

BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Department of Music

presents

BYU OPERA THEATRE

in

ALBERT HERRING

A Comic Opera in Three Acts

Libretto freely adapted from a short story
of Guy de Maupassant

by

Eric Crozier

Music by

Benjamin Britten

Opus 39

8:00 p.m.

March 7, 8, 9, 10, 1973

de Jong Concert Hall

Franklin S. Harris Fine Arts Center

1972-73 Series Nos. 65-68



CAST

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| LADY BILLOWS, an elderly autocrat | Kathy Austin (W, F) |
| | Coleen Harris (Th, S) |
| FLORENCE PIKE, her housekeeper | Jane Mortensen (W, F) |
| | Kathy Watt (Th, S) |
| MISS WORDSWORTH, head teacher at the | Patti Merrill (W, F) |
| Church school | Clare Johnson (Th, S) |
| THE VICAR, the vicar | Robert Downs (W, S) |
| | Stephen Bardsley (Th, F) |
| THE MAYOR, the mayor | Richard Lee (W, F) |
| | Darrell Hadley (Th, S) |
| THE SUPERINTENDENT, of the police | Walter Rudolph (W, S) |
| | William Fifield (Th, F) |
| THE BUTCHER, a butcher's shophand | Martin Green (W, F) |
| | Desmond Wilson (Th, S) |
| NANCY, from the bakery | Nita McKenzie (W, F) |
| | Lora Kidd (Th, S) |
| ALBERT HERRING, from the greengrocer's | Terry McCombs (W, F) |
| | Brandt Curtis (Th, S) |
| MRS. HERRING, Albert's mother | Lois Johnson (W, F) |
| | Florence Rogers (Th, S) |
| EMMIE) | Kristine Watt (W, S) |
|) | Christine Piper (Th, F) |
|) | |
|) Village children | Georgia Fairbanks (W, F) |
|) | Elizabeth Cannon (Th, S) |
|) | |
| HARRY) | Cathy Honeycutt (W, F) |
| | Elizabeth Laycock (Th, S) |

The action of the opera takes place at Loxford, a small market town in East Suffolk, during April and May of the year 1900.

THE STORY

Act I

Scene I:

The morning room of Lady Billows's house. Florence Pike tidies the room in preparation for the arrival of the May Queen Festival Committee: Miss Wordsworth, the vicar, the mayor, and the superintendent—all self-appointed defenders of virtue and righteousness. Lady Billows enters, greets the committee and broods over the deplorable state of the town's morals. The committee futilely attempts to nominate a May Queen, but all nominees are swiftly vetoed by the Lady. Finally, they decide to elect a May King, and Albert Herring, from the greengrocer's, a paragon of virtue and firmly tied to his mother's apron strings, is forthwith selected. A jaunty orchestral interlude leads to the end of the scene.

Scene II:

Mrs. Herring's greengrocer's shop. With no one tending the shop, the kids—Emmie, Cis, and Harry—seize the opportunity to steal apples. Sid discovers them and throws them out. Albert enters and is tempted by Sid to indulge himself in poaching and other forbidden pleasures. Nancy arrives looking for Sid, who should be tending the butcher shop, and they make a date for a moonlight walk. The Festival Committee descends on the shop and announces to Mrs. Herring the honor, which includes a cash prize of £25, that is to be bestowed upon Albert. Mum is overjoyed but Albert makes it clear that he wants no part of it, whereupon Mum soundly beats him with a broom and sends him to bed.

INTERMISSION

Act II

Scene I:

The interior of a small marquee set up in the vicarage garden. While Albert is being crowned at the church, a banquet is prepared for the festivities and Miss Wordsworth rehearses the children in preparation for the arrival of the committee. Sid mischievously laces Albert's glass of lemonade with rum. Everyone gathers for the Festival, the anthem is sung, flowers are presented, speeches are made, and toasts are drunk. While Albert downs his lemonade, Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde* motive wells up from the orchestra, and the May King, made merry by the unaccustomed spirits, gulps enthusiastically, only to develop willups (hiccups). Remedies are suggested, Albert is cured, and the feast continues noisily. During an orchestral interlude, the exuberant music dissipates and the mood is changed to the serenity of a May night.

Scene II:

The greengrocer's shop. Albert returns home in a jovial and noisy mood, recalling the banquet and the lemonade. A whistle outside tells him that Nan and Sid have met for their evening's pleasures. Their comments awaken in Albert an awareness of his forlorn and dull existence. After some deep soul-searching and with sudden resolve, he hurries out of the shop in search of adventure. Mum enters, pleasantly wearied by the day's excitement. Thinking her dear boy already asleep, she closes the shop and goes to bed.

INTERMISSION

Act III

The greengrocer's shop. The next day Albert is not to be found. Patrols are formed, the countryside is scoured, and everyone is in a frenzy thinking he has met with tragedy. Nan is miserable for what was done only in fun, and Lady Billows is determined to call in Scotland Yard. The crushed orange-blossom wreath of the May King is found, and all hope is abandoned for Albert. A mournful dirge is sung to his memory, only to be interrupted by Albert who has reappeared, unperturbed but disheveled. He is met with a clamor of rebuke and after a thorough tongue-lashing is allowed to explain his absence. He describes a night of drunken disorderliness and his overly coddled past which led to this wild explosion. Politely, Albert thanks the committee for providing him money to taste life. Everyone is horrified at his tale except Nan, Sid, and the kids, who rejoice in Albert's newly acquired freedom.

THEATRE ORCHESTRA

David Dalton, *conductor*

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| <i>First Violin</i> | <i>Harp</i> | <i>Clarinet and</i> |
| Joan Larsen | Janice Bills | <i>Bass Clarinet</i> |
| <i>Second Violin</i> | <i>Piano</i> | David Randall |
| Kathy Nyborg | Evelyn Rogers | <i>Bassoon</i> |
| <i>Viola</i> | <i>Flute and Piccolo</i> | Scott Dorton |
| Leslie Bettweiser | Peggy Howell | <i>Horn</i> |
| <i>Cello</i> | <i>Oboe</i> | David Bartholomew |
| Julie Bevan | Nancy Bond | <i>Percussion</i> |
| <i>Contrabass</i> | | Ken Hodges |
| Walter Birkedahl | | |

PRODUCTION STAFF

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| Producer | James A. Mason |
| Artistic Director | Brandt B. Curtis |
| Music Director and Conductor | David Dalton |
| Stage Director | Donna Dalton |
| Scene Designer | Charles Henson |
| Technical Director | Paul G. Larsen |
| Construction Supervisor | O. Lee Walker |
| Costumes | Jan Polanich |
| Lighting Designer and Assistant Stage Manager | Alan P. Hjorth |
| Stage Manager | Paul G. Larsen |
| Coaches | Ren Anderton, Susan Packham, Evelyn Rogers |
| Lighting Technician | Jim Anderson |
| Lighting Crew | Jackie Dorn, Linda Pfahler, Susanna White |
| Follow Spot Operators | Sherl Miner, Mark L. Richards |
| Shift Crew | Harold Boynton, Jesse Fry, Michael Nibley, Deanne Watson, L. Chad Wilkinson |
| Construction Crew | James Allen, Kiyozo Arantani, Dick Barrett, Judy Bassett, Jim Brady, Tim P. Bryson, Karl Bunting, Diane Burns, Tim Cotton, LeRoy Folkerts, Lynn Larson, David Layor, Evan Lewis, Scott Lorimer, Glen Mahana, Paul Nibley |
| Scenic Artists | Robert Andrews, Michael Goodman, and members of Dramatic Arts 319-320 |
| Properties | Mimi Bean, Vern Neves, and members of Dramatic Arts 319-320 |
| Costume Crew | Diana Betts, Barbara Clark, Mary Jo Cunningham, Kristen Downey, Annette Dupaix, Kathy Ensign, Wendy Goff |
| Costume Stock Assistants | Nolan Dennetts, Norlan Jacobs |
| Makeup Supervisor | Zac Odom |
| Sound and Recording | Electronic Media Department |
| Costumes | Salt Lake Costume |
| Performance rights, score, and orchestra parts courtesy of Boosey and Hawkes | |