Clackamas Repertory Theatre's 'Carousel' opens Aug. 2

Dru Rutledge as Julie Jordan and Michael Mitchell as Billy Bigelow in Clackamas Repertory Theatre's "Carousel."

(Travis Nodurft)

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Clackamas Repertory Theatre continues its 10th season Saturday, Aug. 2, with Rodgers and Hammerstein's classic musical "Carousel," featuring several award-winning Portland-area theater professionals.

Directed by David Smith-English, Clackamas Rep's "Carousel" features Dru Rutledge as Julie Jordan and Michael Mitchell as Billy Bigelow. Both Rutledge and Mitchell won Portland Area Musical Theatre Awards for their performances in Clackamas Rep's 2011 production of "Oklahoma!"

The production is choreographed by another PAMTA award winner, Wes Hanson (for Clackamas Rep's 2013 "Kiss Me Kate") and also features Cassi Kohl as Carrie and Jonathan Quesenberry as Enoch Snow.

"Carousel" is based on the play "Liliom" (1909) by the Hungarian playwright Ferenc Molnár. Born in 1878, Molnár was a successful playwright and novelist. He emigrated to the United States in 1937, and a number of his plays were made into feature films.

Rodgers and Hammerstein turned out to be the perfect choice to do a musical adaptation of the play, and "Carousel" features well-known songs, "If I Loved You," and "When You Walk Through a Storm." The musical originally opened on Broadway on April 19, 1945, and ran for more than two years. It won a number of prestigious awards and remains an audience favorite today.

Clackamas Rep's performance of "Carousel" runs Aug. 1 through Aug. 24. Performances take place Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. with Sunday matinees at 2:30 p.m. All performances are in the Osterman Theatre at Clackamas Community College.

Tickets may be purchased by calling 503-594-6047 or online. The low-price preview is Thursday, July 31. Aug. 1 is sold out. Opening night is Aug 2. Regular tickets are $15-$35.

Clackamas Rep's season continues in late September with the comedy "Good People."

-- Cyndy Smith-English, managing director of Clackamas Repertory Theatre

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