

# OLIVER – Synopsis

SETTING: London, 1850

The curtain opens with Oliver Twist working at an orphanage. The children sing *Food Glorious Food* as they wait for supper. They are all hungry after their one cup of gruel and Oliver asks for more. Mr. Bumble and Widow Corney sing *Oliver*. They retire to the parlour where they show a hint of their attraction for one another singing *I shall scream*, whilst deciding Oliver's fate.

Oliver becomes a *Boy For Sale* after upsetting them by his impudence. Oliver is bought by Mr. Sowerberry, the undertaker who sings *That's your funeral*. He is treated harshly by the Sowerberry's sleeping under a bench where he sings the tender "Where is love". Saved from one enemy in Mr. Bumble, Oliver's new enemy is Noah Claypole. A fight between them leads to Oliver being locked up in a coffin to be returned to Mr. Bumble. Oliver runs away and soon meets the Artful Dodger who befriends him singing *Consider Yourself*. Dodger introduces Oliver to Fagin and his boys where he is taught that *You've got to pick a pocket or two*.

Fagin sneaks out late in the evenings to meet Bill Sykes at The Three Cripples. Despite the obvious drawbacks of living in the slums, Nancy assures us that *It's a fine life*. The following morning Nancy and Bet arrive at Fagin's kitchen and Oliver gets to know them during the song *I'd do anything*, after which Fagin sends the boys out on the streets hoping that they'll *Be back soon*. Most of the boys return, except for Oliver who is arrested for looking guilty after the Artful Dodger stole a wallet and got away. Meanwhile Oliver has been proven innocent of theft and the old man who was robbed, Mr. Brownlow, decides to take him home with him

We open act 2 with Nancy leading the singing of *Oom-Pah-Pah* in the Three Cripples. This is where we are introduced to Bill Sykes who shows his villainous nature in the song *My Name*. During this time plans are being made for Oliver to be returned to his old friends. Bill Sykes forces Nancy to help him with the task. He lets Nancy know where she stands as far as being his girl and roughs her up a little. Nancy, ever faithful sings *As long as he needs me*. The next morning Oliver joins with all the street sellers in singing *Who will buy*.

Fagin, sensing the danger is *Reviewing the situation* and thinking about changing his way of life. Nancy realizes that Oliver's life is in danger as long as he stays with the thieves, and she contacts Mr. Brownlow, who in the meantime has discovered that Oliver is the son of his long lost niece.

Nancy promises to return Oliver to him, and she almost succeeds, diverting Sykes attention and sneaking Oliver away. When Sykes figures out what's going on, he gives chase and finally catches up with Nancy and kills her. Bet discovers her body and gives the alert citing Sykes as the killer. He grabs Oliver and tries to get away, but is killed himself by a police officer.

Meanwhile Fagin and the Artful Dodger review the situation once again and decide that together they might be able to retire respectable. Oliver lives happily ever after having finally found his real family.