

Young Lindy

a youth musical

based on the childhood of Charles Lindbergh

by Mark Jensen

Music by Gary Rue

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

LUCKY LINDY -- Charles Lindbergh primarily at age 15-17. This actor also plays Lindbergh just before his flight.

YOUNG LINDY -- Charles Lindbergh at age 10-12.

CHORUS -- A fourteen-actor chorus, age 8 to 18. Members of this group will play different characters, machines and animals. Here are some specific characters and ages needed:

Boys	Girls	Open
Bill; Alex (10-12)	Sarah, Dorothy and Felicity (13-15)	Dingo the Dog
Frank; Jessup (10-12)	Rosita (13-17)	Tam o' the Scoots; Red Baron; Rickenbaker; Escadrille
Winchell (10-12)	Eva (17)	
Conductor (Any Age)		

TIME AND PLACE

At first May 20, 1927 in New York. The play, however, mainly focuses on the years 1911-1920. There are scenes in Minnesota, Washington D.C., Detroit and Panama.

PERFORMANCE NOTE

This is a play about imagination and movement. The play's conceit is that the CHORUS will play everything from a winter wind to parts of a Model T to the Spirit of St. Louis. The actors only need props, the more simple and elegant the better. Just like the Spirit of St. Louis...

(AT RISE: Rain. Wind. Airplane engine. A spinning propeller flashes in the darkness. CHORUS 1 moves the propeller by hand. LUCKY LINDY in a wicker chair. He wears flight goggles.)

LUCY LINDY

Will I make it?

CHORUS 2

(Carries part of a wing.)

On the morning of May 20th, 1927--

CHORUS 3

(Carries part of a wing.)

--Charles Lindbergh had to make a big, big decision.

LUCKY LINDY

Should I fly?

CHORUS 4

(Carries part of a wing.)

He was in an international race--

CHORUS 5

(Carries part of a wing.)

--to become the first pilot--

CHORUS 6

(Carries part of a wing.)

--To fly nonstop--

CHORUS 7 and 8

(They carry the wheels.)

--between New York and Paris.

LUCKY LINDY

Can my plane get there?

CHORUS 9

(Carries the tail.)

He had designed a sleek silver plane--

CHORUS 10

(Carries the front fuselage. The prop has the
"Spirit of St. Louis" on it.)

--called the Spirit of St. Louis.

(The chorus forms the Spirit of St. Louis with
the props.)

CHORUS 1

He was twenty-five years old.

(High energy, 1920's style song.)

CHORUS

(Sings.)

Will you fly today, Young Lindy?

LUCKY LINDY

I don't know!

CHORUS

(Sings.)

You must decide right now, Young Lindy.

LUCKY LINDY

How can I?

CHORUS

The sky is thick with fog,
The ground is like a bog,
And this spring rain just won't stop...

(It rains harder.)

LUCKY LINDY

But the storm's clearing over the Atlantic!

CHORUS

(Sings.)

Will you fly today, Young Lindy?

LUCKY LINDY

Did I double-check everything?

CHORUS

You must decide right now, Young Lindy.

LUCKY LINDY

Did I forget anything?

CHORUS

Your tanks are full of gas,
It's likely that you'll crash,
And all that fuel will explode...

LUCKY LINDY

Can my plane even take off?

CHORUS

Will you fly today, Young Lindy?
You must decide right now, Young Lindy.
Other planes are in this race,

CHORUS(CONT.)

There's no prize for second place,
And they are ready to soar...

CHORUS 11

(As news kid.)

Extra, extra! Read all about it! Three Planes in Flight Fight!

CHORUS 12

(As news kid.)

Chamberlin Set for Paris!

CHORUS 13

(As news kid.)

Commander Byrd's Got Wings!

CHORUS 14

(As news kid.)

Flying Fool Lindbergh Plans Hop!

CHORUS

Will you fly today, Young Lindy?

LUCKY LINDY

If I don't, they'll get ahead!

CHORUS

You must decide right now, Young Lindy.

LUCKY LINDY

If only the sky would clear!

CHORUS

Last night you had no rest,
How can you fly your best,
Its over thirty hours to Paris...

LUCKY LINDY

I was too shook up to sleep! But I've flown with no sleep before, but never over an ocean. Another day, the weather will clear, I'll get more sleep. But somebody else might take off, the weather could get worse!

(Sings a quiet tune.)

Do I have the stuff that's right,
To go up on this crazy flight?

CHORUS

Will you fly today, Young Lindy?
You must decide right now, Young Lindy!
What made you take this flight,
Did you dream of planes at night,
Who was the boy, that became you?

(Enter YOUNG LINDY, age 10. He is running, arms outstretched.)

LUCKY LINDY(CONT.)

(Sings as he takes off goggles.)

Will I fly today, Young Lindy?
What should I decide... Young Lindy?

CHORUS

Help him decide, Young Lindy.
Help him decide, Young Lindy.
Help him decide, Young Lindy.
Help him decide, Young Lindy...

(The CHORUS exits. LUCKY LINDY watches YOUNG LINDY.)

(The CHORUS makes geese sounds. YOUNG LINDY runs around, copying the geese honks.)

(He lies down and pretends to shoot at the geese. He then reloads and "shoots" some more.)

(BILL THOMPSON and ALEX JOHNSON,
also age 10-12, spy on him. BILL nods to
ALEX, they run on, pretend shooting as well.)

YOUNG LINDY

Okay, okay, you guys.

BILL

Those geese sure are fat. Are you hunting with us this year?

YOUNG LINDY

Can't.

ALEX

But I built a duck blind in our slough! (pronounced "slew")

BILL

You said you were staying at Little Falls this year.

YOUNG LINDY

I know, I know, but...

(Changing the subject.)

Bill, yuck, you stink!

BILL

Don't I ever!

ALEX

Smell me, I'm worse.

YOUNG LINDY

Yup, you're worse.

BILL

Okay, which barn did I clean? Betcha can't guess.

YOUNG LINDY

(Getting a good sniff.)

It's got that hay smell. Dairy barn.

BILL

Yup.

ALEX

How about me?

YOUNG LINDY

(Doesn't smell ALEX.)

Hogs.

(Enter CHORUS 1-8; they carry four strips of blue cloth. CHORUS 9-12 stand above.)

YOUNG LINDY(CONT.)

Let's wash off in the river.

BILL

See dodo head, I told you he'd want to swim!

ALEX

Yeah, yeah, yeah.

(They run to the CHORUS, stripping down to shorts. CHORUS makes splashing sounds as they "dive" in the cloth. The CHORUS raises the cloth up to their necks; they shake the cloth to create waves.)

(The boys "splash" in the water, holding their breath when they dip below the cloth.)

(Meanwhile, CHORUS 9-12 speak the following:)

CHORUS 9

Young Lindy's farm was next to the Mississippi River--

CHORUS 10

--in Little Falls, Minnesota.

CHORUS 11

He loved to play on its banks--

CHORUS 12

--and swim in its cold, clear water.

CHORUS 9

He spent a lot of time by himself.

(BILL and YOUNG LINDY grab ALEX and pull him beneath the water.)

CHORUS 10

But once in a while--

CHORUS 11

--when Bill Thompson and Alex Johnson were done cleaning barns and feeding animals--

CHORUS 12

--they'd walk over and play with him.

ALEX

(Bursts above waves, coughing and sputtering.)

No fair, two on one, no fair!

YOUNG LINDY

You're right. Let's get Bill!

BILL

No!

(BILL frantically tries to pull free from ALEX and YOUNG LINDY. When he does, all three burst above the surface.)

BILL(CONT.)

Charlie's turn.

YOUNG LINDY

No, oh no!

ALEX

I'm too tired. The 'nure was a foot deep in some of the pens!

BILL

Glad we don't have pigs.

YOUNG LINDY

Should've told me. I'd help you guys.

BILL

Yeah, I doubt that.

YOUNG LINDY

Let me help you guys next time. Then we can get in the river faster. Honest, honest, really, okay? Deal?

Okay. Deal. ALEX

Yeah, deal. BILL

Can we go in now, I'm getting cold. ALEX

We just got in here. YOUNG LINDY

I'm cold! ALEX

Some of us don't sleep on a porch like you do. BILL

Okay, okay. YOUNG LINDY

(They walk out of the water. As they do, the CHORUS lowers the cloth strips, until they are almost on the floor; they continue to simulate water with them. BILL, ALEX and YOUNG LINDY lay on the beach.)

CHORUS 9
Charles spent summers in Minnesota--

--with his mother. CHORUS 10

--They called the summer farm, "Camp"-- CHORUS 11

--because it was in the woods by the river. CHORUS 12

But you said you were staying this fall. BILL

Can't. YOUNG LINDY

Just stay a few more weeks? BILL

YOUNG LINDY

Mom and me get on the train on Tuesday. Give Dingo a bone once and while, okay?

BILL

Okay.

ALEX

You'll be in Washington all year?

YOUNG LINDY

Yeah.

(The boys get dressed.)

BILL

What's Washington like?

YOUNG LINDY

(Not convincing.)

All right.

BILL

Will you see President Wilson?

YOUNG LINDY

Already shook hands with him.

BILL

Shook hands with him? That must've been something.

YOUNG LINDY

Naw. He's a man like everybody else.

ALEX

Who's President Wilson?

BILL

The President, dodo head!

YOUNG LINDY

Thanks for looking after Dingo for me.

BILL

Was this our last swim?

YOUNG LINDY

Until next summer.

BILL

I wish you could hunt with us this year.

ALEX

Yeah.

YOUNG LINDY

We'll have a lot of fun next summer though, right? Right?

BILL

I guess.

ALEX

Sure, next summer.

YOUNG LINDY

Okay. See you then...

(BILL and ALEX exit.)

Well, okay, maybe we could swim one more time. Guys? Guys?

CHORUS

(Sings.)

Will you fly today, Young Lindy?

You must decide right now, Young Lindy...

LUCKY LINDY and YOUNG LINDY

(Both pull out a sheet of paper.)

Travel List.

YOUNG LINDY

Comb. Yes. Toothbrush. Yes.

LUCKY LINDY

Comb. Yes. Toothbrush. No, too heavy.

YOUNG LINDY

Compass for train trip.

LUCKY LINDY

Earth indicator compass.

YOUNG LINDY

Bag of candy.

LUCKY LINDY

Bag of sandwiches.