Macrae, Dorothy Mac-
 tavish, Nita Simpson
 The Red Petticoat Girls Rose Mackintosh and
 Anel Walton
 Farmers and Visitors Scott Don, Alistair
 Ferguson, Ian McArthur,
 Harold Mison, William
 Moonie, Roderick Morri-
 son, Alistair Walker

Wedding Guests and Visitors ... Etta Armstrong,
 Maureen Connell, Catherine
 Fraser, Elizabeth Ann Fraser,
 Judy Hawkins, Irene Mac-
 Lean, Rosalind Macleod, Betty
 McPhee, Helen McPhee, Joan
 Marshall, Mary Mison, Joh-
 anna Riach, May Robertson,
 June Scrimgeour, Jessie Smith
 and Rita Yates
 The Cowboys Tony Biernat, Michael McIl-
 wraith, Archibald Russell,
 Tom Yates

SCENES

ACT I

Scene I—The Front of Laurey's Farmhouse
 Scene II—The Smoke House
 Scene III—A Grove on Laurey's Farm

Time: Just after the turn of the century

ACT II

Scene I—The Skidmore Ranch
 Scene II—Skidmore's Kitchen Porch
 Scene III—The Front of Laurey's Farmhouse

Place: Indian Territory (now Oklahoma)

Musical Numbers

ACT I — SCENE I

Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin' Curley
 The Surrey with the Fringe on Top Curley, Laurey, Aunt Eller
 Kansas City Will, Aunt Eller and the Boys
 I Cain't Say No Ado Annie
 Many a New Day Laurey and the Girls
 It's a Scandal! It's a Outrage! Ali Hakim and the Boys and Girls
 People Will Say We're in Love Curley and Laurey

SCENE II

Pore Jud Curley and Jud
 Lonely Room Jud

SCENE III

Out of My Dreams Laurey and the Girls

ACT II — SCENE I

The Farmer and the Cowman Carne3, Aunt Eller, Curley, Will,
 Ado Annie, Slim and Ensemble
 All er Nuthin' Ado Annie, Will, Two Dancing Girls

SCENE II

Reprise: People Will Say We're in Love Curley and Laurey

SCENE III

Oklahoma Curley, Laurey, Aunt Eller, Ike,
 Fred and Ensemble
 Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin' Laurey, Curley and Ensemble
 Finale The Entire Company



ORCHESTRA

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 Mrs Tuddenham
 2nd Violin: Mrs E. Findlay, Mr H. Goldsmith, Miss B. Busby
 Viola: Mr G. Strachan, Mr C. Allan
 'Cello: Mr C. Turner, Mr I. Macdougall
 Double Bass: Mr G. Salvadori
 Oboe: Mr J. Currie
 Clarinet: Miss D. Brass, Mr J. Devlin
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 Drums: Mr A. Davis
 Pianists: Miss R. Thomson and Miss M. McKenzie, L.T.C.L.

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I N V E R N E S S

THE STORY OF "OKLAHOMA" — Continued

battle between Jud and Curley who is to get it. At last, after selling his horse and gun — the means of earning his living — Curley wins the day. Will and Annie have an argument after Will sees Ali giving a "Persian good-bye" to Annie, and he tells her that in future her love for him must be all or nothin'. He convinces her by showing her what an "Oklahoma hello" means. Jud dances Laurey to a secluded spot and they have a bitter argument. Laurey fires Jud and tells him to get off her land, and he leaves her threatening dire things. Curley, realising that times are changing and that once the territory becomes a member of the Union, farming will prosper and be the main industry of the new State, promises to give up cattle driving and become a farmer. He proposes to Laurey and they plan the wedding.

After the wedding Aunt Eller tells the couple that they couldn't have picked a better time to start in life, and Curley and the entire company agree and extol the virtues of the new State of Oklahoma. There is a lot of fooling about and the men hold a shivaree, which involves putting the newly wed couple on top of a haystack. Just as they are about to do this Jud arrives. Curley and Jud fight and Jud tries to knife Curley. Curley pushes Jud down and, in falling, Jud lands on his own knife and dies.

Cord Elam, the Federal Marshall, thinks that Curley should give himself up, but Aunt Eller hits on an idea. As Old Man Carnes is the local judge, why not convene a court on the spot? All the witnesses agree that it was self-defence, and before the poor judge can get a word in edge-wise, the verdict is returned as "Not Guilty." A surrey is brought on and the boys act as the horses to pull Laurey and Curley to the station. As all their friends wave them off, it is truly a beautiful morning.

The Company hopes soon to be able to announce the name of another
production scheduled for early summer



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Members also have the right to be present at, and vote at, Annual General Meetings of the Company, which are generally held each year in April. At these meetings the production policy for the ensuing year is usually shaped. The annual subscription for Associate Membership is £1 1s.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee wish to express their appreciation and thanks to the Advertisers, also to A. L. Salisbury Ltd.; James Pringle Ltd.; Macdonald, Fraser & Co. Ltd.; J. Menzies & Co. Ltd.; Mrs P. Murray; John Fraser, Lochalsh Road, and J. W. MacTavish Ltd. for their assistance, and all those who have helped in so many ways with the production.

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