



'BUCKLE UP FOR THE RIDE OF YOUR LIFE'

DAILY MAIL



# THE CAR MAN

MATTHEW BOURNE'S

BIZET'S CARMEN RE-IGNITED



NEW/ADVENTURES

## VISUAL GUIDE



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



# INTRODUCTION

**This visual guide is designed for audiences who want to familiarise themselves with The Car Man before they get to the theatre. The story is told entirely through dance and music with no speech.**

**Our guide contains images and information about the characters, story and the production in general. We hope this resource supports your experience of the show.**

**If you have any comments, please get in touch at [office@new-adventures.net](mailto:office@new-adventures.net)**

# SHOW NOTES

## THEMES WITHIN THE SHOW

- **Betrayal, Revenge, Lust, Greed.**

## PLEASE BE AWARE

- **The Car Man is approximately 2 hours long, including a 20-minute interval.**
- **The age guidance for this show is 12+.**
- **The Car Man contains scenes of a sexual nature, brief nudity, strobe lighting and gunshots.**
- **The dancers you see on stage might be different from the ones in this guide, but the characters and their costumes will be exactly the same.**
- **The audience will clap during the show, for example when a big scene ends. You can join in if you want to.**

## TRIGGER WARNINGS

- **Trigger warnings and sound warnings are listed in The Story section of this guide.**
- **A prop gun is used multiple times in the second half of the show. It goes off in the final scene.**
- **The production contains themes of sex, death and violence.**

# MEET THE CHARACTERS

## DINO ALFANO

Dino is the owner of Dino's diner and garage. Dino is an aggressive, greedy man. He becomes suspicious of his wife and his new employee, Luca.

## LANA ALFANO

Lana is ruthless, passionate and bold. She is Dino's wife and helps to run the diner, waiting on the tables. She is often repulsed by her husband. She is charmed by Luca and driven by her lust for him.

MEET THE CHARACTERS



## **RITA - HER SISTER**

Rita is Lana's younger sister and works in the diner. She is quieter than her sister and is troubled by the drama in Harmony. She is in love with Angelo, but soon sees he is distracted by the arrival of Luca.

## **ANGELO - A HIRED HELP**

Angelo works at Dino's garage and helps around the diner. He appears shy at first, mocked by other mechanics and unable to defend himself. He becomes infatuated with Luca after his arrival in Harmony and Luca teaches him how to stand up to the other mechanics. He is framed by Lana and Luca for Dino's death. Hardened by his time in jail, he leaves dreaming of revenge.

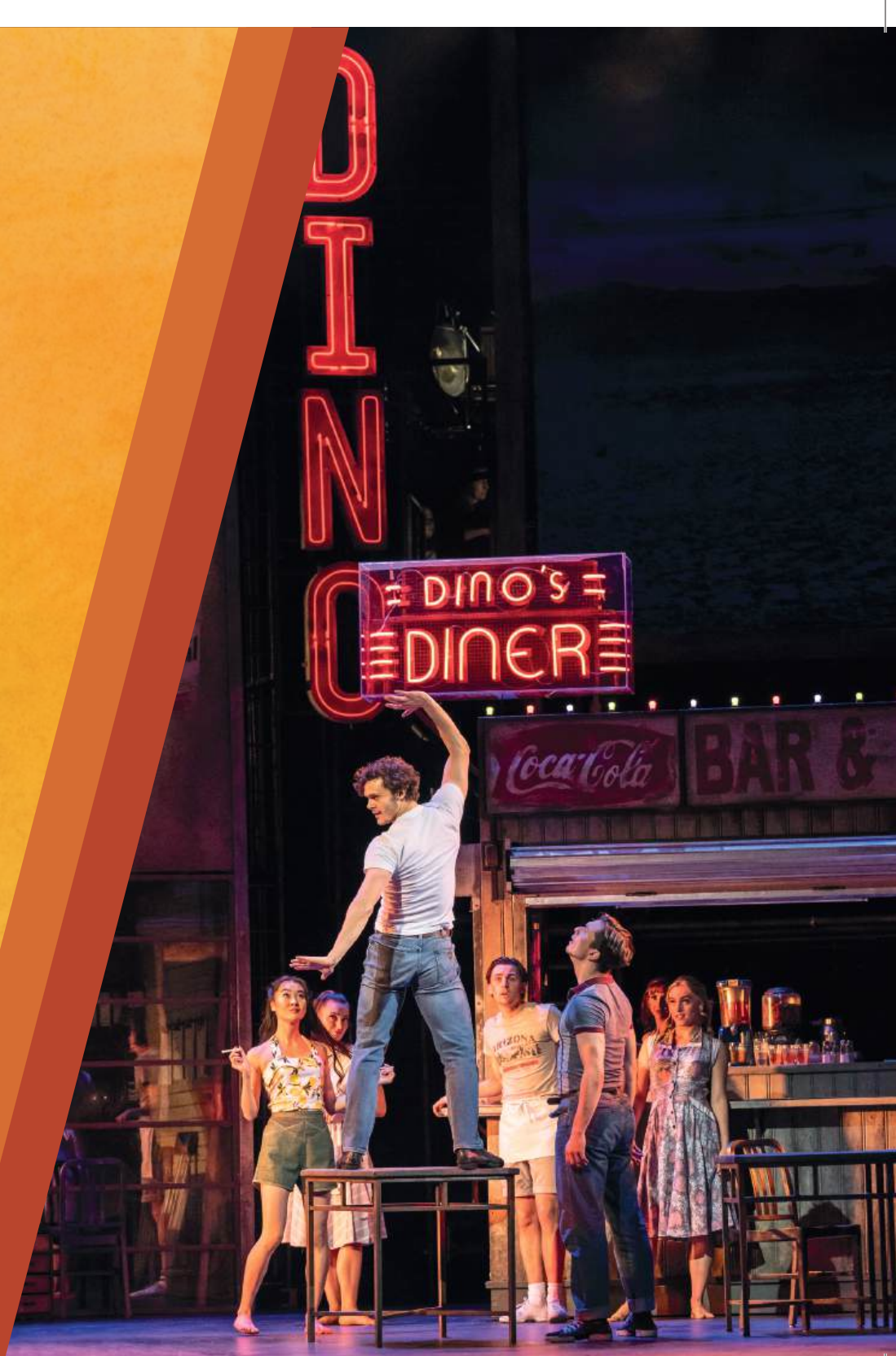
MEET THE CHARACTERS



## LUCA - A DRIFTER

Luca is a mysterious, charming drifter. He quickly captivates the residents of Harmony and both Angelo and Lana fall in love with him. Luca is haunted by what he has done to Dino and suffers from hallucinations later in the show.

MEET THE CHARACTERS



DINO'S  
DINER

WANTED

MAN  
WANTED

# ACT ONE




# SCENE ONE

## DINO'S DINER, EARLY EVENING

Welcome to Harmony, a Mid-western Italian American town.

The mechanics are working at Dino's garage. Angelo - Dino's help around the diner and garage - is mocked and bullied by the other mechanics. They all take showers after a long day working. Dino's greediness is seen as he stuffs money from his office into a briefcase, whilst the mechanics are busy showering.

Dino's wife, Lana and her sister, Rita, are working in the diner. The mechanics join them at the end of their day. There is tension between Lana and Dino, and he is unkind to his wife.

-  **SOUND WARNING:** Loud bell ringing. Shouting.
-  **LIGHT WARNING:** Sparks from the welding on stage. Brief darkness on stage. Bright side lights and spotlights. Sudden bright spotlights.
-  **TRIGGER WARNING:** Brief partial and full nudity. Staged fighting and boxing.



# SCENE TWO

## MIDDAY, TWO WEEKS LATER

It's a blisteringly hot day in Harmony when a stranger, Luca, arrives and takes a job at Dino's garage. His presence has an immediate effect on the town, charming Lana. Luca befriends and protects the timid Angelo. Angelo and Rita share a beautiful romantic duet, before being mocked by the other mechanics.

Luca and Lana share a passionate and steamy dance at the diner, narrowly avoiding discovery when Dino returns. Meanwhile, Luca also seduces Angelo, who is unknowingly falling for him behind his girlfriend Rita's back.



**LIGHT WARNING:** Bright side spotlights.



**TRIGGER WARNING:** Scenes of a sexual nature. Partial nudity. Stage fighting.




THE STORY

# SCENE THREE

## A PARTY, TWO MONTHS LATER

Dino's suspicions about Lana and Luca are confirmed at a wedding party, where he violently confronts Lana. After the celebrations, he catches Lana and Luca together and slaps her.

A fight breaks out, during which Lana strikes Dino with a garage tool and he tries to strangle her. Escaping Dino's grip, Lana then hands the tool to Luca to deliver the fatal blow. When Angelo discovers the dying Dino, Lana seizes the opportunity to frame him – scattering money, tearing her dress, and pulling Angelo on top of her before the police arrive. Angelo is arrested for the murder.

-  **SOUND WARNING:** There is a flashing light and camera click. At around 50 minutes, there is a glass smashing. Police sirens at the end of the scene.
-  **LIGHT WARNING:** Spotlights may shine into the audience. There is a flashing light and camera click.
-  **TRIGGER WARNING:** At around 45 minutes, there is pushing. Dino pulls Lana's hair and there is shouting. Scenes of an explicit nature. At around 48 minutes, Dino slaps Lana and there is hairpulling. At around 49 minutes, Lana hits Dino over the head. He strangles her for around 10 seconds and there is screaming. Luca hits Dino across the head again. There is fake blood, and depiction of death.



# INTERVAL

**The interval will be 20 minutes. The audience will clap and maybe cheer at the start of the interval.**

**You can stay in your seat or leave the auditorium. You might want to buy a drink or snack or use the toilet in the interval.**

The background is a chalkboard with a warm, orange-to-yellow gradient. Faint, ghostly text is visible on the board, including 'DINO'S DINER' in the top left, 'WANTED' in the middle right, and 'MAN' below it. The text is semi-transparent and appears to be written in chalk.



# ACT TWO - SIX MONTHS LATER

# SCENE ONE

## A CITY CLUB

The scene begins in a bar where Lana and Luca are now together as a couple. They are dressed in Mid-Western outfits, watching a cabaret act. The couple seem to be having fun after their escape from Harmony and getting away with the murder of Dino.



-  **LIGHT WARNING:** Bright neon lights. Spotlights may shine into audience.
-  **TRIGGER WARNING:** A mime act uses a stage knife to 'stab' themselves as part of their performance.

# SCENE TWO

## THE COUNTY JAILHOUSE

Rita visits Angelo in jail and tells him what really happened on the night of his arrest. Rita helps him see that he was framed for something he did not do and that the real murderers are Luca and Lana. Furious, he tries to escape from jail once Rita has left. Angelo is threatened by the guard, who assaults him, but he fights back, knocking the guard unconscious. Angelo escapes from jail.



**LIGHT WARNING:** Bright spotlights may shine into audience.




**TRIGGER WARNING:** Around 11 minutes in, Angelo is holding a gun. Fake blood on Angelo's face. Around 8 minutes into this act, Angelo hits the guard across the head. Depiction of assault.

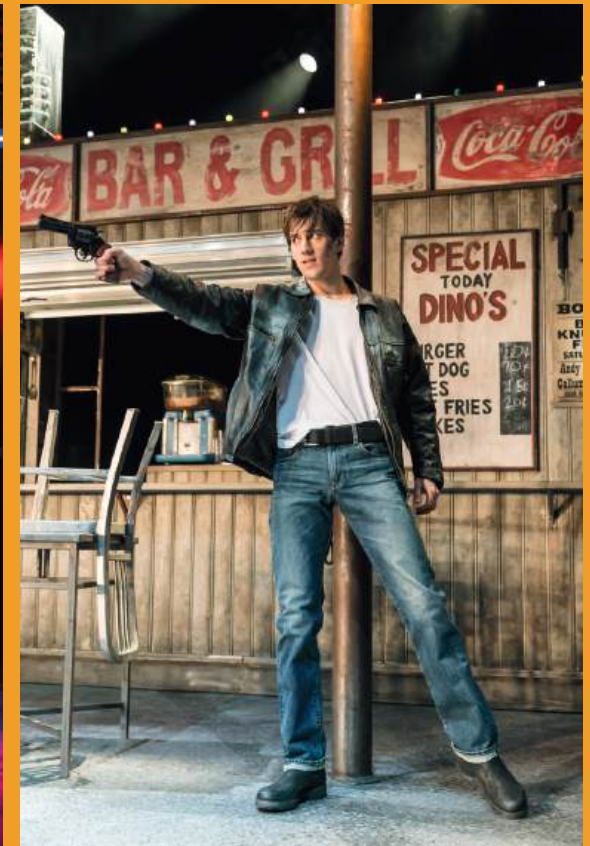
# SCENE THREE

## THE CLUB, CLOSING TIME

Luca is hallucinating about the death of Dino and the arrest of Angelo. Distressed, he turns to drinking. This angers Lana, who thinks that this is a sign of weakness. She leaves him behind in the cabaret bar to drown his sorrows. Luca tries to prove his strength to her by getting involved with gambling, car chases and fight nights.

Angelo returns to Harmony to find Lana and Luca. He captures Rita, waiting for Lana to return. Rita is fearful and scared, unsure what Angelo is going to do to her. Angelo has a gun and Rita tries to point it away from her; he holds her hostage at gunpoint.




 **TRIGGER WARNING:** At around 15 minutes, there is fake blood smeared on Angelo's face. At 19 - 23 minutes, Angelo points the gun at Rita. It is not fired.



# SCENE FOUR

## DINO'S DINER, LATE EVENING

Everyone is driving to a fight night; the cars are chasing each other dangerously. Back in Harmony, Lana returns to the diner to find “murderer” graffitied on the shutters, and Dino’s garage is up for sale. At a chaotic fight night, Lana finds out Angelo is holding Rita hostage. Angelo holds Lana at gunpoint then points the gun on everyone, before confronting Luca. They share one last passionate kiss before their fight turns deadly. As Luca raises a gun to Angelo, Lana shoots and kills her own lover to save him. Both Lana and Angelo look shocked and broken after Luca’s death, while Rita scrubs away the graffiti.

-  **SOUND WARNING:** Loud beeping noises, car horns. Loud crash. Loud gunshot.
-  **LIGHT WARNING:** Spotlights and car lights that may shine into audience. There are some short sequences of flickering lights and shadows. There is a 3-second strobe effect, before going into blackout.
-  **TRIGGER WARNING:** At around 28 minutes, Angelo has his hand around Rita’s mouth and threatens everyone at the fight night with a gun. At 29 minutes, Angelo has his arm around Lana’s neck and fires a gun shot into the air. There is fighting, kicking and screaming on stage. Fake blood. At 33 minutes, Lana fires a gun at Luca. Luca is dead on stage.



THE STORY

# THE END

**When the show ends, there will be loud clapping and cheering.**

**People may stand up as the performers take a bow.**

**When you leave the theatre, you might want to talk about what you've just seen or take some time to quietly think about it on your own. The story might mean something different to you than it does to other people.**