

## **REVIEW: Carousel at The Congress Theatre**

By [Laura Sonier](#)

WITH comedy, tragedy, singing, dancing – and even a rogue prop causing merriment in the second half – this three-hour-long production certainly ticked all the boxes on the opening night, leaving the audience cheering and applauding.

EODS have delivered a superbly slick, well-staged and entertaining show, allowing cast members to show off their skills.

There were two standout performances, among many solid ones from the cast, from Florence Chisholm as the long-suffering Julie Jordan and Lee Reynolds as tearaway carousel worker Billy – both of whom boasted exceptional voices and a believable chemistry.

Other strong performances were from Sarah Hall as Nettie, Claire Robinson as the interfering Mrs Mullin, Susie Blundell as the sparky Carrie Pipperidge, Mark Stevens as holier-than-thou Enoch Snow, Keith Smith as the menacing Jigger and Rebecca Fillery as Louise Bigelow.

The sets were also impressive – even eliciting a round of applause when the curtain rose to reveal the eponymous carousel at the start of the show. There was some light relief from the high emotion of the drama on stage when an over-enthusiastic smoke machine temporarily blotted out one of the two actors on stage and created a pea souper in the auditorium.

But director Nick Reynolds, choreographer Teresa Smith and musical director Daniel Goodger have done a fine job in bringing this well-loved musical to life at the Congress.