

LOVE STORY

By ERICH SEGAL

Book and Lyrics by STEPHEN CLARK

Music and Additional Lyrics by HOWARD GOODALL

AUDITION NOTICE

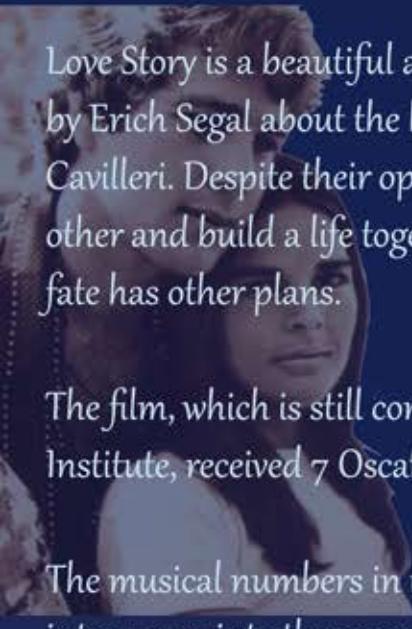


1st - 5th October 2013

Bridewell Theatre

INTRODUCTION

LOVE STORY



Love Story is a beautiful and compelling chamber musical. It is based on the 1970 book & film written by Erich Segal about the lives of Harvard Law student Oliver Barrett IV and music student Jennifer Cavilleri. Despite their opposite backgrounds, the young couple put their hearts on the line for each other and build a life together. They rely only on each other, believing that love can fix anything. But fate has other plans.

The film, which is still considered to be one of the most romantic of all time by the American Film Institute, received 7 Oscar nominations and an Oscar for Best Original Score.

The musical numbers in the show are inspired by the musical influences in Jenny's life. Cleverly interwoven into the score is a lovely tribute to the main song of the film which was a huge hit in 1970, but there are also nods to Bach, Berlioz and even the Beatles.

The show relies heavily on truthful performances given by all on stage to convey this simple but heartbreakingly story. There are a number of themes which most of us can relate to, including the joy and thrill of first love, the challenges of difficult parental relationships and the terrible pain of loss. These themes give the show universal appeal.

The roles of Jenny and Oliver are gifts to any young talented actor singers. Their relationship is at the centre of the piece and has to be utterly convincing. To achieve this, they will have the opportunity to work very closely with the director and MD to produce truthful, nuanced , quality performances. There are also some very nice opportunities for older actors. The roles of both fathers are wonderful and provide the backdrop to these young people's lives, whilst Oliver's mother provides some nice comedy.

The show will be performed acoustically with piano & strings & no amplification. It will sound beautiful!

PRODUCTION TEAM

Director

Maria Waters

Musical Director/Producer

Ryan Macaulay

Set

Michael Bettell & Isabella Van Braeckel

Costumes

Anthony Hagan & Skyla Loureda

Stage Manager

Valentine Monot

Marketing

Chris Warner & Adrian Johnson

sedos

sedos.co.uk

SYNOPSIS

LOVE STORY

We start at Jenny's wake ("What Can You Say?"). The action shifts to 6 years earlier, to the library of Radcliffe, Cambridge, Massachusetts where Jennifer (a bright, working class, quick witted music scholar) is closing for the day. It is 1963. Oliver Barrett IV (a Harvard jock and wealthy heir to the Barrett fortune) is looking for a book from the Radcliffe library. They are immediately attracted to each other, and go for coffee, when Oliver invites Jenny to a hockey game in which he's playing. Jenny accepts ("Jenny's Piano Song").

The music continues as our focus shifts. Jenny and Oliver are in separate spaces, getting dressed for spending the evening in the ice rink. A crowd then gathers as Jenny joins the line of people waiting to get into the game ("Winter's Night"). The game starts and the crowd cheer on their team. After an eventful game, Oliver scores the final goal and Harvard win. He rushes to Jenny and kisses her. Oliver quickly admits that he's falling in love. Jenny is thrilled but can't resist teasing him with a wise-crack. It's a week later and we're now at a doctor's clinic. Oliver has been injured in another hockey game and his father, Oliver Barrett III, has come to see him. There are obviously very high expectations placed on Oliver's shoulders as they discuss Oliver's plans to get in to law school. The discussion is stilted and formal and it is clear that Oliver resents the power & influence his father has. He wants to achieve his own success, independent of his father's means.

The scene shifts to Jenny, ten minutes before her piano recital. She calls her father, Phil, who owns a New York deli. The two have a wonderful warm relationship & are very close, especially since her mother's death. Oliver arrives to watch her piano recital. Its beauty incites a passionate response from Oliver ("The Recital").

The recital ends but the music continues. Oliver and Jenny sleep together and Jenny confesses her love for Oliver. We learn that Jenny has received a rare scholarship to study piano in Paris, something which she's been working towards all her life. She assumes this will mean the end of their relationship.

Oliver, sensing this and fearing that they will go their separate ways, proposes ("What Happens Now?"). Together, they visit Oliver's parents (Oliver III and Alison) in their very grand and formal home to tell them the news. It is a stiff and awkward occasion. During dinner, Jenny daydreams of how she hopes to treat her own children one day ("Nocturnes – pre-echo"). Alison and Jenny go to look at some family portraits, leaving Oliver to talk to his father. Oliver goads him, predicting that his father will disapprove of the match. His father's response is to ask Oliver to wait until after Law School. 'Marry her now, and I will not give you the time of day'. This results in a standoff between Oliver and his father and the couple leave, but Jenny confronts Oliver about his adolescent behaviour and tells him that she is concerned that he is only marrying her to get to his father. He denies it but both know there is some truth in her statement. It is a tense moment.

SYNOPSIS

(continued)

LOVE STORY

Oliver and Jenny head for Phil's ("Phil's Piano Song"). Phil is delighted to see his daughter so happy. However, Jenny then tells Phil that she can no longer go to Paris – she needs a teaching job to support Oliver through law school, especially now that Oliver's father will provide no financial support. Phil is angry and devastated because he knows how much Paris meant to Jenny and her mother. Oliver convinces Phil that it is entirely Jenny's decision to support him through Law School and their sacrifices are worth it if they are to spend their lives together.

Oliver and Jenny's Wedding day soon arrives. Everyone except Oliver's parents attend. It is a joyful time. They exchange rings and say their vows ("Summer's Day").

We move to a small, crudely furnished, apartment in North Cambridge. There are unpacked boxes around the room as Oliver and Jenny prepare dinner ("Pasta"). Time moves on and a letter arrives from Oliver's mother, inviting them to attend his father's 60th birthday. They argue about whether to attend and in the end Oliver storms out. It is their first big row. ("Everything We Know").

Much later, Oliver takes Jenny to a restaurant – he's graduated third in his class, which will allow him the pick of any top law firm. Naturally, they are delighted ("The Tide Has Turned") and move to a beautiful apartment in New York City where, with Oliver's new income, they decide to try and have a baby ("Nocturnes").

After many attempts Jenny has failed to conceive and so they decide to consult a medical specialist, who after repeated tests, informs Oliver that Jenny has leukaemia. At 25 she's given just two months to live. Oliver is devastated and doesn't know what to do so plans a surprise trip to Paris for her. He can't face telling Jenny, but she discovers the diagnosis after calling her doctor. In a poignant few seconds we see Jenny asking her dead mother 'does it hurt?'. Jenny tells Oliver that she doesn't want treatment because she knows it won't affect the outcome and she wants to spend whatever time she has left with him. When the time comes, she will have palliative hospital care in the final stages of her illness ("Everything We Know Reprise").

Desperate to pay the medical expenses, Oliver approaches his father for money, but refuses to tell his father that the money is to help Jenny, so allows his father to assume that he has got another girl pregnant in order to get him to write a cheque. Jenny quickly deteriorates. Phil visits her bedside in a very touching moment, then it's just Oliver and Jenny alone. Jenny tells Oliver to stop feeling guilty about Paris and her career. She says that all she ever wanted was him and makes sure that he believes her before she asks Oliver to hold her very tight. As he does so, she dies ("What Can You Say? Reprise"). Oliver's father arrives. They are finally reconciled and walk off side by side.

THE CHARACTERS

LOVE STORY

These characters are fantastic musical theatre roles for the singing actor.

OLIVER BARRETT IV

Playing age: 19 - 26

Son of Oliver Barrett III and heir to their wealthy estate. Oliver is good looking, privileged, successful, athletic and intelligent; a typical 'Harvard Jock'. He has an abrasive and immature relationship with his stuffy father, who provides the perfect object of contempt for him to rage against. Throughout his upbringing, he has never learned to express himself openly and honestly. Jenny is unlike any girl he's ever met before.

JENNIFER CAVILLERI

Playing age: 19 - 26

Jenny is beautiful, bright, passionate, hungry for life, straight-talking, sparky and has a smile that makes you melt. She is of working class Italian descent and is a gifted musician who has been offered a scholarship to study in Paris. Jenny's mother passed away when she was younger and as a result, she has an incredibly strong relationship with her father. Part of her mother still lives inside her. Because of her all consuming passion for music, Jenny has never had time for boys in her life, until she meets Oliver. It is not necessary to be able to play piano at virtuoso level. That is a job for the MD! If you are a gifted pianist, do please let us know at the audition, but we plan to fake it if you are not.

PHIL CAVILLERI

Playing age 40-55

Jenny's father. A wonderful character, he is an openly emotional, warm, funny, honest and self-made man of Italian descent, who now owns and runs a deli in Rhode Island. Phil's wife died when Jenny was a girl and his entire world is now his daughter.

OLIVER BARRETT III

Playing age 45-55

Father of Oliver Barrett IV. A man from established wealth, he is stuffy & formal. Despite his deep love for his son, he is utterly unable to express it, because of his own emotionally repressed upbringing. He places enormous expectations on Oliver. He is not able to give his son the unconditional love and warmth that he craves and Oliver cannot accept the support that his father tries to give him. Because of Jenny's working class background, he cannot approve of his son's relationship with her.

THE CHARACTERS

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LOVE STORY

ALISON BARRETT

Playing age: 40-50

Mother of Oliver Barret IV. The typical wife of a wealthy man. She has never moved outside of her narrow, privileged world and is a bit dim & ineffectual, though well meaning. Some opportunity for comedy here.

Jenny's mother has an important presence throughout the piece because her memory has been kept very much alive by Jenny and her father. She has a short but very poignant scene with Jenny when Jenny learns that she's dying. Both mothers will come from the ensemble.

ENSEMBLE/SUPPORTING CAST

We are looking for an additional 4/5 talented singers and actors to inhabit the characters of Oliver and Jenny's world. There are a handful of minor but important speaking roles, such as the doctors and the opportunity for all to have solo opportunities in a number of songs. There are some gorgeous harmonies which will be amazing to sing.

Scene from 'A Winter's Night', Duchess Theatre



DATES / AUDITIONS **LOVE STORY**

IMPORTANT DATES

Specific venues TBC but will be central London

Workshop 6th June

Auditions 6th & 7th July

Recalls 11th July

First Rehearsal 4th August,

*Rehearsals: evenings of Thursdays and Fridays
with (some) Sunday rehearsals*

Sitzprobe/Tech/Dress Rehearsals 28th – 30th September

Production 1st – 5th October

*If you've got this far, then hopefully this sounds like
something for you and you'd like to try being in
the show!*



THE WORKSHOP

6th June, Central London, specific venue TBC

Come along and sing a couple of the fantastic musical numbers from the show, explore some of the characters through drama work and hear about the show first hand from the creative team . No preparation is required and attendance is purely optional.

The two-hour session will be followed by the opportunity to ask any of those burning questions that you may have about the show over a nice glass of wine (or beer!).

If you think you'll be attending the workshop, please can we politely ask that you email workshop@lovestorymusical.co.uk, just so we know how many to expect.

DATES / AUDITIONS **LOVE STORY**

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AUDITIONS

First Auditions (6th & 7th July), central London venue TBC

Auditions will take place individually in front of the panel, consisting of just Maria and Ryan. We aim to make it very supportive & relaxed, which we hope will encourage you to give of your best.

SINGING- Please prepare a musical theatre song of your choice that shows off your ability to act through a song. A pianist will be provided so please do bring sheet music rather than sing unaccompanied. If you can (and would like to), then please do feel free to play an instrument and sing to that.

Ballads (particularly for those auditioning for Jenny and Oliver IV) would be preferable, but please don't think you'd be penalised if it was an up tempo number – we want you to be comfortable! Choose something you're confident with, where you can really connect with the emotions in the song.

PERFORMANCE - We will provide you with a piece of dialogue upon receipt of your completed audition form.

Please complete and email a copy of the audition form (available on the Sedos website) to auditions@lovestorymusical.co.uk to arrange an audition.

Sedos is one of London's pre-eminent amateur theatre societies, with the aim of producing quality amateur shows to the best artistic quality possible. Please note that performers are not paid - not even expenses. To perform in Love Story you must be a member of Sedos (membership is currently £30 per year) and pay a participation fee of £40.

There is a £5 audition fee for non-Sedos members. If you are cast in the show, your audition fee will be deducted from your participation fee.

Recalls (11th July), central London venue TBC

Recalls will consist of you working with Maria and Ryan on specific parts of the show. We will provide you with music/script at the time of confirming your recall as a guide.

Please note, recalls will be conducted in a mostly closed environment (rather than in a 'workshop' style), although we may ask you to work with someone recalled for a different character.