

## *The Story of* **OKLAHOMA**

ACT I. Aunt Eller is sitting contented looking out over the meadow and churning to the rhythm of a gentle melody. Then like the sound of the morning, a song comes from somewhere—growing louder as the young singer comes nearer. The singer is Curly McClain, a young cowboy, who is in love with Laurey, a girl of very considerable charm. He has a rival, however, in Jud Fry, a rather "nasty piece of work" who is a hired hand on the farm, and lives in a miserable smoke house. He has a strong passion for Laurey, and is not particular in his methods of claiming her favours.

Will Parker, who is in love with Ado Annie Carnes, the daughter of one of the ranchers, has been to Kansas City and bought her presents, but thinking he may lose her, sells them all to Ali Hakim, a pedlar man. The Pedlar man is in a panic as he thinks he will have to marry Ado Annie and is most anxious that Will should have the fifty dollars, being the extent of the dowry demanded by Annie's father before he will consent to Will's marriage.

Laurey has consented to go with Jud Fry to the box social and though she would rather go with Curly, is afraid to tell Jud. Curly goes down to see Jud in order to persuade him to free Laurey from her promise and we find Curly and Jud in the smoke house where Curly suggests that Jud hang himself.

To close Act I, there is a dream ballet. It depicts Laurey, dreaming she is being married to Curly, but as the figures move forward, to Laurey's amazement it is "Jud" and not "Curly" standing by her side. The long awaited conflict with Jud is now unavoidable. They fight, Curly attempts to shoot Jud, but Jud appears to be invulnerable. Jud throws Curly to the ground and a fierce fight ensues. The friends of Curly and Laurey run from side to side. Just when it looks as though Curly is winning, Jud gets a death grip on his throat. Laurey begs him to release her lover. It is clear she will give herself to Jud if he will let Curly go free. Jud drops Curly's limp body, picks up Laurey and carries her away. She blows a heart broken kiss over Jud's shoulder to Curly's prostrate body. The crowd surround Curly and carry him off.

The real Laurey is awakened by the real Jud. As she starts to go with him the real Curly enters expectantly, Jud scowls and offers her his arm. Remembering the events of her dream, she looks sadly at Curly as she goes off on Jud's arm, Curly stands alone, puzzled, dejected and defeated.

ACT II. A party is in progress which eventually becomes rather rough, the rival factions in Oklahoma, the farmers and the cowboys, begin to fight it out. They are stopped by the sound of pistol shots fired by Aunt Eller, who forces them to behave peacefully. She then starts the auction of the hampers to see which boy takes which girl, Curly and Jud try to outbid each other for Laurey's hamper. The result is that Curly parts with all his worldly possessions and wins the day.

Will Parker does not approve of his girl's flirtation at the party, and gives Annie a lecture on her behaviour with other men and tells her if she's going to marry him it's got to be "All er nuthin'" and they end up dancing together.

Later on at the party Jud Fry follows Laurey to the Kitchen Porch at the Skidmore's farm and tries to embrace her against her will. She very roundly tells him what she thinks of him and orders him off the ranch, never to come back. She has at last lost her fear of Jud. He goes off furious just as Curly arrives, who rather diffidently asks Laurey to marry him. She consents and they sing together "People will say we're in Love".

The party is over and the Pedlar says goodbye to Annie and Will Parker, as he goes on his way, but not before Will has some worrying moments over Ali's type of goodbye!

Time passes, Curly and Laurey have just been married and there's a party in progress at Laurey's house. Ali Hakim appears and tells everyone that he has been married to Gertie Cummings, a girl with a terrible laugh. He was forced into it by her father's gun. In the middle of the party, Jud, who has not been seen since Laurey threw him out, turns up, and there is a fight in which he gets killed. Cord Elam, a member of the party and a federal marshal tells Curly to give himself up. But here Aunt Eller intervenes, "What, give himself up and go to jail on his wedding night!". She suggests that Old Man Carnes, who happens to be the local judge, holds an improvised court on the spot. This is done and the verdict is given as "Accidental Death" caused by Jud falling on his own knife. Curly and Laurey depart for their honeymoon in the "Surrey with the Fringe on Top" to the sounds of cheering and singing of the entire company of "Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin'".



JUD, CURLY, AUNT ELLER, ADO ANNIE, LAUREY, WILL PARKER,  
ALI HAKIM

Aunt Eller : " Who fired that gun ? "

*Photo. by Arthur Winter*



JUD

ALI

CURLY

Ali : " Mind if I visit with you gents ? Got some arti postcards  
special for menfolk "

*Photo. by Arthur Winter*



Curly : " Look at him ! Fell on his own knife "

*Photo. by Arthur Winter*



CURLY and LAUREY  
"Surrey with the fringe on the top"

*Photo. by Arthur Winter*



DANCING GIRLS :

Rear : A. WHITEHEAD, K. JONES, I. GREGSON, L. MARSHALL, P. HEANEY  
Front : D. STANDRING, M. BROOKS, J. LOCKLEY, J. BAXTER

*Photo. by Arthur Winter*



DANCING BOYS :  
J. FEWERY, G. REGAN, A. TOPPING, B. HULL, T. BECK

*Photo. by Arthur Winter*