

# Alone together on a Carousel

BY MICHAEL GILTZ

What do Lawrence Roman and Rodgers and Hammerstein have in common? Well, they've all written for the theater and all three are enjoying new local productions of their plays.

First, we have *Carousel*, the long-running musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein which is premiering tonight at 8:15 p.m. at the Constans Theatre. It tells the story of two star-cross lovers: Billy Bigelow (Jon Austin), the barker in a traveling circus and Julie Jordan (Cynthia Pierson), a girl who works in the mill at the circus' latest stop.

This Florida Players production involves a large cast and perhaps the most elaborate sets used so far this season. The musical is being directed by theater department Chairman Carole Brandt. She has directed countless plays in Gainesville, including *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cabaret*, and her most recent musical, the Hippodrome smash *A Chorus Line*.

Brandt feels that the diligent preparation of the players has paid off. They are ready for the special interaction between cast and audience that turns hard work into memorable performances.

"Theater is live," Director Brandt explained. "Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't. It's a matter of chemistry."

A good production always improves and grows in front of an audience. "We're very excited about the show," she says. Tickets to *Carousel* are free to UF students and \$6 for the public. It runs until Nov. 22, with no performances on Monday.

Over at Santa Fe Community College in the Building E auditorium, they're performing Lawrence Roman's *Alone Together*, a hilarious and timely comedy about a husband and wife who think they're going to be able to live in peace and quiet, once their kids leave home only to find that their grown-up sons keep

returning home.

This comedy in two acts is being directed by Andy Weisberg and features Beverly Thomas as Helen Butler and Pat Patterson as George Butler. The cast and crew is composed of students, faculty members and people from the Gainesville community.

Assistant Director Lorrene Glynn says that "it's a lot of work," but the production is turning out wonderfully. *Alone Together* premieres tonight at 8 and will also have performances on the 15, 20, 21, and 22. Tickets are \$2 for the public and \$1 for senior citizens.



TIM DAVIS

Jon Austin and Cynthia Pierson rehearse act 2 of *Carousel*.