



ABOUT

When this Rodgers and Hammerstein masterpiece made its Broadway debut in 1943, it launched a new era in American musical theater — fusing story, song and dance through the stunning choreography of Agnes de Mille. It also began one of the most successful songwriting partnerships in Broadway history. Considered one of their most innovative works, *OKLAHOMA!* was hailed as the “Best Musical of the Century” by the New York Drama League. At its heart, *OKLAHOMA!* is a love story between confident cowboy Curly and feisty farmer Laurey. As the road to romance and the road to statehood converge, Curly and Laurey are poised to carve out a life together in a brand new state. But the road to love is as bumpy as a surrey ride down a country road, fraught with all the dangers and excitement of the time. The unforgettable score includes: “People Will Say We’re in Love,” “Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin’” and the exhilarating title song, “Oklahoma!”

MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Oh, What a Beautiful Morning
The Surrey with the Fringe on Top
Kansas City
I Cain’t Say No!
Many a New Day
People Will Say We’re in Love
Pore Jud is Daid
Lonely Room
Out of My Dreams - Ballet

ACT II

The Farmer and the Cowman
All Er Nothin’
People Will Say We’re in Love (Reprise)
Oklahoma!
Finale Ultimo

RUN TIME

Approximately 2 hours and 30 minutes, including one 15-minute intermission.

PARENTAL GUIDELINES

General Audiences

Please note that children under the age of 3 will not be admitted to the theater.



CHARACTERS

AUNT ELLER – A friendly middle-aged down-to-earth ‘mother to everyone’.

CURLY – The young cowman in love with Laurey.

LAUREY – Our heroine. She is confused about Curly, but seems to be waiting for him to make the first move.

WILL PARKER – A happy-go-lucky young cowman who is very much in love with Annie.

JUD FRY – The hired hand on Laurey’s farm. Sullen, mysterious and dangerous.

ADO ANNIE – A flirtatious girl whose heart is in the right place, but has a poor judge of character.

ANDREW CARNES – Ado Annie’s father.

ALI HAKIM – A Persian peddler and a shrewd salesman.

SYNOPSIS (CONTAINS SPOILERS)

On a radiant summer morning in Indian Territory not long after the turn of the century, Aunt Eller sits on her porch churning butter and looking out over her farmstead. Curly, a local ranch hand, comes to call. Curly and Eller’s niece, Laurey, have a lot in common—both are equally smitten with the other, and both are too proud and stubborn to admit it. When Curly grandly offers to take Laurey to the box social that evening, Laurey claims that he can’t escort her in style and refuses to believe that he has rented a classy rig for the occasion. Jud Fry, Laurey’s hired hand, settles the matter by announcing that he will take her to the social and because she is scared of Jud, who has a morose, vindictive temperament, Laurey is too frightened to turn him down.

Laurey’s friend, Ado Annie, is caught between two fellows too. Will Parker has just returned from Kansas City where he earned \$50 in a rodeo—the exact sum Ado Annie’s father, Andrew Carnes, told Will he had to come up with if he wanted to marry Ado Annie. However, during Will’s absence Ado Annie has become transfixed by the Persian peddler man, Ali Hakim.

Ado Annie may not know which way to turn, but her father is having no such problems: Will, since he already spent the \$50 on wedding gifts for Annie and technically doesn’t have the cold cash any longer, has lost his chance at marriage—while Ali Hakim has been so forward with Annie that nothing short of a shotgun wedding will do.

At the box social that night, Jud corners Laurey in the barn and her frightened calls for help bring Curly to her side. Jud runs off, and finally, Laurey and Curly confess their love for each other.

Ali Hakim, still trying to maneuver his way out of marrying Ado Annie, contrives to bid \$50 for all the gifts Will bought in Kansas City. With cash in hand, and a few rules in mind, Will approaches Ado Annie again, and this time they set a date.

Three weeks later, Laurey and Curly are married. Will and Ado Annie are hitched as well and everyone is celebrating. The wedding festivities pall, however, when Jud Fry stumbles in, uninvited and unwelcome. He gets into a fight with Curly and ensuing chaos, the drunken Jud falls on his own knife and is killed. Curly’s friends don’t want him to have to spend his wedding night in jail and so, a trial is held on the spot and Curly is acquitted. With their friends and loved ones waving them on, Curly and Laurey drive off on their honeymoon, “in a surrey with the fringe on the top.”