NEW WOLSEY THEATRE



CAROLINE

A NEW MUSICAL

Visual Story

The Cast & Characters

(in alphabetical order)



Nicola Bryan

Nicola plays as Betty, Caroline's mother.



Gareth Cooper

Gareth plays as the **Postmaster General**, the primary antagonist of the show.



Jake Halsey-Jones

Jake plays as, **Robbie,** a young man who is trying to become a DJ on Radio Caroline.



Joey Hickman

Joey plays as **Declan,** a young Irish entrepreneur who invests in Radio Caroline.



Rhiannon Hopkins

Rhiannon plays as **Kitty,** an entrepreneur who invests in Radio Caroline.



James Lawrence

James plays as Steven, a DJ on Radio Caroline.



Claire Lee Shenfield

Claire plays as Caroline, the protaganist of the show.



Jerome Lincoln

Jerome plays as the **Private Secretary,** the Postmaster General's lackey who comes to his beck and call.



Perry Meadowcroft

Perry plays as Dave the Fish.



Eloise Richardson

Eloise plays as Mary. She is Caroline's best friend.



Emily Reynolds

Emily and Harry share a role and they play as Teenage Girl.



Harry Wilson

Harry and Emily share a role and they play as Teenage Boy.

The Show

Caroline: A New Musical is an actor-musician show, where all the music and vocals are performed by the actors.

The show is performed in two acts with a short interval in the middle so that you can grab a drink from our Café & Bar, get some ice-cream, use the toilet or just stretch your legs. The approximate runtime for the show is shown below.

Act One: 80 minutes
Interval: 20 minutes
Act Two: 55 minutes

Historical Context & Content Advisory

Caroline: A New Musical is inspired by events from 1964-1967. While the production draws on the social atmosphere and historical circumstances of the period, with the exception of the characters Dave the Fish, Declan, Kitty and Maureen, all characters and storylines are fictional. Any resemblance to real people or events is unintended and used solely for storytelling purposes. This production also includes depictions of smoking and historical advertisements for smoking products, reflecting attitudes of the time.

SHOW SPONSORS & FUNDERS

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The Generate Programme
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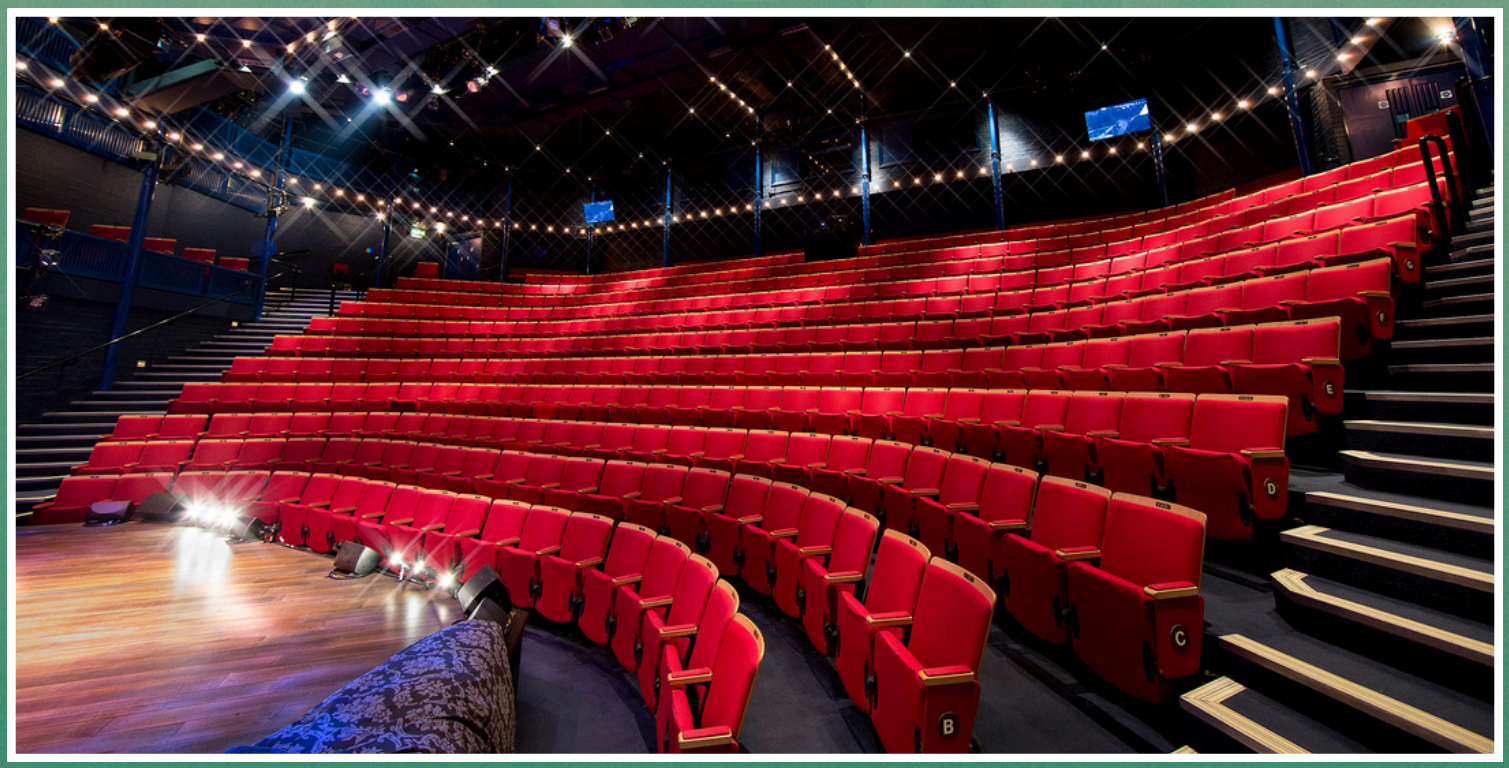
The Theatre

Our auditorium seats 400 people, meaning that you will have a good view regardless of where you sit. If you would like to sit at the end of a row or near a door, or have any access requirements, please let us know when booking or as early as you can so we can make any arrangements needed.



ACT ONE

The show opens with the full ensemble each reading out headlines working backwards over the decades showing how the way people access music has changed over the years.

Scene 1

Location: Betty's House

The show begins one morning in 1964 at Clacton-On-Sea. The radio is on and she is listening to the BBC while going about her routine. The radio station is very old fashioned and doesn't offer anything to a younger audience. The radio is then turned off by Betty's teenage child who is then sent to their room.

Scene 2

Location: Queen Magazine Offices

Elsewhere, Declan and and Kitty are sitting together in an office and Declan offers Kitty an opportunity to start a radio station with him, a radio station aimed at young people that plays new music. Kitty is apprehensive because her expertise is in magazines, but Declan is more interested in her ability in advertising. It doesn't take much convincing for Kitty to accept his offer.



Scene 3

Location: Clacton

Dead End Street by the Kinks plays and during the song Robbie is seen going around local businesses trying to apply for office roles, but is getting rejected every time.



After the song ends, Robbie is seen at the Grocers, where his girlfriend Caroline works, looking dejected. Robbie's convinced that he's destined for nothing more than manual jobs but Caroline encourages him to keep looking and offers him some money to buy the evening newspaper and look for more job openings. Then the shop owner comes in to shoo Robbie away, but not before the two agree to meet later down by the Pier.

Scene 4

Location: Queen Magazine Offices

Declan and Kitty are hard at work planning their new radio station. Kitty explains how her magazine caters to 'Caroline', her nickname to describe the masses of women in the UK who are receptive to advertising and influence, and although they can be hard to get if not spoken to the right way, they are very influential in every household. And if this new radio show can captivate the Caroline's out there, it will be successful.

Declan is so wow-ed by Kitty's speech that he decides to name the radio station Caroline. Kitty's not really keen on the idea but there was no stopping Declan. Throughout Kitty's explaination, Caroline and her friend Mary are walking down to the Pier chatting away.

Scene 5

Location: Clacton Pier

Caroline and Mary get to the Pier and find a group of men fighting and among the group is Robbie. After pulling Robbie aside, the two break away from Mary to have a private chat, but not before Mary makes a few comments about Robbie needing to get a job and propose to Caroline.



Once the two are alone, Robbie shows Caroline a job advert on the back of a music magazine, it is for a disc jockey job for a radio on a boat, which is unheard of. Robbie has a voice test in London but needs money for a ticket. He promises to repay her back for everything she's done for him and give her the life she deserves. They then sing ***Wouldn't It Be Nice*** by the Beach Boys. She hands him money for the train ticket and wishes him luck.

Scene 6

Location: Postmaster General's Office

The Postmaster General's (PMG for short) private secretary, Nigel enters to inform him of a ship in Ireland being fitted out with suspicious broadcast equipment. He then tells Nigel to keep an eye on the ship and its owner, Declan O'Riley. He believes that commercial television has lowered the quality of the medium in the UK and refuses to have the same happen to radio. He tells Nigel to make sure the boat sinks if it ever plays a note of music.



Scene 7

Location: Radio Caroline Offices

Robbie is in a sound booth auditioning for the disk jockey role and is trying to imitate the traditional BBC radio voices to 'fit in'. Kitty and Declan are listening in and he gives Robbie some direction but after a few tries, tells him to stop. Desperate, Robbie drops the voice and pleads for another shot. He tells them about his love for music and his excitement about what they are trying to do. After talking about their music tastes, Declan gives him another shot and this time, Robbie nails it. He's relaxed, telling jokes and making the ads feel natural - making him a no-brainer for the role. He gets offered the tea time slot and is excited to get started.



He heads back to Clacton to tell Caroline the fantastic news and as he does so, he begins singing ***Caroline*** by The Fortunes. During the song, he picks her up at the grocers, proposes and runs off after she says yes.



Scene 8

Location: Betty's House

Caroline and Robbie go to her Mum's house to tell her the good news and to get her blessing. Betty is intrigued about Robbie's new job, but disagrees with the idea of a new radio station and questions its legality when she finds out that it is on a boat. In the end, she doesn't agree to their marriage but Caroline says she's marrying Robbie no matter what she what she thinks.



Scene 9

Location: Harwich Docks

It was time for Robbie to set off. His new job needs him on the ship a month at a time with one week back on shore. Since he will be away for so long, the pair decide to start writing to one another. His transport arrives, and they meet its operator, Dave The Fish. After introductions, Robbie and Dave then set off for Caroline (the ship).

Scene 10

Location: Postmaster General's Office

The PMG's Private Secretary Nigel informs him that the boat (Caroline) is located 3 miles off the Essex Coast and is not bound for Spain as it was registered. The Postmaster General calls them 'pirates' and insists that they get control of the story before it gets out of hand. He orders Nigel to organise a television interview with the BBC.





Scene 11

Location: Radio Caroline Boat

Robbie arrives on the boat and is feeling seasick. Here he meets fellow disc jockey (DJ for short) Steven and producer Maureen. Robbie and Steven get off to a rocky start when Steven makes it clear that he has been with the radio station from the beginning and is in charge.

Maureen shows Robbie around whilst we see another DJ presenting a radio segment. The cast then sing ***Twist and Shout*** by The Beatles. As this is happening, we see Declan listening to the show back at the Radio Caroline Office and loving it.



Scene 12

Location: BBC News studio/Radio Caroline Office

The scene opens with the Postmaster General doing a TV interview where he is speaking negatively about Radio Caroline, telling people that the transmission is dangerous and that they are pirates working against the law. Declan 'switches off' the broadcast in disgust. He and Kitty agree that these lies will not deter them from their dream.



Scene 13

Location: Betty's House/Radio Caroline Office/Radio Caroline Boat

Caroline, her mum, sibling and Mary stand around the jukebox. They tune in to Radio Caroline. Steven is on air, speaking as the DJ.

Nearby, Kitty and Declan are celebrating. They laugh and dance. Steven plays ***Not Fade Away Written*** by The Rolling Stones and dedicates it to Declan much to Robbie's irritation. Everyone raises a glass and toasts Caroline.

Robbie's voice comes on the radio as Caroline sits down and writes him a letter. At the same time, we see Robbie in the radio studio. He is dancing while the song plays. Robbie continues DJing. He jokes, talks to the listeners, and reads out funny adverts and signs off at the end of the show.





Scene 14

Location: Clacton Pier

Caroline reads a letter from Robbie to Mary. The letter feels simple and disappointing. Robbie writes about the lack of eggs. Caroline asks Mary what she thinks and Mary assures her that she has everyone's dream man as they tune into the radio together. They realise many other people are listening too. Robbie's voice is heard on air. They hear lots of women talk about how much they love him. Caroline feels anxious about their relationship. She sings ***I Love You Baby*** by Freddie and the Dreamers. Caroline decides that she will meet Robbie alone when he returns from the boat.

Scene 15

Location: Radio Caroline Boat/Radio Caroline Office/BBC studio

Robbie talks on the radio about an advert for the Caroline Club. They sing ***Hippy, Hippy Shake*** by The Swinging Blue Jeans. Caroline and Mary dance as they listen to the radio. Robbie speaks on the microphone. Other performers hold handheld radios and dance too. An advert plays for pantyhose telling women to try the "baggy knees test." The tone is playful and silly. The scene changes to a radio interview. A news reporter speaks to the PMG. He says the radio station must be stopped. The reporter asks what they will do and he says they plan to introduce a new law to stop offshore radio.





The song ***Hippy Hippy Shake*** returns. The full group comes together and interact with the PMG and news reporter. The news reporter starts dancing too. The music feels catchy and unstoppable. The interview returns with the PMG saying that offshore radio has no future.



Kitty 'switches off' the broadcast and warns Declan that they must take it seriously and that they need political support. They come up with a plan to persuade Isle of Man to block the Postmaster General's new law.

Scene 16

Location: Harwich Docks

Robbie comes off the ship. Fans are shouting and cheering for him. He moves through the crowd and finds Caroline. They kiss and he tells her about his time on the boat and gives her a fancy watch as a present. Caroline is excited for them to have a whole week together but Robbie tells her he has to work in London. She's upset and he invites her to come with him and he wants to make it up to her. He says he will take her on an adventure and out to a popular restaurant.



Scene 17

Location: Radio Caroline Office

A DJ reads an advert on air about the Isle of Man. The advert sounds exciting and inviting. Declan asks him to stop. He says the advert sounds too seductive. Kitty says it is perfect but Declan ends the moment.

Robbie and Caroline walk in. Declan hugs Robbie and gives him a box of new records from the US and fan letters. Robbie introduces Caroline as his fiancée. Kitty warns that listeners might not like knowing he is engaged. They prefer him to seem single.

Kitty talks about the adverts they are working on and explains they are aimed at ordinary girls. They play the adverts for Caroline and ask what she thinks.
The adverts have four different versions for one shampoo. Caroline says there are too many words and why not keep it simple.
Kitty asks Caroline to stay and help give feedback on the adverts. Caroline suggests running a competition on the show. She suggests listeners send items from their shopping lists. Everyone agrees that it will show they are connecting with listeners. Kitty asks Caroline if she has ever thought about working in advertising. Caroline says no.





Scene 18

Location: Alvero's Restaurant

Caroline and Robbie are at a fancy restaurant. They look at the menu and laugh as they try to pronounce the food. Caroline tells Robbie how proud she is of him. She asks if they can set a date. She means a wedding date. Robbie thinks she means a date to visit the boat. Robbie then has an idea. He says it would be brilliant to broadcast their wedding from the boat. He says people will love it. They start singing ***Gimme Some Lovin*** by Spencer Davis Group. After a moment, they agree. They dance together and kiss. As they leave the restaurant, photographers take their picture highlighting how famous Robbie has become.

Scene 19

Location: Radio Caroline Office/Greengrocers

Robbie speaks into the microphone and announces the competition on the radio. Later, Mary comes into the shop where Caroline works. She brings a magazine. that has a story about Robbie having dinner with a mystery woman. Mary tells Caroline that she is famous. The shop owner tells Mary off for not buying anything. Caroline tells Mary she is getting married on Radio Caroline and that Mary will be her maid of honour.

A well-dressed woman comes into the shop asking for an item from the competition shopping list. The shop is sold out of the item. This shows that Caroline's idea is working. Radio Caroline is influencing people to buy the things they hear about on the radio.



Scene 20

Location: Radio Caroline Office

Postman enters with many bags of letters and fan mail. Kitty and Declan is overwhelmed with the response. Letters fall from the sky and its clear the their dream of a successful radio station is coming true, despite the opposition they have come up against.



Scene 21

Location: Postmaster General Office

Private Secretary Nigel is secretly listening to Radio Caroline. He is caught by the Postmaster general but he says he is just doing research. Nigel tells him that despite their best efforts, advertising has increased on Radio Caroline. Enraged, the Postmaster General tells Nigel to contact the Director General of the BBC to plan his next move.

Scene 22

Location: Radio Caroline Boat

People are getting ready for the wedding. Caroline and Mary talk about Caroline's family coming to the ceremony. A DJ narrates the wedding over the radio. Caroline's mum arrives and tells Caroline she looks beautiful.

The captain explains that he will only speak English once. He says that because the ship is registered under Panamanian law, part of the wedding must be spoken in Spanish. The DJ explains this to the audience. The captain marries Robbie and Caroline. Robbie and Caroline are interviewed. Caroline throws her bouquet. Mary catches it. Caroline sings ***Shout*** by Lulu and the Luvvers. Everyone sings and dances together. Declan congratulates Caroline and thanks her for her help. Caroline explains to her mum that Robbie needs to register the marriage on the continent under Panamanian law. Robbie and Caroline have their first dance whilst singing ***Shout*** together.



The scene shifts. The Postmaster General and Nigel speak new legislation that will make it illegal for UK businesses to advertise with offshore radio. They also propose that the BBC create four new radio stations. The scene returns to the wedding where everyone continues celebrating.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO



Scene 1

Location: Radio Caroline Office

BBC Newsreader announces that there will be 4 new radio stations. Kitty 'switches off' the broadcast and reassures Declan that Isle of Man will stop the government doing this. Postmaster General says they are protecting people. Declan says it's unfair and starts singing ***My Generation*** by The Who. Meanwhile Robbie is on air and pleading to people to write to MPs and newspapers to help Radio Caroline to win the fight.



Scene 2

Location: Clacton Pier

Caroline and Mary walk on the pier with chips. Caroline is pregnant. Caroline shows Mary a letter addressed to Robbie with a stamp from Panama. They agree to open it and seal it back up. She tells her that Robbie didn't register their marriage properly. Caroline is panicking because she's pregnant and is not legally married. She asks to be alone, and Mary leaves her on the bench. Caroline sings ***You're My World*** by Cilla Black.

Scene 3

Location: Postmaster General's Office/Radio Caroline Boat

Nigel arrives with the Postmaster General. They bring new information. Radio Caroline has lost its advertisers. Meanwhile back on the Radio Caroline Boat, Steven tells the group he is leaving Radio Caroline. He has been offered a job at the BBC. He will present the breakfast show on their new station, Radio 1. Robbie says they must fight for free radio and calls Steven a sell out.

Back to the Postmaster General says he wants someone to go to prison. The new law has not yet passed, but he wants to make an example of them - he starts to sing ***These Boots Are Made For Walkin'*** by Nancy Sinatra.

Robbie sits at a table and writes. The Postmaster General moves through the scene, speaking while Robbie writes. The Postmaster General says he wants to send a "gift" to the Isle of Man. He lifts vinyl records and smashes them on the table.



Scene 4

Location: Radio Caroline Office

DJ records another seductive advert for the Isle of Man, trying to get them on side. Kitty tells Declan they're running out of money and people need to be let go. Declan pushes back, insisting they still have millions of listeners and that Robbie's promotion will save them—if everyone just keeps working flat out for six more weeks. Kitty argues this is no way to live and makes it clear this isn't a sustainable business. Declan refuses to back down. The DJ signs off, saying goodbye to Declan and Kitty "until next week," his tone lingering with doubt.

Scene 5

Location: Betty's House

After Caroline finally tells her mum Betty that she and Robbie aren't legally married, they argue. Betty is very unhappy with how Robbie has treated her daughter. Caroline then goes into labour but won't let her mum come, instead to calls for Mary to take her to the hospital.



Scene 6

Location: Radio Caroline Boat/Hospital

Robbie radios Declan, reporting the lack of food and water and insisting he needs to go home. Meanwhile at the hospital, Caroline asks for Robbie, but Mary can't reach the boat. DJ announces that a boat has arrived to take Robbie back to Caroline; Robbie feels guilty leaving him alone but goes.

At the hospital, a nurse repeatedly calls Caroline "Miss," even after being corrected, as Mary supports her through the birth. DJ radios Declan again, urgently asking for provisions.

Caroline is handed her baby girl, named Jane after Mary's middle name. Robbie arrives—he tells Caroline he's proud of her and sorry he's late. The nurse mentions she listened to their wedding. Robbie sings ***Can't Take My Eyes Off You*** by Frankie Valli , holding his daughter before handing her back and saying he has to return to work. Mary and Robbie argue outside; she urges him to stay, he insists he must go, almost letting slip they're not married. He returns to singing ***Can't Take My Eyes Off You*** as he leaves.



Scene 7

Location: Radio Caroline Office/BBC Studio

Postmaster General reports during an interview that legislation isn't through and delaying the bill. Declan turns it off and asks if they are out of the woods. Kitty says they are out of money they should stop broadcasting. Kitty shows Declan a newspaper reporting that someone has been sent to prison for supporting Radio Caroline. Kitty tells him sometimes the bravest thing is to talk away, Declan disagrees and sings ***Paint It Black***, written by The Rolling Stones.



Scene 8

Location: Clacton Pier

Caroline and Robbie pushing pram across the pier. They discuss how its going to be illegal for Robbie to keep working on the boat but he wants to go back. Caroline is worried and upset because she is paying for everything again while he works for free. She asks why he won't accept the offer to work at BBC. Robbie realises she has been opening his post and she finally confronts him about the fact they are not married. Robbie admits that he forgot to register the marriage. She tells him to think about her and the baby. After Robbie tries to say that Declan is the only person who believed in him, Caroline tells him to leave.



Scene 9

Location: Radio Caroline Boat/Radio Caroline Office

Robbie is back on air, broadcasting alone—an empty table where the DJs once sat. Maureen arrives with a suitcase because she's been offered a producer's job at the BBC in Leicester and urges him to think carefully: is this really worth it? The PMG and Nigel interrupt the broadcast, threatening to cut off postal services unless the station complies. Declan, tense, waits with Kitty for a call. When the phone finally rings, Kitty answers: the offshore broadcasters are finished. Declan refuses to accept it. The Postmaster announces a new law: involvement with any radio station outside the UK is now illegal. Caroline enters with the pram, singing ***What Becomes of the Broken Hearted*** by Jimmy Ruffin**.** Kitty confirms Radio London is shutting down.



Robbie, Caroline, and Declan join together. Across the city, listeners tune in to the final broadcast, the announcer says goodbye. The child cries as their mum dismisses it as "not the end of the world" and they storms out. Nigel weeps claiming they're tears of joy as the Postmaster declares himself proud.

Back on the boat, Robbie speaks about Caroline being left alone as he kept broadcasting. The lights go out. The Captain tells him the ship is finished, Robbie begs for one last moment. He broadcasts for the final time, thanking the listeners—and his Caroline before signing off with ***One for my Baby*** by Frank Sinatra



Scene 10

Location: Clacton Pier

Caroline and Mary sit on the pier talking about work. Caroline notices Mary isn't smoking; Mary admits she doesn't even know why she ever started. Mary opens a wedding invitation to their proper wedding this time and Caroline asks her to be her maid of honour again. They thank each other, laugh, and decide they want chips, breaking into ***Reach Out (I'll Be There),*** by Four Tops.

Elsewhere, Kitty and Declan reflect that, in a way, they won—the radio stations are now playing the music they were never allowed to before. Kitty suggests they should get their boat back; it could still be going fifty years from now.
Robbie is back DJing, advertising Oliver's record shop. It's revealed he's now broadcasting on BBC Radio 1. Caroline, Mary, and her sibling listen together. Robbie returns, and they embrace. The full ensemble joins in ***Reach Out*** flowing into ***Caroline***. They sit together on a bench, holding the baby, united at last.

END OF ACT TWO