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

JOY BILLOWS, an elderly autocrat ........................................ Kathy Austin (W, F)

CARENE PIKE, her housekeeper ........................................ Jane Mortensen (W, F)

MISS WORDSWORTH, head teacher at the Church school .................. Patti Merril (W, F)

GEDE, the vicar ................................................................. Robert Downs (W, S)

UPFOLD, the mayor ............................................................ Richard Lee (W, F)

PERINTENDENT BUDD, of the police ....................................... Walter Rudolph (W, S)

a butcher's shophand ......................................................... Martin Green (W, F)

ANCY, from the bakery ....................................................... Nita McKenzie (W, F)

BERT HERRING, from the greengrocer's .................................. Terry McCombs (W, F)

N. HERRING, Albert's mother ............................................... Lois Johnson (W, F)

MIE ................................................................. Kristine Watt (W, S)

) ............................................................. Christine Piper (W, S)

Village children .............................................................. Georgia Fairbanks (W, F)

) .............................................................. Elizabeth Cannon (W, S)

ERRY .............................................................. Cathy Honeycutt (W, F)

) ............................................................. Elizabeth Laycock (W, S)

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 for the arrival of the May Queen Festival Committee: Miss Wordsworth, the vicar, the mayor, and the superintendent—all self-appointed guardians of virtue and righteousness. Lady Billows enters, goes the committeemen over the deplorable state of the town's morals. The committee futilely attempts to nominate a May Queen, but all nominees are swiftly rejected by the Lady. Finally, they decide to elect a May King, and Albert Herrng, from the greengrocer's, a paragon of virtue and firmly tied to his mother's strings, is forthwith selected. A jaunty orchestral interlude leads to the scene.

Scene II:
Mrs. Herring's greengrocer's shop. With no one tending the shop, the kids—Emmie, Gis, 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, guls sans enthusiasm, only to develop wilding (hicups). 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

Scene I:
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

First Violin
Joan Larsen
Second Violin
Kathy Nyborg
Viola
Leslie Bettweiser
Cello
Julie Bevan
Contrabass
Walter Birkedahl

Harp
Janice Bills
Piano
Evelyn Rogers
Flute and Piccolo
Peggy Howell
Oboe
Nancy Bond

Clarinet and Bass Clarinet
David Randall
Bassoon
Scott Dorton
Horn
David Bartholomew
Percussion
Ken Hodges

PRODUCTION STAFF

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
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.