

# S I PAUL B AL L E T

## CARMEN IN THE 1920s

### Main Characters:

**Carmen** – Factory Worker. Independent, risk-taker, flirt.



**Don Jose (Donny)** – Gangster. Follower, keeps to himself.



**Escamillo (Eddy)** – Pro Baseball Player. Narcissist, suave, surface.



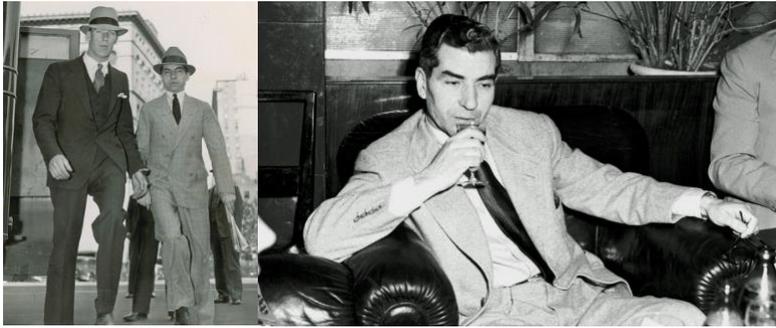
**Michaela (Micky)** – Joe's fiancé. Works as a secretary. Timid, caring, push over.



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**Zuniga/Morales (Mr. Z)** – Head of the gangsters, mob boss. Stern, unforgiving, womanizer.



**Frasquita & Mercedes (Franny & Mary Lou)** – Carmens' friends. Silly, up to no good, flirtatious



**Lillas Pastia (Lee)** – Bar Maid, manages bar tenders. Protector of Carmen. Loyal, likes to have fun but also keep things under control.



**Bootleggers (Ronny and Dom)** – Silly, adventurous.



## CARMEN IN THE 1920s

Plot:

Act I

-In the streets of New York City outside the factory-

It's nearly noon in the streets of bustling late 1920s New York City. Mr. Z is patrolling the streets near the factory with his gang. Everyone is on their way to lunch or running errands. Suddenly, Micky, enters the scene, asking Mr. Z if he has seen her fiancé Donny today. Mr. Z tells her Donny has not been around yet, but she should not worry about his whereabouts and teases her in a flirtatious way, telling her to stay and spend time with him and his crew while she waits for Donny. Micky repeatedly tells him no and finally leaves, annoyed.

The clock strikes noon and the factories let out for lunch. The women, including Carmen's friends Franny and Mary Lou, who work in the nearby textile factory flood into the street and start talking to gangsters and others outside of the factory as they light up cigarettes. Donny enters the scene, seemingly unamused by all of the lovely women fawning over his friends. Carmen is last to enter the street. As she walks down the steps from the factory all of Mr. Z's men try to get her attention, offering her cigarettes. Carmen teases them, dancing from man to man. Every man seems to want to dance with her except for Donny. Carmen slowly make her way over to him and places her head scarf in his jacket pocket before the bell of the factory calls the women back to work.

Donny is left by himself, turning Carmen's head scarf over in his fingers. Micky enters, asking Donny where he has been. He apologizes to his fiancé and they dance together.

Just as Micky leaves to go back to the office, sudden commotion ensues in the factory. Women run out of the factory exclaiming that there has been a fight. No one can agree on who started the fight or who ended it, just that Carmen had a knife. Donny runs into the factory to find Carmen as Mr. Z and the rest of his gang enter, listening to the different versions of the story. Mr. Z instructs Donny to go get Carmen. Several moments later, Donny pushes Carmen out of the factory in handcuffs.

Carmen flirts with the men, telling them of her small home town and dancing. She directs her intentions mostly towards Donny. Mr. Z and the other gangsters usher the women back into the factory, instructing Donny to take Carmen away to discipline her for her actions. Carmen tells Donny that she will escape if he tries to take her away. As Mr. Z and the gangsters emerge from the factory, Carmen mocks them, dancing from one to the next once more. Donny attempts to tie her hands and she pushes him the to ground and escapes.

INTERMISSION

## CARMEN IN THE 1920s

Act II

-Lee's Speakeasy-

Carmen has been in hiding for a few weeks at Lee's club. She helps keep the clients happy, dancing for them and bringing them drinks. Mr. Z and his gangsters have taught Donny a lesson for letting Carmen get away from the knife fight. The club is full of life and music. Eddy enters the club and makes his presence known right away, placing his bat and baseball hat on the table. Within minutes Eddy has his heart set on seducing Carmen and tries to dance with her. After much dancing, Lee leads Eddy out of the bar on his way to the game. She and her friends close up the club, waiting for Donny to arrive. Lee, Franny and Mary Lou ask her why she is waiting for Donny as she does not even really know him. They encourage her to go to game to see Eddy play, but Carmen will not hear any of it.

Finally Donny arrives, playing with the head scarf Carmen gave him a few weeks ago. Carmen asks him if he had forgotten her, he laughs and tells her he just was released by Mr. Z. Donny tells Carmen he loves her and they dance together. However, Donny knows he needs to return to Mr. Z and the gangsters. Carmen is hurt that he wants to leave so soon and accuses Donny of not really loving her.

Suddenly Mr. Z calls for Carmen, since her escape outside of the factory he had been looking for her to exclaim his love for her. Mr. Z spots Donny in the corner and knows that he came to tell Carmen the same thing. Mr. Z pulls his knife out and Donny grabs for the nearest bottle. Carmen stops the fight, flicking out her pocket dagger and threatens Mr. Z telling him to leave.

The next day Micky runs into Mr. Z. She asks if he has seen Donny and Mr. Z tells her that he may be at the club in hiding with Carmen. Micky makes her way there.

Meanwhile, Eddy has been searching for Carmen. He runs into Donny the day after the game and they share their affections for Carmen with one another, not knowing their affections are for the same woman. Finally Eddy realizes Donny is telling him about Carmen. They fight. Just as Donny pushes Eddy to the ground, Carmen arrives and throws him back. Eddy proposes to Carmen, leaving her with a ring. Shortly thereafter Micky enters, telling Donny that he must choose either her or Carmen. Carmen tells Donny to go and leave her. Donny leaves, Micky pulling him by one arm. Carmen remembers Eddy's proposal and spitefully puts the ring on her finger.

- In the streets of New York City-

It is Carmen and Eddy's wedding day. The streets are full of people anxiously awaiting the couple to exit the church and celebrate with them. Carmen and Eddy make their way down the steps of the church to the crowd cheering and everyone starts dancing. Donny watches as Carmen dances with everyone in town, becoming more envious by the second. He finally makes his way to her. Donny tries to keep Carmen from dancing with anyone else, calling her names and insulting her. Finally he grabs her by the shoulders and stabs her in the back. The entire celebration freezes as Carmen falls to the ground.