

The Day After the Fair

Entertainment

"Carousel" spectacular

By TOM DAVEY

Yorkminstrels' Carousel is a spectacular combination of fine numbers, beautifully sung, splendidly staged and convincingly portrayed at the Earl Haig Theatre in Willowdale. Carousel is surely one of Rodgers and Hammerstein's finest musicals. Numbers such as Mister Snow, June Is Busting Out All Over, A Real Nice Clambake, What's The Use Of Wonderin', plus emotional songs such as You'll Never Walk Alone and If I Loved You give some indication of the range of these composers. But the depth of Yorkminstrels' talent is equal to the task with sets, lighting and costumes providing a visual feast which matches the acoustical delights of the orchestra and singers.

Elizabeth Clarke gives us a superb Julie Jordan, combining sensitive

acting with a beautiful singing voice. It's difficult to imagine anyone giving a better portrayal of Julie than this. Billy Bigelow is a choice role, and Brian Malone gets the most out of it with a fine baritone and great stage presence.

TEARS, TOO

There were not a few moist eyes in the audience when Billy returns to earth to provide the gentleness he lacked when alive. Carousel is essentially a sad story of an unlovable loser, who none the less captures our interest and later our affection. In the final scenes we desperately want him to convey the love he so blatantly failed to show when alive.

This Carousel deeply involved the audience in the final, stirring scenes and no better tribute can be paid to any production. Beth Cameron and Harry McCarthy gave

excellent performances as Mr. and Mrs. Snow. Both singers were a pleasure to hear, but then, Yorkminstrels have an enormous range of singing talent.

Brian Thomas, playing the evil Jigger Craigin, uses his fine baritone to captivate us while he corrupts Billy. Valerie Thomas, playing the frowsy Mrs. Mullin who has a yearning for Billy, is equally convincing.

Joyce Clark gave a moving rendition of You'll Never Walk Alone, one of the highlights of this musical.

Tinda Holland gives a sensitive portrayal of Billy's daughter Louise, being particularly effective in the dancing scene when Billy sees her for the first time.

Carousel is marvellous entertainment and is highly recommended. It confirms my belief that this group has no peer in the musical realms of Southern Ontario.

There'll be some new faces in the new Richmond Hill Curtain Club production of The Day After the Fair, which opens this Friday at the club's Newkirk Road premises.



LESLIE REID . . . radiant

\$6,000 in Cancer Society pledges.

Another newcomer is Leslie Reid, a recent B.A. graduate from Western University.

Leslie, who plays a radiant, 18-year-old servant in the play, performed in numerous productions during her student days, including The Rivals and Sergeant Musgrave's Dance.

BACK AGAIN

Dilys Rubow, although no newcomer, has been absent from the Curtain Club boards for a while but is very much in evidence in this one as the brewer's wife, whose life is "lit up by a mad, passionate letter-writing affair."



DILYS RUBOW . . . passionate

Others in the cast are veterans Clive Ryland, Yvette Steel and Pera Miller.

David Phillips, who played the brash, young American in the club's recent production of "I Am a Camera," makes his directing debut with the club.

The play is produced by Margot Crack and Joy Madden, with Pat Kantaroff and Keith Melville, stage managers.

Among them will be Dan Ryan, who plays the part of Charles, a young London lawyer.

And while his face may not be familiar, his voice should be, for Dan is the nine-to-noon disc jockey on radio station CFGM.

Some listeners will remember him as well, as a participant in the Boston Marathon this year, in which he raised

Townsend here

Graham Townsend, "the best damn fiddler in Canada," will appear at Hillcrest Mall, December 10.

Townsend, 34, winner of the North American Fiddling Championship four times, will be putting on shows between 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Quartet for "Fiddler"

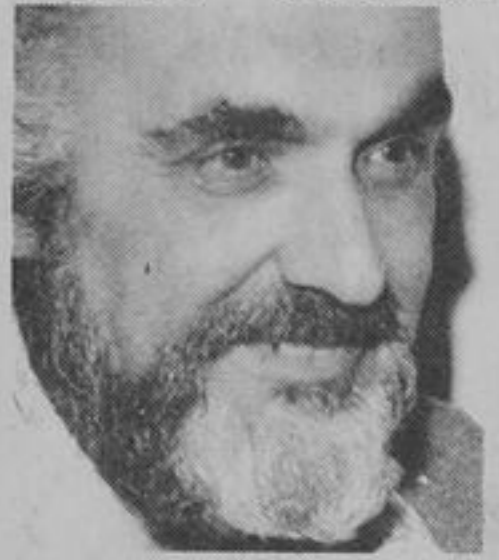


ROSE DYSON . . . female lead

Theatre Aurora will open its production of "Fiddler on the Roof" tonight, minus the accompaniment of York Symphony Orchestra.

In its place will be a four-piece ensemble, consisting of three members of the Rohowsky family — father Karl, flute; son Herman, violin; and daughter Birgit, piano; plus cellist Jim Shepherd. A misunderstanding regarding responsibility of the musical direction was cited as the reason. Former Canadian

opera star, Peter Manierka, and veteran Theatre Aurora performer, Rose Dyson, have the leads in the show, which runs to Nov. 26.



PETER MANIERKA . . . Tevye star

Calendar

The Day After the Fair — opens Friday, November 25, Richmond Hill Curtain Club, to Dec. 10. Call 884-3703.
Fiddler on the Roof — opens tonight (Wednesday) St. Andrew's College, Aurora, to November 26. Call 727-6179.
Carousel — Earl Haig Theatre, Willowdale, to November 26.
Kingsmen's Annual Variety Night — King City United Church, November 25. Call 833-5400.
York Symphony Orchestra — with the Cantabile Chorale, presents excerpts from the Nutcracker Suite, plus traditional carols; Trinity United Church, December 2.



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